

**Editorial**

**Small Blessings**

When one begins to count the reasons for which to be thankful, the list is so long and so remarkable that it leaves one humbled. As well it should. And so at the risk of assuming that we are all aware of His blessings and are truly grateful for them, may we mention some of those lesser blessings that might be overlooked.

For instance, shouldn't we be thankful that the pilgrims ate turkey instead of woodchuck on that first Thanksgiving day?

Perhaps we should be grateful that nobody listened to Ben Franklin when he proposed the turkey as our national symbol instead of the eagle. Just imagine, for instance, that famous Army division that might be known as "The Screamin' Turkeys." Or the prospect of an addict going "cold eagle" when giving up the habit.

Surely we should appreciate the pithy reminder that our forbears were not all that humane given us by Mark Twain — "First they fell upon their knees, then they fell upon the aborigines." A lot of us have followed that modus operandi for too long.

And it is heartwarming to think of our churches being filled on this Thanksgiving day — let's not make attendance obligatory.

And if you happen to believe you don't have much reason to be thankful — try looking at it from the turkey's perspective.

So while we bend our knees in thanks let us not forget that God also gave us the smile. Show Him we know how to use it. And when we dig into those holiday goodies, let's not forget that not everyone has been invited to the feast. Always hope that by next year everyone will have as much reason to be grateful as we holidayers.

**City Prayer**

Leave it to the Christophers. While so much is being said and written about the plight of New York City, Father Richard Armstrong, Christophers director, has taken a more direct route to help — prayer.

The Maryknoll priest composed "A Prayer for New York" and placed it as an advertisement in the Times and the Daily News. While concerned with New York City, the prayer could apply to all the cities in dire straits these days.

Here it is:

Cities are for needs and wants  
divine Father  
that cannot be met in isolation.  
Have we expected from them too much  
and put in too little?  
Spur us to renew our cities  
as You renew the earth in spring  
that families may have decent living space  
that the poor may have hope fulfilled  
that the sick and aged  
may be treated as persons.  
This city is our home.  
May it be filled with love. Amen.

**Small Miracle**

It's really not much of a miracle as miracles go, still it is worth noting that the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund has progressively collected more money in each of its previous six campaigns despite the fact that the economy has been shaky.

The miracle, however, does not rest in figures but in the love and care built between diocesan brothers and sisters at this holy time of year.

Money is the tangible medium but what is exchanged cannot be price-tagged. And it is worth noting that is not just the comparatively well-off who donate but hundreds of small contributors who are the backbone and heart of the annual campaign.

**Opinion**

**NAWR Head Disputes Press**

Editor:

Your paper recently carried a column by Father Andrew Greeley about the convention in San Francisco of the National Assembly of Women Religious (NAWR). Father Greeley was not at the convention but relied on press coverage to formulate his remarks.

Much of his column was based on a feature article which appeared in the New York Times. I, too, was disconcerted by that story for I felt it did not cover the real concerns of the sisters who attended. In September, I wrote to the editor of the New York Times but my letter received no publicity. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to quote in part from my letter to the Times:

"I want to correct a false impression given by the article. In the feature story, the reporter stressed the personal difficulties of some of the sisters interviewed privately.

"Whereas our organization does provide a means through which sisters can demonstrate mutual support for one another, this is not our major thrust. . . I believe our convention demonstrated that we are an outward looking people who are trying to empower ourselves for the purpose of enabling others to become participants in decisions which affect their lives. The concern of most of the sisters in San Francisco was the development of effective ministries rather than the discussion of individual problems. What was in the article was perhaps true but the frame of reference was limited. It by no means communicated the meaning of our organization."

The religious women of NAWR are prayerful people who are deeply involved in a wide variety of ministries: education, health care, campus ministry, administration, prison ministry, social service, legislative reform, scholarly research, farmworker ministry, race relations, drug rehabilitation and many others. In the exercise of these ministries, religious sisters have often found themselves hampered because of the inequality of women and discrimination against them which exists in both Church and society. Thus, we would be untrue to our work to build the Kingdom of Christ if we did not confront our own lack of power in many areas of the Church, especially in decision-making and in the development of the fullness of a ministry of service.

