

# More Opinions

## Wants More Seminars

Editor:

For the past three Sundays, a seminar series entitled "Moral Issues 1975" has been presented at St. Augustine's Church. At least two of these seminars have been reported on the following Monday in the Democrat and Chronicle (Rev. Bartlett, "Right to Die" and Rev. Curran, "Catholic Marriage and Birth Control"). These lectures concern current thinking, revision of policy, dissent, and change within the Church. They also reflect the immediate problems facing many members of the Roman Catholic Faith who think they must choose between divorce and their religion, birth control and their religion, and so on.

I found these seminars providing me with information and greater knowledge about dogma and interpretation of doctrine, which makes my faith more meaningful. They more fully equip me to define the faith I was born into, but have chosen to follow.

It was, therefore, distressing to find zero coverage of these important seminars in the Courier-Journal. My first impulse was to request removal of my name from the circulation list. But, being particularly impressed by the thoughts of Rev. Curran and his ability to recognize not only his own right to dissent, but the right and duty of others to disagree with him, I will not do so. I would plead, however, that some balance of thinking be provided by the Courier-Journal.

Rev. Atwell did at one time provide balance. The Courier-Journal now has no counter-balance for the opinions of Nancy Murphy, Rev. Andrew Greeley or Rev. Paul Cuddy. Reading the Courier-Journal is like listening to a pabulum Sunday sermon. The seminar series has revealed the true dynamism that is the Church, the rippling undercurrent of debate over theological interpretation, of dissent, of deep faith, all of which rarely surfaces long enough to blow away the cobwebs between the pulpit and the people.

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Editor's Note: Father Henry Atwell's column still appears in the Courier-Journal. We do not like to fall prey to the liberal vs. conservative syndrome in the Church but we do strive to provide balance through our columnists. The writer did not mention Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

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or Father Louis Hohman's Open Window, which is often criticized as being "too liberal." In addition, we feel that Father Greeley cannot be categorized. We have printed interviews with Father Curran in the past but do not feel the necessity to cover his every visit to his home diocese.

## Cuddy Work Relevant

Editor:

Hallelujah! Finally Father Cuddy has written an article that is pertinent, something relevant to what is really happening in the Church today. I could never really understand or even begin to digest the reams of trivia that have come forth from his desk, but his column on Dec. 3, 1975, regarding the Cursillo movement compels me to write to you.

To me it seems that the Catholic Church is in the state of flux and the sooner we begin to realize this fact, the sooner we can accomplish the goals set before us to a life of service in His

behalf, and unless we strive to begin to meet this challenge of true Christianity that renewal teaches us, then we will always be stagnant and undeveloped in our faith.

The problem lies in the fact that "Education" in these forms of renewal is so lacking. Even the leadership of our priests is an area that needs constant self-inspection and that brings the problem down to the parish level. When our priests, such as Father Cuddy, begin to see the value of renewal then perhaps we can start to fill the void long created by indifference to spiritual growth.

I am convinced that man was meant to live at peace within himself, filled with the deep joy of the knowledge of God's love. I am convinced that there should be going on in our hearts, not a funeral of gloom, but a celebration of life and love to its full potential. "The glory of God is a man fully alive!"

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## Be Thankful For Columnist

Editor:

Thanks for Nancy

They say that often the qualities that someone observes in other people are those that he or she possesses. Nancy Murphy's Nov. 26 column was graciously devoted to her giving thanks for specific friends. And many of the praiseworthy aspects that she perceives in others are also attributes of her own personality and expressiveness. For example: "tenacity," "thoroughness," "dependability," "strong articulate defense of human life," "unfailing sense of direction," "innate ability to get to the point," and a "deep traditional faith."

It is Nancy (and not a priest or religious) who has been probably the most articulate defender of the "right to life" in this area. Her principles are founded solidly on right reason and on the Church's

teaching about the dignity of life. She is indefatigable in her defense of these principles and in bringing out and clarifying their manifold applications. Her investigations and reports, exhaustively researched and documented, integrate vital moral and spiritual concerns with ramifications on the social, economic, and even international levels. She cuts through the swirling confusion of the moment to depict situations "sub specie aeternitatis," and she is not reluctant to take clerics to task if the occasion demands. Also, she has a subtle understanding of people and a shrewd and sensitive insight into human problems.

Nancy is an activist of the best kind, one of the finest and "correctest" persons I know, one of the great and good people whom God sends to animate her community and the Church. We should be very thankful for Nancy Murphy.

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