

## Disaster

A neighbor has been brought to her knees. Guatemala has been racked by what some are calling the worst disaster ever to hit Central America.

Statistics mean little along side the enormity of the lives ended, ruined, interrupted. One of the edifying sidelights of such calamities is that they bring out the common goodness of diverse peoples. Disaster assistance organizations, religious groups of all kinds, and people of every stripe join in a common effort to help the stricken.

Our own diocese was quick to lend assistance when it sent \$2,500 in all of our names to Catholic Relief Services. It also has afforded the opportunity for all of us to send more. Your contributions may be sent to the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

## Contraceptives on TV

In these days of complicated debate when even the most common sense judgments are called into question, it becomes increasingly difficult to be rational on many issues. For instance, it has been reported that the Advertising Code Administration of the National Association of Broadcasters is "canvassing public opinion" on the subject of allowing contraceptive ads on television.

In response to such folderol, spokesmen for common sense must assume a reasonable and logical posture when you can believe that underneath they may be seething. So in reaction to this, Bishop James S. Rausch, general secretary of the U.S. Catholic Conference, said that contraceptive ads on television like ads for whiskey and cigarettes, would be a "gross violation" of parental rights to guide their children's moral and social development.

We agree but fear that the rejoinder may be that such ads may be put on late at night after children supposedly are asleep. We would like to speak up for adults, parents or not, and strongly condemn any such plans because we just do not want to see such advertising in our homes.

Advertisers, we are sure, will be sensitive to the fact that such exploitation would be in violation of the rights of others.

If the reports are correct, the person that should be contacted is Stockton Helffrich, director of the NAB's code authority at 485 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

## We Get Letters

We are both pleased and proud that more and more readers are using their diocesan newspaper as a forum for their views. All the ingredients for healthy discussion have been provided — Vatican II's insistence that laymen speak out more in directing the Church, Pope John XXIII's Open Window beckoning diverse elements, a variety of controversial issues (women's role in the Church, racism, liturgy, renewal groups and topics such as TM). And the fact that a diocesan newspaper is available as a forum is our good fortune.

However, to be realistic we can only devote so much space to reader opinion. We have enlarged such space in recent months but still are having difficulty in printing each and every letter. So we have been sharply editing those letters which make the same point on the same issue.

We also ask our readers to limit their letters in the interest of letting all be heard. We set no rigid rules but perhaps once a month would suffice.

Your letters not only are healthy for the body politic of the local Church, they also make the Courier-Journal more readable. The increasing numbers also mean that the newspaper is being better read. For this we are grateful but must ask your cooperation so that even more may be heard.

## Opinion

### Rectory Is Extravagance

Editor:

I agree with Father James Callan that St. Ambrose is an extravagance. He deserves a lot of credit for living the same way he believes. Jesus didn't have it that good. From a practical point of view, the people of any parish cannot afford such extravagance. I wonder what people of other faiths might think of us Catholics; are we better than they? I've always been taught that we Catholics should set an example for the whole world.

Anthony Fabris  
43 Silverdale Dr.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14629

### Protests TM Feature

Editor:

In your editorial (p. 4) of the Jan. 14 issue of the Courier-Journal you pointed out how ludicrous it was for the Klu Klux Klan to invite Catholics to join their organization. I would like to point out, also, how ludicrous it is for a Catholic newspaper to endorse Transcendental Meditation. On the last page of the same issue the two articles you carried were tantamount to an endorsement.

In the very same issue is a beautiful article by Pope Paul telling Christians about Jesus and that He is the inner peace we are seeking.

Jesus said (John 14:6) "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father but through Me." Not one of the four gospels tells us that TM is the way. Unless it's the other way.

Mrs. Marian Gardner  
200 Lyon Rd.  
Marion, N.Y. 14505

### Claims View Is Elitist

Editor:

Mary Kelly's letter of Jan. 28 on the theme of unity unfortunately reflects an attitude held by many Catholics that is not only uncharitable but also condescending and elitist. Her analogy of the Episcopal Church as a "dead branch" and the Catholic Church as a "living vine" and "the one true faith" is not only un-Christian but it points out the belief that some Catholics have that they are better

