

## Well Done!

Congratulations to Catholic Relief Services — and to you.

CRS, because of its vigilant, resilient and omnipresent posture which makes it possible to respond quickly to catastrophe almost anywhere. And to you, because you provide CRS with the tools to accomplish the job at hand.

A CRS report on the effort to help the victims of the Guatemalan earthquake and to restore some normalcy to that country, shows that diocesan appeals raised some \$838,000 in aid. This constituted well over half of the \$1.5 million raised by CRS for earthquake relief, the rest coming from sources such as American foundations, overseas organizations and the U.S. government (again you).

The financial aid coupled with supplies from CRS stocks enabled CRS to spend or commit \$4.5 million in aid to Guatemalans.

Perhaps congratulations are not necessary for the kind of things we should do anyway. Still we think such efforts are worth noting if only as a retort to anti-Catholic sources who consistently can find nothing good to say about this faith.

Only because of the resources of the Catholic Church — its Christianity, its people, its flexibility and its extent — was such service able to be delivered in quantity, but even more important, in haste.

## Guns, Babies

Well, the National Rifle Association, that mystical, magical organization, has done it again. At a time when every poll interested shows most Americans, from President Ford on down (or up, according to your view of democracy), feel that some form of handgun control is needed, the House Judiciary Committee has bowed to the NRA gunnies and put off action for another year.

So that must make us all feel a little better inside, a bit warmer, more secure to know that we can all keep the handguns we already have, or go out and get a new batch. Now we can all celebrate the bicentennial wholeheartedly knowing that the Constitution is safe, although we may blanch at gun-associated homicide figures, flinch at attempts on the lives of public officials, commiserate with police departments who are asking statutory help in this area, and feel sorry for the victims and friends of victims of shootings.

Sarcasm obviously is a poor weapon in the face of NRA power over the Congress. Aside from that, a worrisome thought emerges — one could get the uncomfortable feeling that if the NRA were lobbying for constitutional protection of all life that abortion on demand would never have gotten off the ground.

## Prayer Day

Frankly we are patsies for anyone who sees the value of prayer in the face of the hectic problems confronting society. So obviously we are heartened by a proposal to have President Ford proclaim April 29 as a National Day of Prayer.

Rep. Bob Wilson of California, a Baptist, said he chose April 29 for the proposal because on that date in 1607 the first permanent English settlers on this continent erected a wooden cross and "bowed before God to dedicate this new land to His glory."

Wilson also commented that this nation was founded by individuals "who sought the right to worship God in their own way... we have a religious heritage of which we can all be proud and a National Day of Prayer on April 29 would be a fitting time to pay special tribute to the God of our Fathers."

The last proposal for a National Day of Prayer made by Sen. Mark Hatfield for April 30, 1974 passed the Senate but fizzled in the House. We hope this one passes both houses. Sure, in some corners it may be seen as only symbolic but any community of prayer in behalf of our nation and its present problems will be helpful.

## Opinion

### CYO Rules Inconsistent

Editor:

Last Fall there was a fair amount of publicity about the eligibility rules for CYO basketball following Father Sundholm's letter in the Courier-Journal. Father Sundholm's position was that since this was a CYO league it should be for Catholic children. The CYO basketball eligibility rules allow non-Catholic children to participate on CYO teams providing they live within the parish boundaries. The CYO leagues also have teams from non-Catholic organizations.

While the CYO is supporting the merits of its basketball rules it allows a completely inconsistent set of rules to apply to the CYO softball leagues. Rule 3 states: "All players must attend the school they represent." In other words, Catholic children who attend public school are ineligible to play in the CYO softball league.

I am co-director of the sports program for Mother of Sorrows parish and have been trying for two years to get the issue of eligibility for softball resolved on a consistent basis with other CYO activities. CYO Program Director Jack Quiggle has sent out questionnaires to pastors asking for their viewpoints on softball eligibility but the response has been negligible. The last report I had from Jack was that only three pastors had responded, all indicating that they favored expanding eligibility to other Catholic children in their parishes but with such a small response Jack felt he could not change the eligibility rules. The issue was to have been handled by the CYO Board of Directors in conjunction with the review of basketball eligibility rules. The subject has again been deferred and Jack informs me that the 1976 softball rules will still exclude Catholic children if they do not attend the parish school.

At a meeting of softball coaches last year, Jack asked for a vote on the eligibility rule and a majority of those present voted to retain the "parochial school only" rule so that is how the rule was left for 1975. Jack did promise, however, that the subject would be reviewed by the CYO Board of Directors — not by the coaches — to decide fundamentally if the CYO policy was to provide athletic programs for Catholic youth or for parochial schools. The issue has not been resolved one way or another and Jack has no choice but to enforce last year's rule.

