



"HE ONLY JUST GOT HERE - GIVE 'IM A CHANCE."

**Editorial**

# Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl, described briefly in last week's Courier-Journal is a fine idea originated by Msgr. Robert Coll of Allentown, Pa. It will be the theme of the Lenten phase of the American Catholic Overseas Aid Appeal.

Basically, ORB calls for each of us to make such sacrifices as giving up one meal a week or cutting down generally on eating so that more food will be available for those starving in our world. Of course, such deprivations hardly amount to Lenten hardship and Msgr. Coll himself admits that ORB is more of an educational effort than anything else.

He, as do many in and out of religion across the world, fears the prospect of political triage — that because food is said to be scarce hungry people will be fed first on the basis of what they can contribute. Thus some will be given food and others systematically left to die.

If this sounds outlandish, consider that the foreign policy of this nation includes the assumption that we should aid those who might someday help us, or those who happen to live in strategic portions of the world and we either ignore or give token aid to the rest, regardless of the severity of need. Consider also that this basic philosophy is woven into abortion on demand and euthanasia.

Thus, Msgr. Coll's project is commendable if it only serves to bring the problem into clearer focus. However, it could become more than a paper tiger if we all work to put teeth into it.

If and when more food is available (if it is not already) then it is up to our government to assist organizations such as Catholic Relief Services (most faiths have such organizations and there are many secular groups) by setting up the legal and logistic mechanics to channel food to wherever it is needed most.

We all have seen the statistics of world hunger, studied the gaunt faces, been repelled by the bodies dying in the dust. Yet we have, in effect, turned our ears and eyes to those who talk of the necessity of the B-1 and Trident submarines. The world may be so treacherous that we must wallow in such hot and bitter water. Still we must see to it that the qualities of justice and love are added to the cauldron or we may be facing a far sterner retribution than can be mounted in this world.

Heed Msgr. Coll's warning that 10 million persons will undergo "critical malnutrition" this year while the world concentrates on military and political problems. Then wonder if this is the way it must be.

## Opinion

### Not Courage But Gall

Editor:

Re the Jan. 7 letter applauding the fact that St. Augustine's Parish had the courage to present certain "leaders" in moral theology to speak on "The Church and Moral Issues." Assuming that he was quoted correctly in the secular press, the views expressed by one "Father" Curran took not courage, but a whole lot of gall, seeing as how they were in complete conflict with the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church.

Before this presentation took place I had heard that the Blessed Sacrament would be removed from the Church while these talks were in progress. I called the rectory early this week to check on this. I was unable to speak to Father McCabe but the lady I did talk to informed me that she was quite certain this was so. She was unable to give me the reason. Did they fear a riot, or fire would break out? Or was Satan at work again? Not everything that followed Vatican II was of God — his nibs has been quite busy and he's found all too many very willing Catholics to help him in his work. I don't doubt that Jesus was still present but He must have been just a wee bit disappointed by the drivel spoken by this man.

Where was our Bishop when this was happening and afterwards? "Father" Curran's reputation preceded him to Rochester and he should not have been given the opportunity to spew his views in a Roman Catholic Church. I am assuming St. Augustine's is such. If this is censorship, so be it. The Catholic Church never claimed to be a democracy. I have no doubt that this man's opinions are shared by many so-called Catholics, be they bishop, priest, nun or lay person. This still does not make it official church teaching and never will. "Father" Curran should be censured.

In the same edition your "Open Window" reporter again proves he is a champion fence sitter. He's giving answers that will please the crowd and not Church teaching. He'd better jump off that fence because he can't have it both ways. He's correct in assuming that many will think he's disloyal to the Church and our Holy Father. Artificial birth control (birth prevention) may not be a sin and may not be a closed issue in his mind, but it is, according to the church and the man who leads her. Theologians do not make the rules we Catholics are to live by, though.

### COURIER-JOURNAL

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some of them would like us to think so! Because the Pope's words were too difficult to accept, they've got to be changed, seems to be Father Hohman's thinking. When our Blessed Lord spoke of the day He would give His body to eat and His blood to drink He lost many of His followers. He didn't call them back and try to explain and make His words easier to accept. So it is with many of Holy Mother Church's teachings. You're either with her or not. Christ never did promise us a rose garden, not on this earth, anyway.

