

Are Moonies That Important?

Editor:

In the April 7 Courier-Journal and on the front page, I read the headlines "Are The Moonies in the Diocese to Stay?" and included with the half page coverage on the front page and continued on the second page, a picture of the house that the moonies are using as a mission in Savannah. I was quite provoked about the value systems that are used in determining what priorities news articles get in the Courier-Journal. Not only that but I became more frustrated and concerned when the reporter Martin Toombs informed me on the second page that this was going to be a feature article and the Moonies were going to get three different weeks of coverage.

Mr. Toombs reporter for the paper, evidently came to Savannah, did interviews and then went back and wrote his articles. On Wednesday, April 14, there was another article titled Rev. Moon, A Self Acclaimed Saint and a picture showing him performing before a group of young people in one of the activities at Barrytown. Again on Wednesday, April 21, another article titled the "Moonies and Brainwashing."

I have to give Rev. Moon a lot of credit for his acts because he surely got out of the Courier-Journal, a lot of publicity and advertisement for his "cult" organization. Even if it carried a tone of negativism. I've read about the Moonies in Reader's Digest and other national magazines and newspapers also he has appeared before the Senate Committee in Washington, got TV coverage by Rochester TV Stations.

What is my complaint? It is virtually this. This year, the parish of St. Patrick's in Savannah, celebrated its Centennial Year. Many hard working members of the Altar and Rosary Society of the church and of the community, spent endless hours putting together a program to celebrate the Centennial Year at St. Patrick's on March 21. I personally contacted by telephone, the regional editor and tried to get centerfold coverage of the event.

A most enjoyable celebration took place on March 21, when Bishop Hogan came to St. Pat's to celebrate Mass and enjoy the festivities. It was a big day for the community of Savannah and the people of the parish. The little church was packed with local dignitaries, many past priests concelebrated with the Bishop. It was gratifying to hear people, not of the parish but outsiders to say, what a fine program! It was pleasing to hear altar boys saying, "Gee, Bishop Hogan is a real nice guy!"

Did the St. Patrick's Celebration get the kind of coverage that the Moonies got? No. In the April 4 edition there was 40 some two inch lines about the event. No pictures and it was hidden in the latter pages of the paper.

I believe the values of some of the priorities that are used in selecting articles for print need a lot of correction. And I am quite concerned about the kind of recognition the small town folks get in the diocese papers. Now maybe all the fault does not belong on the backs of the editors, maybe part of it belongs to the people who live in small communities such as Savannah, Wokeoat, Port Byron, Montezuma, Naples and I could go on listing a number of them. Because we do not speak out about some of these issues.

In essence, my point is this: according to the articles that were written by Martin Toombs on the Moonies, it surely did not make our community of Savannah a better place to live in, in the eyes of the people who read the articles. But if

reporters wanted to make Savannah or any other community a better place to live, they should publicize the material in a positive form and treat all communities more equitable in selecting articles for print.

Joseph J. Kolczynski
Savannah, N.Y. 13146

EDITOR'S NOTE: First, Martin Toombs does not choose his topics; they are assigned by the editor. We feel it is absolutely essential that our readers be informed — and well-informed — when sects such as the Moonies, which thrive on secrecy, come into our diocese seeking recruits. Second, Mr. Kolczynski apparently missed the March 17 Courier-Journal which had a half-page story with two photos of St. Patrick's, which incidentally received the same amount of coverage as any parish on centennials. This in addition to the second story mentioned in the March 31 edition. Third, reader Kolczynski may be pleased to know that writer Toombs is a neighbor of his, from just down the road in Waterloo.

Some Issues Not Open

Editor:

In the April 21 issue of the Courier-Journal a front page article pictured theologian Father McBrien (in civilian garb) addressing a group of people at Cornell University.

What I object to is that the issues discussed by Father McBrien such as women's ordination to the priesthood and celibacy should be confined to the Magisterium, i.e. the teaching authority of the Church.

Such talks only serve to weaken the Church's role as supreme authority in these matters because the Church's position is quite clear and at odds with the opinions of Father McBrien.

I suppose it is easier to roll along with the tide of secular humanism than to stand up for the Church and endure the persecution of a pagan society.

Speaking of pagans, since we gave up our fight against them in Indochina more than a half million people have been murdered in Cambodia alone.

Some of our Church leaders advised us that the killing would stop if only we would withdraw our military aid from the non-Communist governments in Indochina. They were wrong!

