

Time to Pray

Regarding the tragedy in our diocese. Things we must not do — moralize, generalize, judge. Rather the three things we must do — Pray. Pray. And pray. For all concerned.

Sports, Violence Don't Mix

Violence in sports is a many-headed monster. Not only is it wrong for the participants deliberately to commit mayhem but such activity constitutes a public menace in that impressionable people — and we mean childish adults as well as young persons — are witness to brutality disguised as "sport."

To be clear, we do not refer to the spontaneous flareup, the occasional loss of temper, the involuntary crossing of the line between contact and brutality. Such things are bound to happen — but they still must be considered regrettable.

However, when such deviations become intentional, when gangs of thugs are allowed to maraud as athletes, when bullies are paid to intimidate others in the name of winning, when a baseball pitcher feels free to admit publicly that he is only as effective as his ability to threaten others with a beaming, then some lines must be drawn. Perhaps such items as baseballs and hockey sticks should be legally be declared lethal weapons and clear regulations established for their use.

The sense and meaning of the word sport excludes violence. And no amount of juvenile prattling, such as recently displayed by syndicated columnist Dick Young, can change that.

Mr. Young reflects the mentality that makes sport of wars and wars of sport. In his column, he not only condones violence in sports but seems to advocate it. Incredibly he writes that because "we are savages" (his sociological finding) that because "man has temper, wild, raging temper" then for some reason which Mr. Young does not make clear it is not only permissible but apparently healthy for people to brutalize each other before mobs of paid spectators.

Mr. Young, apparently mesmerized by the "savagery" of his typewritten words, does not bother with logic in supporting his conclusion that because man has a darker side it is fine for four hockey players to knock down, beat and bloody one opposing player and then call it sport. If Mr. Young were to enter the apparently strange-to-him world of logic he might also have to extend his approbation of violence to all phases of human activity.

It is precisely because we are imperfect that laws are necessary.

It is precisely because we have realized that what to one person is a piece of athletic equipment is to another a weapon, that we have rules and regulations.

It is precisely because we have those who get their vicarious thrills from watching murder, mayhem, and pornography that we establish laws governing such activities.

It is precisely that we disavow anarchy that we have established codes of conduct.

In the same column, Mr. Young verbally assaults the attorney general of the Province of Ontario who had some players arrested, Mr. Young unctuously writes, for "brawling." Actually these athletes are accused of swinging hockey sticks at fans and police who were trying to quell a minor riot. Mr. Young takes the attitude that boys will be boys. It should be added that in such puerile pursuits such boys make a lot of money for themselves, their owners, and attendant camp followers such as Mr. Young.

The columnist calls Atty. Gen. Roy McMurry a "pedantic fool" and criticism such as this editorial the work of "self-appointed guardians of our social mores." He would also have to aim his flabby barbs at one of the greatest hockey players of all times, Bobby Hull, who has declared very recently that he is thinking of giving up hockey because it is no longer a sport.

If enough people want their sports obscene, then such spectacles should be quarantined and labeled, much as porno theaters, and not be opened haphazardly to young, impressionable, or sick minds.

Opinion

A Stirring Event!

Editor:

Easter consciousness surely permeated the atmosphere at St. Anne's Church on Holy Saturday evening!

The church with its tasteful decorations of flowers and two beautiful banners gave setting for music, choir, guitars and trumpet in the choir loft. Seemingly there was an air of expectancy and rightfully so. A real "communal happening" was about to take place.

Preceding the Eucharistic Celebration several new members were welcomed and received into the Church through reception of sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist. Adults and children alike were grouped together in the sanctuary. The entire congregation joined in for renewal of Baptismal vows. Beautiful!

The Mass which was, of course, the highlight was preceded by candlelight procession in the semidarkened church. Each parishioner held a lighted candle. As the lights came on again a real feeling of "awakening" took place as a prelude to the Eucharistic Celebration.

It truly was a spiritual evening in preparation for the most important event in the history of Christianity — the Resurrection.

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Too Much For Sisters?

Editor:

It is consoling to know the Diocesan Sisters Council approved Peace and Justice — a worthwhile attribute in this day.

Reading further we are advised that the salaries of our nuns has been increased to \$3,750 per year, plus a \$600 housing allowance. Also considering the five per cent religious discount which would bring their weekly salary to a little over \$90, not a momentous figure I'll agree.

However, I wonder if these holy women are aware that there are people subsisting on a lesser amount of income, yet are contributing towards their support.

What ever happened to the ancient vow of poverty? Is it still in existence?

