

Editorial

OHD Campaign

Not a handout but a hand.

This is not the official slogan for the Campaign for Human Development but it certainly applies. OHD funds are meted out to deserving groups on a self-help basis, that is to assist these organizations in positive programs to break the cycle of poverty and dependence.

OHD not only works in impoverished urban centers but is equally concerned with easing rural problems.

Perhaps one of the most appealing aspects about the chance to help Human Development is that most of the fund is put to work close to home. A portion goes to the national office to meet needs wherever they are most serious across the nation, but the bulk of the aid is used right here in the diocese.

Actually the official motto of the campaign is "People helping people. People helping themselves." Of course, that is the essence of charity. But helping those victimized by societal inequities is also a matter of justice.

We all get our chance Sunday, Nov. 23 with the annual collection for Human Development. It provides an easy way of becoming part of the solution to many of our poverty-related problems.

For All Seasons

Cardinal John Heenan, archbishop of Westminster, met the challenge of death much as he did the problems of life — by gleaning some wisdom from it and passing it on to others.

The primate of the English Catholic Church had had three previous brushes with death, having suffered two heart attacks and a serious viral infection before his final heart attack on Nov. 7.

Following one of those close calls, the cardinal said, "I now have no fear of any kind of death, having seen how lovely it can be . . . I only hope that the real thing is as good as the trial run."

At a later date, the cardinal remarked simply that he viewed death "as the only way to enter eternal life."

The same straightforward directness also characterized this great man's approach to life. And he bequeathed much living advice.

He was a strong advocate of ecumenism, declaring that it must always be "part of the Catholic way of life."

He was a staunch supporter of the Jewish people and in 1967 became the first Catholic prelate ever to speak in a synagogue.

He was anti-racist, a champion of underdeveloped countries. In 1968 he warned that there would be world revolution unless more aid were given to alleviate poverty in the Third World.

He was frank. Speaking at the World Synod of Bishops in 1971, he boldly proposed that Pope Paul sell some of the Vatican's art treasures "to buy food for the world's hungry."

He opposed communism, reminding Christians that they had a duty toward their "suffering brethren" behind the Iron Curtain. "If world communism is earnest about peace," he once said, "let it cease from persecution."

He was an outspoken foe of abortion and euthanasia.

In a pastoral letter in 1971 he declared that never before had there been so much "incitement" to sensual gratification. "Books, plays, magazines and papers increasingly reject the Christian code of morality."

Still, as Religious News Service points out, he was first and foremost a pastor. He made regular visits to people in hospitals, orphanages and other institutions. Like one of his spiritual and national predecessors, he was a "man for all seasons."

In his last will, Cardinal Heenan asked that no eulogy be preached over him at his funeral. We hope that this editorial does not violate the spirit of that request. We simply think that on this occasion it is impossible not to recite some of the lessons God has given all of us through this great human being.

Opinion

Action Urged On Food Bill

Editor:-

I'd like very much to congratulate and thank all those people who have written letters or in any other way supported the 1975 International Development and Food Assistance Act (H.R. 9005). The bill was passed by the House of Representatives in September, and by the Senate on Nov. 5. This bill is the best legislative effort to date on behalf of the world's hungry. Some of the major features of the bill are:

Separates economic assistance from military aid (for the first time since the Marshall Plan 25 years ago);

Targets U.S. Aid Programs toward small farmers;

Emphasizes intermediate technology and agricultural development in food deficient countries;

Earmarks \$200 million for Agricultural Development Fund set up after the Rome Food Conference; earmarks \$50 million for relief and rehabilitation in the Sahel region of Africa;

Stipulates that 80 per cent of the concessional food aid go to those nations which have been most seriously affected by the food crisis.

I believe that it was because so many people throughout the country expressed to their representatives their concern about hunger that this bill was passed. I don't think it could have happened a year ago.

H.R. 9005 now goes to the House Appropriations Committee. There is some concern among those who have been monitoring this bill that action by the committee may be delayed. Some members of the committee favor combining this economic assistance bill with appropriations for military aid. I strongly favor separation — and allowing each to be considered on their own merits.

