

Pray for Unity

It would be difficult to find a more appropriate time for prayer or a more worthwhile end to pray for than is provided by the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18-25.

We should be like Him



1976 WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Back in 1908, Father Paul Wattson, himself a Catholic convert and one of the founders of the Society of the Atonement, began the week of prayer for Christian Unity, known then as the Church Unity Octave.

And though the road to Christian unity has been a long and often rocky one, nevertheless there are signs that we are arriving.

For instance, Father Arthur F. Gouthro, director of the Graymoot Ecumenical Institute, along with the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches a co-sponsor of the week, points out a few widely separated instances of a new spiritual bond. In a small Rhode Island community, an Episcopal rector installs new pastors of Baptist and Catholic congregations; for the first time, Christians of other congregations are invited to the Catholic Eucharistic Congress next Summer in Philadelphia; the Church of Scotland has invited a Catholic archbishop to address its General Assembly — for the first time since the Protestant Reformation.

And who's to say that prayers for Christian unity are not responsible? Certainly we small mortals don't seem able to find our ways out of our spiritual cocoons.

Garbage Klan

The invitation is like a slap in the face. The Ku Klux Klan, sensing some kindredship because of anti-busing activities of Catholics, has opened its doors to members of our faith.

Indeed, according to Religious News Service, one B.N. Lucey, the grand dragon of the Kentucky realm of the Klan, claims to be a member of the Catholic Church and he says that the Klan is shedding its anti-Catholic image.

If an organization which still bars blacks and Jews from its membership and claims white supremacy can announce it is losing its anti-Catholic aspect, then we Catholics had better take a new look at the image we are projecting. We should make it clear that any organization that feeds on bigotry and hate has nothing in common with catholicity, big or little c.

Blood

A wisecrack remark from years past was "What do you want from me, blood?"

Yet that is specifically what many people do want from others. The Red Cross reports that every 17 seconds someone in the United States needs blood. They are involved in road accidents, fires, people in shock, victims of leukemia or hemophilia, surgical patients, etc.

Imagine their plight and what blood means for them. Your blood. It is a special gift that benefits the donor as well as the recipient. Contact the Red Cross.

Sing It Again!

It is almost a proof of God in itself that once in a while even Frank Sinatra can say something right. When recently asked by Madalyn Murray O'Hair to sing at an atheist convention, Sinatra replied that he would not support in any way such an event. He capped his refusal with "Thank God."

Well done, Mr. Sinatra.

Opinion

Common Purpose

Editor:

The senior theology class of Nazareth Academy recently took Holy Sepulchre Cemetery to task regarding gravesite conditions. The class related how concerned they became as a result of a field trip to the cemetery.

In present times, it is a rarity to find a group — young or old — which is genuinely concerned with ministry of the dead. As to their criticism, one would surely agree a few years ago. Under the cemetery's present director, the situation has altered.

The cemetery staff has done a remarkable job in bringing Holy Sepulchre back to the excellent condition which the people of the diocese expect and deserve. Regarding the sisters' plots, of which there are two, a massive renovative program was completed last summer. At the older plot site, all headstones were re-laid flush with the ground. Vandalism and littering still occur.

Hopefully, the students of Nazareth will revisit the cemetery in spring armed with rake and litterbag and share with the staff a common purpose.

Richard L. Reinhardt
1400 Beach Ave.
Rochester, N.Y.

Editors Note: Two Courier-Journal staffers visited Holy Sepulchre Cemetery following the students' complaint and they agree in substance with reader Reinhardt.

Who Needs B-1 Bomber?

Editor:

There are fewer beggars in the streets here in El Salvador in December-January when the coffee harvests provide jobs at \$2.20 a day. For ten months unemployment reaches 65%. Lack of jobs is devastating to morale. It's no coincidence that the birthrate here is one of the higher in the world and alcoholism is almost epidemic.

There's unemployment in the U.S., too, although the Rochester area seems to have been spared the worst of the recent siege. Nonetheless, Dr. Harvey Brenner, adviser to the Joint Congressional Economic Committee, recently reported how unemployment has