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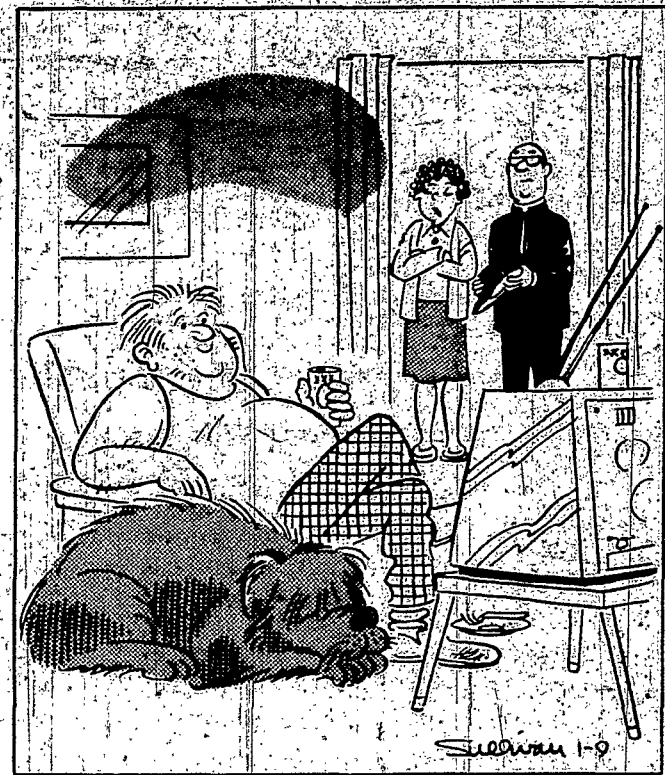
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"WELL, THERE THEY ARE — HUSKY AND STARCH!"

than anyone else because of their Catholicism. These people should remember that God will judge them by their Christianity and not their Catholicism.

The Vatican II "Decree on Ecumenism" states what Catholics should do toward the goal of unity. "First, every effort to eliminate words, judgments, and actions which do not respond to the condition of separated brethren with truth and fairness, and so make mutual relations between them more difficult." (#4, p. 347)

Unity among all Christian churches starts with the unity of all Christians. "There can be no ecumenism worthy of the name without a change of heart." (#7, p. 351) Pray that such a change will happen.

Kevin Scahill  
81 Lapham St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

### Why Are Schools Closed?

Editor:

I'd like to make a few comments and observations regarding the article in the Courier dated 2/4/76, Catholic Schools: A Challenging Ministry, by Bishop J. Hogan. Yes, indeed it is a challenging ministry where it exists. The article contained some very positive points.

Teaching is a ministry.

It is value-shaping and can have a great impact on the lives of children. (And in my opinion on the total family unit).

It is faith enriching.

It is worth the sacrifices.

They promote the dignity of the person and the building of community.

I truly believe, in the above values. However I cannot help but read this article and once again wonder with great mystery why we are the only diocese across the country, who have the unique and distinct situation where all of our inner-city parochial schools are closed. Please don't tell me once again that it was due to a lack of funding and financing. For the sake of those who may not know, when the CICP fund raising committee was in operation in 1972-73 and ready to switch on the green lights after all precautions had been taken, we received a definite no which ultimately came from the bishop. At that time in fact, almost three (3) million dollars had been already pledged by various businesses and corporations. The money was there indeed!

My question is why weren't these same values described by the bishop in his article upheld for the inner-city at the time when the school closings were decided? Was there a double standard applied

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due to the geographical locations of our schools?

I believe Christian education including the moral, spiritual and academic development of the individual child, is one of the greatest resources we can offer in today's society. I'm just sorry that official leaders of our diocese didn't support that same value for our inner-city.

Sr. Marie Louise Blaakman  
[Former principal of  
Mount Carmel School]  
59 Ontario St.  
Mt. Carmel Convent  
Rochester, N.Y. 14605

### Fr. Callan Case Appalling

Editor:

The publicity given to the suspension from duties of Father James Callan is appalling to me.

In this day when the spirit of humility is preached from the pulpit it would seem to me if he wished to seek living quarters in a place where he could more fittingly follow the example of Christ he should be allowed to do so without being so heavily penalized.

I would suggest that Bishop Hogan again turn to the Documents of Vatican II — "Priests," section II, the closing paragraph of which reads, as follows:

"Led, therefore, by the Lord's spirit, who anointed the Savior and sent Him to preach the gospel to the poor, priests as well as bishops will avoid all those things which can offend the poor in any way. More than the other followers of Christ, priests and bishops should spurn any type of vanity in their affairs. Finally, let them have the kind of dwelling which will appear closed to no one and which no one will fear to visit, even the humblest."

Mrs. Agnes Lucy  
Lakeland, Fla. 33801  
Formerly of  
St. Patrick's Parish  
Victor, N.Y.

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.