I do not believe that we stand alone in the recognition of the



**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan**  
President

**Anthony J. Costello**  
General Manager

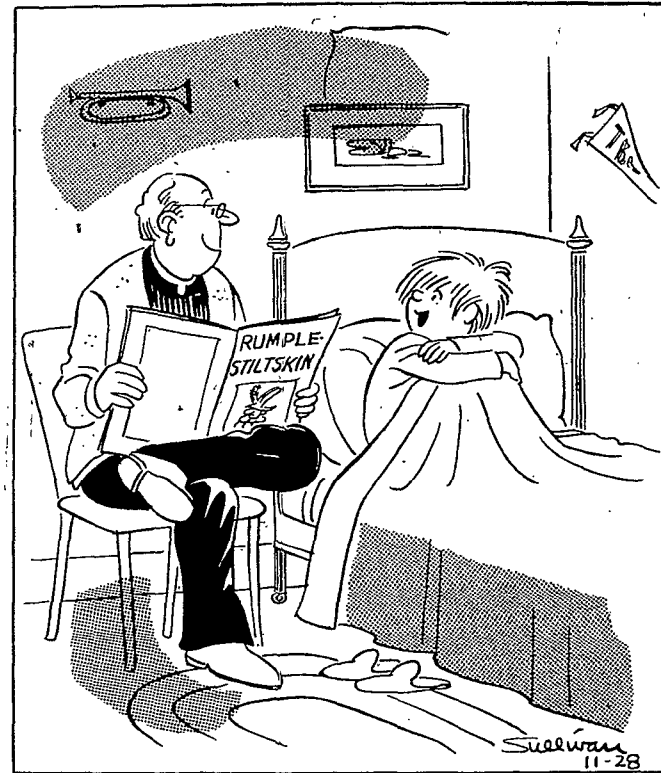
**Carmen J. Viglucci**  
Editor

**Rev. Louis J. Hohman**  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 90 No. 30 November 26, 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: Richard Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal 1



"READ THE PART AGAIN WHERE HE CHANGES THE BINGO MARKERS INTO GOLD, UNCLE FRANK!"

inequality from which women suffer. Fr. Greeley, himself, has often spoken out against the oppression of women. Archbishop Bernardin's recent statement on women stressed the need for the recognition of dignity and equality. While the press gave great attention to that section of the document which reiterated the traditional stand of the Church on the ordination of women, Archbishop Bernardin also said:

"Women are called today to a greater leadership role in the Church; their contributions are needed in the decision-making process at the parochial, diocesan, national and universal levels. The Church has grown more aware of the variety of ministries open to women; in a very special way they are called to collaborate with all other segments of the Church in the essential work of evangelization. The Church will suffer, indeed it will be betrayed, if women are given only a secondary place in its life and mission."

**Sr. Kathleen Keating, SSJ**  
National Chairperson: NAWR  
210 East Ohio St.  
Chicago, Ill. 60611

**Fr. Sundholm View Backed**

Editor:

I want to first of all congratulate Father Sundholm for his courage in writing his letter in regard to the CYO. In fact I too was on the advisory board and also resigned.

The only thing I would like to get straight is that as coach of St. Stanislaus Parish even though we are one of the Parishes that are without boundaries I never used any boy other than those of our parish. I feel that if someone is supporting a school and parish they are the only ones that are eligible to play on that parish team.

**Mr. John Gallina Sr.**  
33 Peckham St.  
Rochester, New York 14621

**St. Jude's Advice**

Editor:

I was reading one of my little mission publications and I came across this — "We find in the epistle of St. Jude, which is one of the shortest to be found in Holy Scripture, a previous precious formula (with a minimum of wording) for growing strong in our Christian faith:

"But you, beloved, grow strong in your holy faith through prayer in the Holy Spirit' (Jude 1:20)."

The article continues, "Jude didn't say to seek strengthening our faith through the study of

**Other Letters On Page 6**

Bible commentaries, or weekend seminars, or Christian search sessions, or what have you. He was very precise; he told us that we can have our holy faith buttressed and fortified through prayer in the Holy Spirit of the Living God.

I believe we Catholics can learn more about the love of God by a half-hour spent in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, or in 15 minutes meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, or most certainly by a half-hour at daily Mass, than at a three-hour adult education session.

St. Thomas Aquinas learned all he knew through prayer — not seminars and rap sessions.

**Arlene O'Connor**  
214 Haddon Road  
Rochester, N.Y.

**Only One Freedom**

Editor:

The very first sin of man mentioned in the Bible was a hint that what had been provided for them (Adam and Eve) was not sufficient.

There was the thought that somehow God might have left out something they needed. A "right" of theirs had been denied.

The combination of feeling that a "right" had been forbidden and the lie of how much this "right" was needed and would improve their condition was too much for man who had so much and had become independent from his God.

This same method is being used over and over in our world today in all degrees.

The only "freedom" we really have is to be totally dependent on this Great God who will never leave us or forsake us.

**Mrs. K. Wall**  
50 Glen Ave.  
Hornell, New York 14843

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.