Mrs. Frank W. Lawson  
6 Floral Drive  
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

### TM Not For Christians

Editor:

My husband and I read your articles on TM and are very concerned with the way people are embracing it. We have read a great deal about the technique and the religion it comes from. We also have a number of friends who have practiced it. Some have stopped meditating and one or two have continued with it. The longer they continued in it, the more secluded and withdrawn they became.

First of all, they did not go into it with the idea of it being a religion. They were told the purpose of TM was to bring them closer to God by going into an almost unconscious trance. The only problem was that the god they were supposed to be seeking is not our Heavenly Father of the Trinity. This so-called god is named Brahma. The goal is Nirvana, which is losing our soul to melt into total oneness of the whole universe. This is not scriptural.

Now I have never heard of anyone who practices TM having a growing thirst for reading scripture, or wanting more fellowship with Christians, or devoting their love, time, and energy to starving people or retarded children and visiting nursing homes or others less fortunate than ourselves. I do not hear them proclaiming Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior or see them attending church more often.

What I do see is a group of people turning in on themselves and their peace and comfort. All we have to do is look at India. TM is a way of life there. The fruit of that country is not what St. Paul describes in Galatians 5:22. Instead it is starvation, poverty, and chaos. They are so calm that they don't care. This country is the result of hundreds of years of transcendental meditation.

Jesus Christ is the only One who can change us from the inside out. If we are going to give up our wills, isn't it a good idea to know who is getting it? From our own personal experiences with Jesus, we are truly new creatures (2 Cor 5:17). He has changed our characters and attitudes that we have been struggling to change for many years. Only through Christ is our hope of being made perfect (Phil 1:6). He is the Way, the Truth and the life, and the one and only way to our Heavenly Father (John 14:6).

What our churches need is not TM or some other "program." As Christ Himself said "Ye must be born again." (John 3:5).

Let's stop letting Satan dupe us and open up our eyes to the Truth. We've had enough polluted water in our sermons. Let's start drinking the Living Waters and put Jesus back on His throne. He is our only hope. We need no other.

Frank and Linda Callan  
Marion, N.Y.

### Hits Priests Who Leave

Editor:

Regarding "The Shortage of Priests", an article that appeared in the Jan. 3 issue of the Times Union:

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The current shortage of priests in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester or any other Catholic diocese cannot be completely blamed on the lower number of vocations as described by Very Rev. Joseph Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's.

What must be brought out is the number of men who have left their chosen vocation both here and in every diocese in the United States. We would have no immediate shortage if these men had lived up to the promises they made on the day they were ordained. They can rationalize their leaving the priesthood in any way they wish but it all boils down to a copout.

These men have not only let their bishop and fellow priests down, but every Catholic man, woman and child who cannot be served as they should be.

Where is the incentive for a young man to enter the seminary when his parish priest leaves for what seems to be greener pastures in marriage? What motivation is there for couples to remain strong in their faith when there is no one to teach them, comfort them at the time of death, hear their confession, and baptize their children.

Where is the driving force for a person to convert to Catholicism when he reads in the local media that Father Jones is being married in a non-Catholic ceremony and has left the church?

To those men who have left, you have made your bed and you can sleep in it. To those fine sacrificing men who have stayed, God bless you because your vocation is the greatest of all vocations.

Daniel J. O'Neill  
1172 E. Whitney Road  
Fairport, N.Y.

### 'Life' Aide Thanks Courier

Editor:

As one of the organizers of the March for Life and Prayer Service here on Jan. 24, I wish to extend a thank you to the Courier-Journal and especially to Carmen Vigiucci for his continued interest and support of right to life efforts. The time and space the Courier devoted to the abortion issue and publicizing area right to life activities was greatly appreciated. Our Bishop's pastoral perspectives on the abortion issue clearly show that Bishop Hogan is committed to the support of efforts in achieving protection for the unborn.

There is a lot that must be done yet. We are a long way off from our goal but we are getting closer each day. The movement is surely growing. The media are becoming more interested and many of our elected representatives are becoming more nervous as they realize they have to respond to the wishes of the people they represent. When 50,000 to a 100,000 people protest in our nations capital on a cold day in January, that says something about the wishes of the American public. We will not allow the law of the land to sanction the killing of unborn human life.

Raymond N. Buonemani  
11 Glasser St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

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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.