

Women Leaders

Can women be accepted as leaders?

For those who still entertain such questions may we offer a trio who have answered it quietly but effectively?

By no means are they the only exponents of woman's ability to lead, but they serve as worthy examples.

First and foremost, and not to disparage the accomplishments of the other two, is Mother Teresa, whose qualities need no embellishment. Her simple, honest, realistic approach to attacking poverty and disease has provided inspiration and leadership of the highest quality for all of us, regardless of nationality, religion, political persuasion or gender. In fact, this simple, loving woman has become no less than a world leader.

The other women in reference are both in the pro-life movement. Dr. Mildred Jefferson not only may have been hampered in some circles because of her womanhood, but she also is black, the first person of her gender and color to be graduated from Harvard Medical School. As national director of Right to Life she recently retorted to charges that the Catholic hierarchy is covertly controlling that right to life movement. "I never heard of a Catholic until I moved to Massachusetts," she is quoted. "The Catholic Church is being maligned and everyone who condemned the recent U.N. resolution on Zionism should condemn the kind of bigotry shown to the Roman Catholic Church." Besides being nice to hear from a black, Methodist, woman surgeon, such a statement is indicative of Dr. Jefferson's leadership.

The final person in this mini-group of woman leaders is Ellen McCormack, who has risen from a right to life columnist to a candidate for the presidency. There is no chance that Mrs. McCormack will ever be nominated for the presidency, so these words are in no way to be construed as an endorsement. We merely wish to point out that when right to life produced a national spokesman in the presidential arena, it turned out to be a woman.

Farm Workers

Although we happen to feel that the theme chosen for Farm Worker Week is too long, too stilted, and a bit unearthy, and despite the fact that the theme might have been put in a more modern idiom than "Speak to the Earth and It Shall Teach Thee," the reason for the week is more important than any related phraseology.

Farm workers in America, and you can name any area, have long been the victims of oppression and struggle. A bright spot in their recent history has been the work of Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers of America who have brought collective bargaining to the 250,000 workers in California and others elsewhere.

The 1975 landmark California Agriculture Labor Relations Act — the first labor law in the nation to provide specifically for the collective bargaining rights of agricultural field workers — was strongly endorsed by the U.S. Catholic Bishops. This legislation has not ended the bishops' concern.

During Farm Worker Week, May 2-8, they ask us to commit ourselves to crucial values of justice and human dignity as they relate to farm workers and to the Church as a calling of Christian community; to recognize the critical, vital role of farm workers; to focus on the farm workers' values of unity and family; on their belief in self-determination and hard work; to acknowledge that farm workers include all major ethnic groups in America and they are a valued national resource; to affirm their right to a decent wage, adequate food and shelter and education for their children.

Many of us may only be able to give moral support to these objectives; others who live closer to farm workers can help in more constructive ways.

In a very real sense we are all "the salt of the earth" and in God's eyes the grains are all the same. That is why when some of us are victimized by injustice or oppressive conditions the rest of us should respond with concern.

Opinion

Don't Blame Milwaukee

Editor:

The article quoted from the Courier-Journal in the March 20 issue of the Milwaukee Journal shows your paper to be narrow-minded and un-Christian.

The people of Milwaukee are worried about the Arthur Jones Nazi group here; please do not judge us by him. He represents very few of us. You evidently have not known of the many people here who have taken a stand against Jones and his group. For example, the high school students who sent the Nazis fleeing to their cars when they tried to pass out propaganda; the waitress who had Jones arrested for disorderly conduct when he verbally insulted her and other customers and the many parents and teachers who have opposed him at every meeting of the Milwaukee School Board sessions on integration.

Yes, it is unfortunate that Jones received over 4,000 votes in Milwaukee's mayoral primary. Please take into account that Milwaukee is a city of three-quarter million, giving Jones only a half per cent of support.

Furthermore, the more vocal Jones has become the more the silent majority (myself included) are rising up against him. He has made us more conscientious citizens by reverse psychology. He stands for the kind of evil that caused the last world war and we are not standing by passively.