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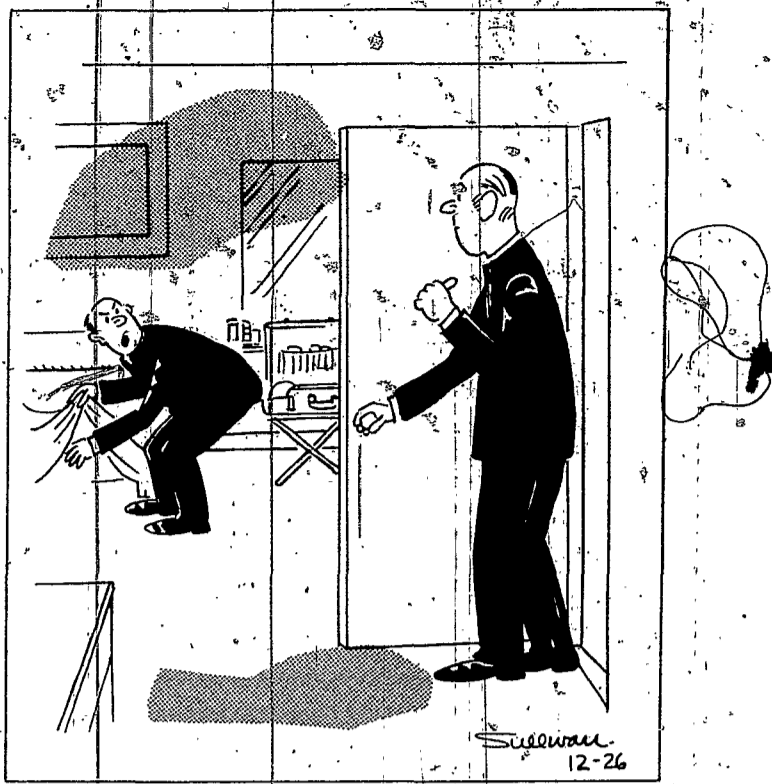
Anthony J. Costello
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Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

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"WELL, THE THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER FOR MY LECTURE — I'VE LOST MY WORRY-STONE."

had a direct effect — adverse — on the physical and mental health of Americans over the last 100 years.

Why, then, do Congressmen Horton and Conable vote millions of tax dollars to continue development of the B-1 Bomber? If the answer is "jobs," let's look at the facts:

1) For every billion of federal expenditures invested in a highly technological machine like the B-1 Bomber, 55,000 jobs are created. When the same billion is spent in public housing, we get 76,000 jobs; when spent to train nurses or employ them, we get 77,000 jobs; when spent to train or employ teachers, we get 100,000 jobs (Rep. Aspin, *Congressional Record*, 23 May, 1972).

2) Again, if the same billion were spent to create industrial jobs in the civilian sector in general, we would gain 65,000 jobs, or 10,000 more than if it were spent in the military sector. That's a difference of 18% (Bureau of Labor Stats and the Office of the Comptroller).

I say, rather than the B-1 Bomber, we need peace conversion. That means: redirecting tax dollars to meet real human needs; it means creating civilian jobs for millions of defense workers; it means ending war contractors' huge profits and power; it means developing ways of defending human values without violence. On this last point Pope Paul VI says in his Peace Message, 1976: "It is necessary before all else to provide peace with other weapons — weapons different from those destined to kill and exterminate mankind."

But unless the people who live in the Rochester area think nationally/internationally and long-term and communicate their druthers to their congressmen in the next five months, we'll program 10 years of lost opportunity by building the B-1 Bomber and I'll no doubt notice fewer differences between El Salvador and the U.S. as I shuttle back and forth.

Father Bernard Survil,
A.P. [06]520,
San Salvador, El Salvador, C.A.

Who Financed Detroit Meet?

Editor:

It was estimated that the recent Detroit conference entitled "Women in Future Priesthood Now — A Call to Action" cost over a quarter of a million dollars, with only \$42,000 accountable to the \$35 registration fee. Projects suggested by the conference for "implementation" suggest that funds will not be lacking in the future.

With the very title of the conference suggesting its monolithic impetus, I am interested in knowing two things: who financed the

conference? And will a quarter of a million dollars also be available to challengers of priestesses?

Louis J. Pasqua
133 Exchange St.
Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Worthy Alternative

Editor:

Today I received my November copy of "Victorian", the news organ for Our Lady of Victory Homes in Lackawanna, New York. The Headlines on Page 10 "CHOOSE LIFE — Infant Home Alternative to Abortion" caught my eye. Many of us support Father Baker in his Christ-like work because he offers young women dignity and understanding. Zealous souls should stop screaming "sinner" to those forced to resort to abortion and direct their efforts, not to an ill-fated constitutional amendment, but to establishing more positive alternatives to abortion. Our Lady of Victory Homes certainly is one of these.

[Mrs.] Janet H. Kenny
80 Spencerwood Circle
Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Grateful For Seminar

Editor:

An answer to my prayers! St. Augustine Church went out on a limb to invite Father James Young to speak on the "Church and Divorce." In my own conscience I knew Christ did not forsake me because I received a divorce, but I needed an acknowledgement from the Church. At St. Augustine, the fourth in a series of moral problems today, the Church's viewpoint on divorce was presented to an audience of interested people seeking out Christ's compassion. St. Augustine's should be commended.

Karen DeLorme
153 Holley St.
Brockport, N.Y. 14420

Atwell Column Commended

Editor:

I certainly enjoyed Father Henry Atwell's column in the Dec. 17 issue. He writes with great sensitivity.

Charles Dollen
St. Gabriel's Church
13312 Community Road
Poway, Calif. 92064