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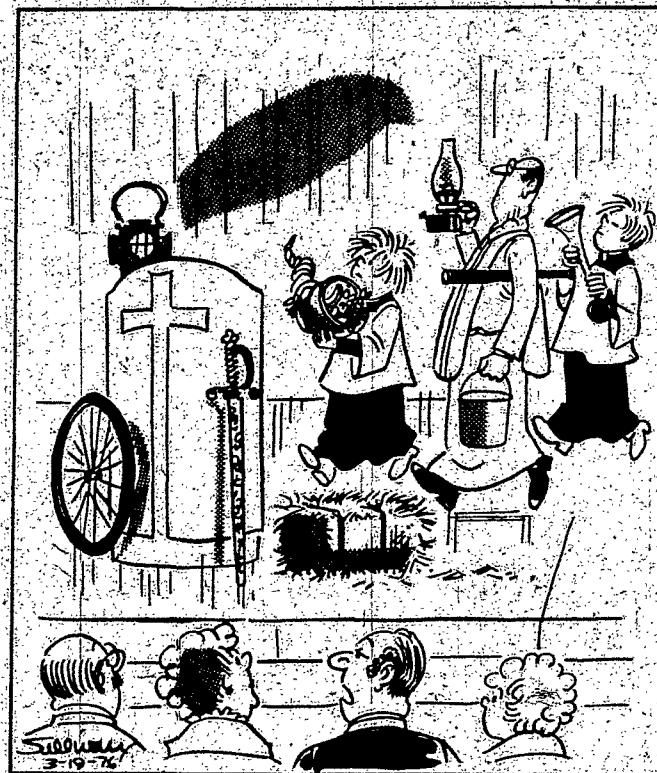
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* IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A DULL SERMON, I'LL BE VERY DISAPPOINTED.

Then the subject of transportation rears its head. No doubt these good women are unaware that there is a public transportation system so I assume reference is made to either a car or cars. Will the insurance on these cars be handled by the drivers, or will the diocese be expected to pick up the tab?

Life is seldom simple and who can guess what might be the goal for 1980? But one must admit that the good sisters certainly have the wind in their sails now.

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Editor's Note: The religious discount, i.e., the portion of each sister's salary that is turned over to the congregation for congregational expenses, is approximately 50 per cent, not 5 per cent. This year, each convent has \$142 per month (approximately \$32 per week) for each sister in the convent to cover all food, clothing, transportation and personal expenses of the sisters living there.

Easter Reflection

Editor:

For the young adults of our diocese I have An Easter Reflection:

O risen Jesus, they told me that thou wouldst rise. They told me that thou wouldst be whole again, — free of pain and suffering. Oh how beautiful, how perfect thou art to my tender eyes! Will I see thee this way when I am grown? Will I feel thy pain now for all of my life, or will I be led into temptation and not be delivered from evil?

Peter R. Palmeri
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Mass Is Too Modern

Editor:

We read about good churches, lately but in my opinion churches are getting bad. I say this because they (churches) are getting too modern. I am not talking about buildings, but Mass.

I can see altar girls and boys but when they just sit there and ring a bell once or twice, I can't see it. The candles were all right three years ago, but now you see a few candles just thrown on anywhere making the altar look like a joke instead of a holy place. I don't know how the parishes think but I am surprised that no one talked about it sooner. I must commend some churches for not getting too UNDECENT. I see I will probably

have to go to Mass (if you want to call it that) and get nothing in the way of satisfaction out of it after what I put into it.

I just hope we get back to the real Church soon. They say we have to please people so we can keep up the attendance — but we are supposed to please God not the people.

I, probably, went against what I'm trying to say with my last paragraph but I want it known that Mass is too modern for me and for a few people who are too shy to speak up.

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Moon's Group Not 'Church'

Editor:

In the April 21 Courier-Journal article, "The Moonies and Brainwashing," Martin Toombs may have unintentionally used a mild form of brainwashing in relating the word "church" far too often to what appears to have all the makings of a very sinister political organization being financed by those unfortunate ones who allow themselves to become members.

In that final article of the series, he used the word 28 times in less than that number of column inches. If readers were not convinced that the term should be applied to the Unification group at the start, they may well have gotten the idea by the end of the article.

The series, nevertheless, was very enlightening and should serve as a warning for everyone to be on the alert — a rather strange kind of situation for an organization professing to be religious. Do they really profess religious beliefs? Not if the information in Mr. Toombs' articles and some that came from recent hearings in Washington are true. The term "church" is most likely used only to avoid taxes on the huge income from various business enterprises, enriched by almost free labor provided by those who let themselves be used for whatever ultimate (or ulterior) purposes this Sun Moon person really has in mind.

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