The childish remark that was made about the Fonzy and Laverne and Shirley as typical Milwaukeeans was bad form. Do you feel that all New York City residents share the same prejudices as Archie Bunker and George Jefferson? For one, do not.

I write this hoping we will all work together for a better America. Please do not single out Wisconsin and Milwaukee, in particular, as being the one bad apple in the Union.

Beth Szyzko
3764 S. Whitnall
Milwaukee, Wis.

Editor's Note: We respect Ms. Szyzko's hope that we all work together for a better country. We also think that it should be pointed out that Arthur Jones' 4,765 votes should not be compared with the total population of Milwaukee. Rather it should be realized that in a light primary vote, Mr. Jones' total cannot be ignored. He finished fourth among seven contenders.

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Courier-Journal



"FAMILY-VIEWING TIME OVER ALREADY?"

While the incumbent mayor, Henry Maier, finished far ahead (60,112 votes, as our editorial stated) the second place finisher had less than 10,000 votes. Mr. Jones was not that far behind. We happen to believe this is worrisome whether the city be Milwaukee, Los Angeles, or Rochester, N.Y. Another Nazi also was taken lightly two generations ago and the world should never forget what happened. The Courier-Journal also received a letter from another Milwaukeean, hesitant of being identified, which tells of Nazis disrupting services in temple, of picketing of the Jewish Community Center, of synagogues with windows smashed out, and so on.

Teens Look for Rap Around'

Editor:

We would like to commend the Courier-Journal for its section "Rap Around."

In all honesty, our four teenagers rarely used to read the Courier.

When Rap Around appeared, the first question on Wednesday afternoon was "Who has the Courier?"

They now read Rap Around first and then the rest of the paper.

Keep up the good work. We really appreciate it.

Dr. and Mrs. G. Keefe Jackson
50 Hawthorne
Rochester, N.Y.

P.S. Terrific article on Rich Salamone.

Concerning 'The New Breed'

Editor:

The Rita Alesi letter in the Courier-Journal of March 19, 1976, was most enjoyable. It is good to know that there are still some laypeople willing to stand up in defense of the traditional church.

The four modernistic horsemen who ride the world today are: secularism, anti-clericalism, neo-paganism, and atheistic-communism. The content of the hand-writing on the wall fifty years ago is now here and rampant among us. We behold its products and who is there to fight against it? The pulpits are silent and the clerical ranks weak from defection. Some clerics and religious revel in their newly acquired secularism. The holy rules and constitutions of founders have been thrown out, clerical and religious garb have gone with them. Jewelry, watches, purses, and baubles of all sorts have replaced them. But the cassock, the

coif and clumsy habit may have at least assisted them in protecting their vows.

The fate and punishment of Father Callan was harshly severe and unrestrictive. For others, the explanations of their conduct have been both supportive and excusive. It is hard to understand the strictness when treating the marriage vows and the seeming laxness relative to religious vows. How can some, supported and educated by the diocese, be so vehemently lauded and defended in their defection?

The vows may be distasteful to "the new breed" but perhaps they are not so outmoded as some would like to think. Order, unity, and strength are not to be had by each doing his own thing.

My first encounter with the doing your own thing bit was in the day room of a mental hospital. The patients were each doing their own thing, according to their own mental status. The one with ideas of grandeur and with numerous badges about his person proclaimed his presidency of Long Island. Another declared his own head to be in a box on a nearby shelf. Yet another struck a peculiar catatonic pose and maintained it. Someone repeated a word or phrase constantly.

Order and obedience to authority lead to God. Doing your own thing can lead to bedlam.

John H. Farrell
73 Bridge St.
Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148

Lenten Reflection

Editor:

A Christian's Reflections on a Crucifix: Oh Jesus, there on the Cross, through my tears I see the thorns that crown thee. Through my tears I see Thy nails, Thy wounds, and Thy Most Precious Blood. Which nail, Oh Jesus, did I put there? Which wound did I make? What drop of Thy Most Precious Blood — is Mine?

Peter R. Palmeri
CCD Instructor
St. Dominic's Parish
Shortsville, N.Y. 14548

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