Therefore we must convince our church and government leaders that peace is built only on a foundation of strength, not compromise.

Robert Bart
P.O. Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Please Save Column

Editor:

"LIFE, LIBERTY AND LAW" column April 14, reflects meticulous research on the subject of sterilization. The writer carefully spells out the guidelines of the Church and cites violations. St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital, London, Ont., has apparently pioneered this defiance of authority. It is significant that the position of the Church on sterilization has been replaced in this hospital's manual by the implementation of "new morality" of such distinguished dissidents as Charles Curran, Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Joseph Fletcher (Fletcher was ordained in the Episcopal Church and is the leading proponent of Situation Ethics. Herbert Philbrick's testimony, July 6, 1953, before House Committee on Un-American

Activities under oath, concerning Joseph Fletcher is revealing).

Please clip "LIFE, LIBERTY AND LAW" column of April 14. Save it carefully. Should this situation intrude into our diocese you will be able to recognize it.

It is sad that an institution for healing named "St. Joseph's" should be the victim of false prophets St. Joseph — The Protector of the Family. Through his intercession may those who have come to worship at the shrine of "the end justifies the means," reject all that it stands for.

Mrs. I. B. Newberry
160 Azalea Road
Rochester, N.Y.

Editor's Note: Mary Lou Reifsnnyder of 6283 Pittsford-Palmyra Road in Fairport, wrote a similar letter.

Mary Truly A Mediatrix

Editor:

Father Ehmann's article on "Poor Mary" in last week's issue of the Courier-Journal has prompted my first letter to the paper.

Knowing that Father is the expert and after enjoying the message very much, I would like to express a few opinions.

My feeling is that "Our Lady of the Bible" acted as Mediatrix between her Son and His people when asking Him for more wine at the Marriage Feast at Cana. We read that he complied with her request. If we listen and believe her requests and warnings at Fatima, it looks as though most of the warnings are happening all around us today. I was living when she gave those warnings. Many of them were begging us to listen to her Son.

Vatican II named her "Mother of the Church." Has the world

become a better place to live because the praying of the Rosary has declined?

Purification, change, growth — yes! Many of our young people do not know what a Rosary looks like. I do see them following Rev. Moon and being exploited by any leader of any cult that comes along. I'd much rather follow Fr. McGrath and Fr. Cirincione.

I'm trying to be realistic, Father, and am not ashamed of being a little emotional. Mary was a woman of sorrow.

Mary Crittenden
100 Dunn Tower Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Chest Donors Thanked

Would that I could send a personal note of thanks to each and every member of the clergy of all faiths who contributed so generously to the United Community Chest Campaign! These may be only a few lines but they convey my most sincere gratitude and appreciation for all the help that I received and for all the pledges that were made.

The words of Christ, "As long as you did it to these My least brethren, you did it to Me," are in themselves a better expression of gratitude than I can ever make.

Father Joseph F. D'Aurizio
Chairman, Clergy District

Don't Forget Father Hudson!

Editor:

In the May 5 edition I notice you salute Camp Stella Maris on its 50th Anniversary. In the caption under the Mass picture you mention the late Msgr. Gerald Lambert, camp

founder. I feel this should be worded co-founder as my cousin, the late Rev. Eugene Hudson was also one of the founders. This is not the first time that I have noted reference only to Msgr. Lambert as founder of the Camp in the Courier-Journal.

I can remember sitting on Gerry Lambert's lap (he was Gerry in those days) while my Uncle Charlie drove a car full to Conesus to work. This was Father Hudson's father and he contributed much time and money towards the start of the Camp. Also my Aunt Lill (his Mom) cooked and helped in many ways.

Father Hudson still has a brother, Dr. Charles Hudson, living in Florida. I'm sure he would have appreciated hearing of the celebration as he, too, spent many summers helping at the Camp. I realize you would not know his address but, if there was a program I would appreciate a copy to send to him.

I hope Eugene was at least remembered in the Mass.

This is in no way a criticism of Bishop Hogan's Homily. That was beautiful and I see, he remembered.

Sincerely,
Father Hudson's Cousin
Margaret Shevlin Adams
36 Holmes Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

Column Praised

Editor:

Three cheers for Father Albert Shamon! His explanations of the Sunday's Readings are super. His word for Sunday in the May 8 Courier-Journal rates an A plus.

Isobel McCarthy
1116 Hoffman St.
Elmira, N.Y. 14905

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