Letters to both local representatives and members of the appropriations committee are important now urging them to take quick action on the bill (without budget cuts — this bill in total requested \$1.8 billion; President Ford has requested \$4.7 billion for military aid) and supporting the separation of economic and military assistance.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE, Otto Passman, Chairperson.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE: Matthew McHugh, 27th



Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, President

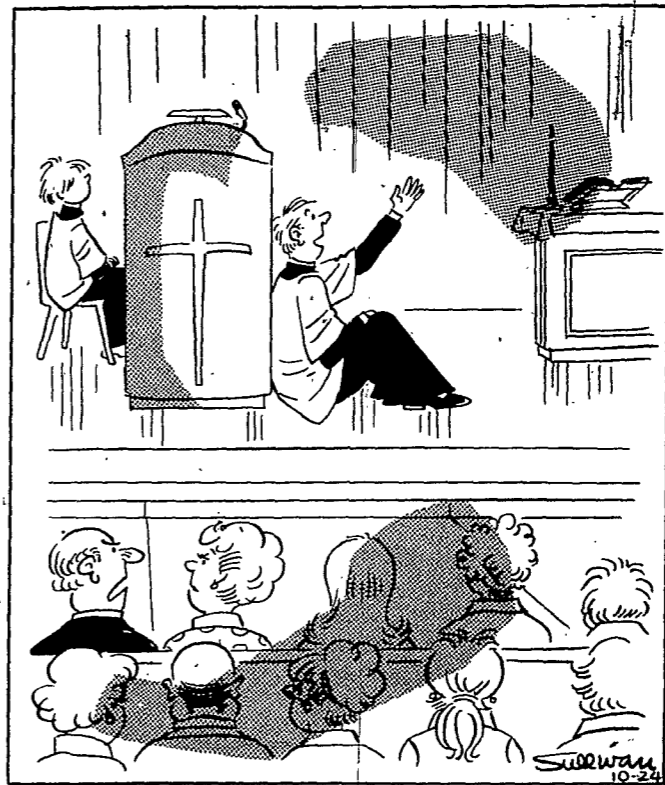
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Vol. 90 No. 29 November 19, 1975

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and Foreign, \$10.00. Offices, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



district: William Walsh, 33rd; Frank Horton, 34th; Barber Conable, 35th; John Lafalce, 36th; James F. Hastings, 39th; House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515

Again, thanks to all who by their support made this beginning step in the re-ordering of U.S. policy possible.

Sister Mary Ann Weiland, Office of Human Development, 750 W. Main St. Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Beware Of Sarcasm

Editor:

A rather "devilish" thing about a cat catching a mouse is the way the cat "plays" with it before finally killing and eating the mouse.

Sarcasm is equally "devilish". It is hostile and destructive, adding fuel to the fire and opens the way to hurt feelings.

Cats need to eat mice, and people need to express their opinions. But neither needs to "play" with the opponent. I wonder if that's what the Lord meant when He said "Let your answer be simple: 'Yes!' or 'No!'"

The Truth of God humbles us, but then goes on to raise us to New Life — rejoicing in His love and forgiveness. But sarcasm is a tool of the devil — it crushes even the little good that might be growing, and causes bitterness.

We must be a healing people, firm yet gentle. Let's put away our swords of sarcasm and listen to our God!

P. Connor, Victory House, 47-B Jane Street, Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Choir Praised

Editor:

My Stars are we ever a lucky group at Most Precious Blood Church! Every Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. Mass a refreshing experience is going on to surface the beauty of the human voice in song. It is the mastery of our own choir.

I for one, am of a lesser talent and couldn't even hum a lullaby to my boys when they were babies. To this day, they prefer that I abstain from joining the family in singing the traditional "Happy Birthday." I could elaborate about the holiday season, but the thought depresses me. I can tell you this much, my only contribution to the festivities is being the "jingle bell" in the song of the same famous title.

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Most Precious Blood's choir on the other hand, is a drum of another beat. Under the direction of Miss Julie Lazenski, every note is drawn out of each member. The men are strong and pleasing and the ladies are vibrant and resounding. Miss Lazenski's arms are up and going with every fortissimo or crescendo that the hymn calls for. The beauty of the Mass is enriched because of the warmth our choir generates to all of us. Because of the bouquet of hymns our choir contributes to the context of the celebration of the Eucharist, I'm glad I have ears to hear and a heart to enjoy.

Rene Cignarale, 253 Winchester St. Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Centerfold Commended

Editor:

The Rochester Association of Catholic School Principals wishes to acknowledge the excellent coverage of Catholic Schools in the centerfold of the Sept. 24 issue of the Courier-Journal. The pictures were clear and expressed the city story so well.

Thank you for this consideration and communication to the public.

Sister M. Sheila, Secretary, Rochester Association of Catholic School Principals

Columnist Praised

Editor:

Father Albert Shamon was ever an example of priestly piety. His 15 October column strongly supporting activists defending human life and family values offers convincing evidence that he is also a fighter.

He has not stood in crowd-absolving silence at the foot of his pulpit.

Frederick W. Straub, Chaplain [LTC], USA, Nuernberg Military Community, APO 09696

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.