We must recognize the fact that today in many (if not most)

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, President

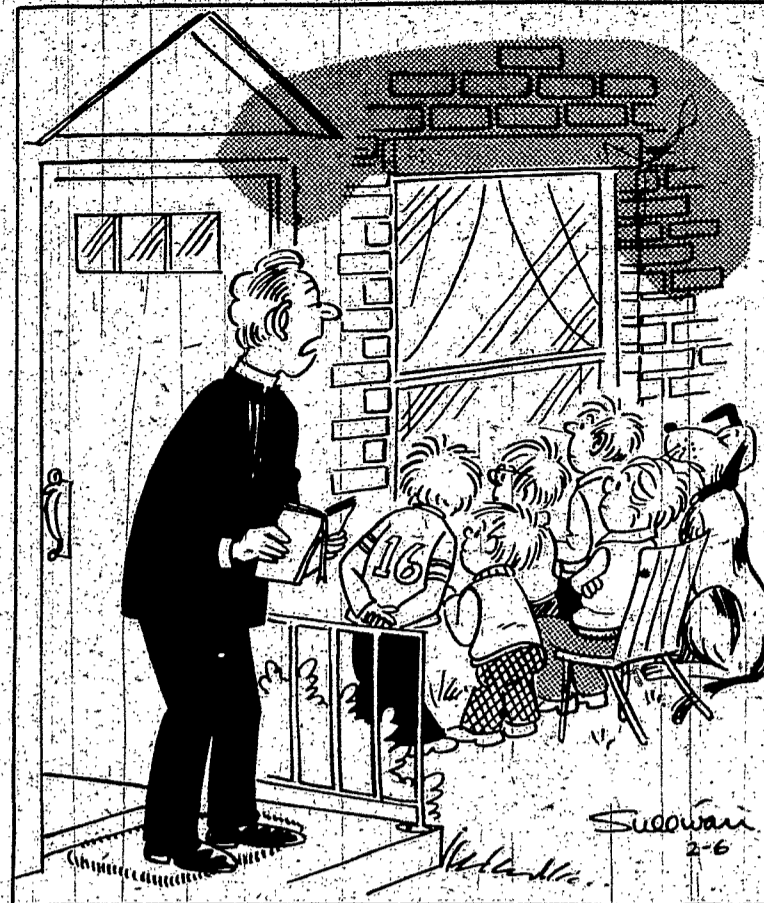
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Courier-Journal



"THAT'S NOT WHAT WE MEAN BY PRAYER OBSERVANCE WEEK!"

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parishes more than half of the children attend public schools. This does not mean that these families do not support the parish. I know, for instance at Mother of Sorrows, that some of our most active and dedicated parish workers send their children to public schools for many different reasons. At M.O.S. the sports program is supported by the entire parish, not just the parents of the children in our school. About 1/3 of the financing comes from the parish general fund and the other 2/3 by parish wide fund raising projects. Some of our public school parish families are some of our best supporters in these activities.

I cannot agree with the arguments that I have heard for continuing the rule excluding Catholic public school students from the CYO softball league. Most of the arguments revolve around the notion that bigger parishes would have an advantage over the smaller parishes and that making the rule consistent with basketball eligibility would stimulate "recruiting." I would hope that our CYO elementary school softball coaches would have more integrity than that.

I hope that this letter may prompt the CYO Board to take some action on this question before the 1976 softball season starts. If not I would at least suggest that the league name be changed to "Rochester-Monroe County Parochial School Softball League" since that would be a more meaningful title than "Catholic Youth Organization."

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### Right to Die Bill Assailed

Editor:

Frightening evidence of the extent and direction of the anti-life forces in the United States is given by the "murder bill" in the Wisconsin State Assembly. This bill, introduced on 22 Oct. 1975 by Rep. Barbee, I quote almost in its entirety:

"895.50 The Right to Die. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person may request any person 14 years of age or older to terminate the life of the requestor. Any such request may be either oral or written. Any person terminating the life of a requestor, pursuant to a valid request, shall not be civilly liable for his actions and shall not be considered in violation of ss. 940.01 to 940.09. (NOTE BY R.K.) This means that he will not be guilty of murder, manslaughter, or homicide.)

(2) Prior to requesting another

person to terminate the requestor's life, the requestor, if married, shall notify his spouse of his decision. Permission from the spouse shall not be a condition precedent to making a valid request to die.

(3) (a) A person under 7 years of age shall not be able to make a valid request to have his life terminated under sub. (1).

(b) A person 7 years of age or older but under 18 years of age shall notify his parents or guardian, whichever is applicable, prior to requesting another person to terminate the requestor's life. Permission from such parents or guardian shall not be a condition precedent to making a valid request to die.

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### Care Urged In Reading

Editor:

Christ told his followers that they were "in the world, but not part of the world." We must be very careful in our lives not to let the values of the world replace the values expounded in the Bible.

In certain magazines we find numerous articles, transmitting un-Christian values.

We must be careful not to let continuous exposure to certain magazines break down our values. Let our reading material instead consist of Our Sunday Visitor, St. Anthony's Messenger, Sign Catholic Digest, Courier-Journal and other such uplifting magazines and newspapers.

Daily Bible reading and prayer are two excellent ways of keeping our minds in tune with God's will. Let us be no part of the ways of the world.

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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.