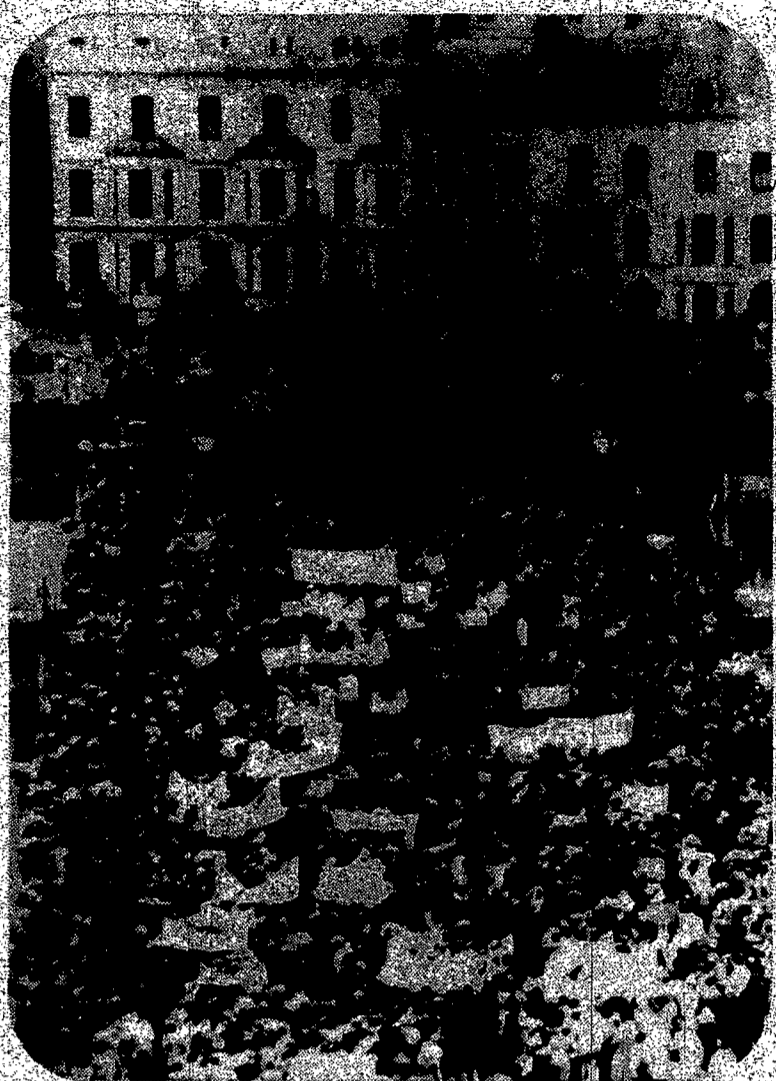


Editorial



Catholic and Protestant peace marchers in Londonerry (RNS)

Bless the Peacemakers!

"Long live the women of Belfast!"

Thus read a recent editorial in L'Osservatore Romano which praised peace marches organized by wives and mothers in Northern Ireland.

More than 100,000 marchers turned out in both the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland to rally for peace. They sang hymns, they prayed for peace.

As L'Osservatore noted, "Catholic women started the drive. They have been joined by Protestant women. Together they have become a little army, determined to put an end to the anguish and horror that have so long bedeviled the British province."

The time has long passed when bullies and criminals on both sides of the Irish trouble can be allowed to masquerade as working for a cause. Vengeance has become the guideline and violence both the means and the end for these hoodlums. They can no longer be countenanced.

We join L'Osservatore — long live the peace marchers! May they prevail!

September Poetry

Why not try a little poetry as Autumn diversion? What could be more inviting than to set the worries of the world aside for the nonce, and with feet properly put up, tune into and soak in the balm of metered phrase.

Try Emily Dickinson, or Robert Barrett, or Sara Teasdale, or T.S. Eliot, or G.K. Chesterton, or Robert Service, or William Wordsworth, or Edgar Lee Masters. Or, of course, any of your own favorites.

A reader brought this suggestion to mind by offering the words of Hilaire Belloc on the theme of courtesy, after an Aug. 4 editorial in the Courier-Journal on that subject. Belloc wrote:

Of Courtesy, it's much less
Than courage of heart, or holiness,
Yet in my walks, it seems to me
That the grace of God is in Courtesy.

The essence of poetry. The poet says in four graceful lines what took several paragraphs of pedestrian prose in the editorial. Delightful. Why not try some more?

Opinion

**Miraculous Meal
A Show-Stopper**

Editor:

After reading Anne B. Christoff's interesting letter to the editor, Courier-Journal 8/25/76, I had the following thoughts:

Our priests, young and not so young, are just learning how to say Mass and will make mistakes. You may say, "Just learning to say Mass — how can that be?" And I say yes, because following the Lord is a day-by-day learning experience even for our Catholic Church. Anne, have patience; we are not yet complete in Christ.

And talk about entertainment: There Jesus sat on a hillside and blessed a little food and behold, fed the multitude. If nothing else, that has got to be a blessed show-stopper.

Jesus feeds body, soul, mind and spirit (heart). Oh, thank you, Lord, for feeding me today the same way you served our family that day on the hillside.

Louise Albanese
Newark, N.Y. 14513

**Candidates
Need Support**

Editor:

In your recent editorial regarding the platforms of the major political parties you missed a beautiful opportunity to direct Christian energy into timely application.

Jimmy Carter has stated that he feels abortion is wrong. He does not support a Right to Life amendment. He does believe in providing as many support services as possible so that women will be more likely to complete their pregnancies. The Democratic Party Platform does indeed injure all with a consciousness of the dignity of human life.

Gerald Ford would return responsibility for human life to the individual states. The Republican Party Platform supports the efforts of pro-lifers for a right to life amendment. It doesn't really claim to support the amendment itself. In my view it says the party supports a peoples' right to exercise their constitutional freedom. I don't think it says anything about agreeing with the issue at hand.

Obviously both candidates and both parties fall far short of the ideal. However, I ask you to remember that politicians are mere people, not all wise beings. In each

of them are tendencies toward social justice and tendencies foreign to social justice. By providing strong moral support to candidates we can encourage them toward social justice. Write to your candidates. Talk with them. Help them when you can. Pray for them.

Marian T. Straight
529 Grosvenor Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

**Candidate
'Deceitful'**

Editor:

The only President of the United States ever invited to address the Knights of Columbus, also was the only President to disgrace the office, Richard Nixon. He fooled them and millions of Catholics by giving the impression that he would do something about aid to parochial schools, prayer in public schools and abortion. Yet, he never lifted a finger on these issues.

Now the Republican Party seems to think that Catholics are dumb enough to be fooled again. It is waging a campaign based upon the assumption that Catholics are so hung up on the single issue of abortion that they will ignore, as the Republican Party ignored, the more important 16 issues of the 17 proposed to them by the Catholic Bishops, and thus be fooled again into voting for a candidate of the Republican Party. Will Catholic working men and women let Gerald Ford fool them again as Nixon did?

Gerald Ford is adept at giving false impressions. He deliberately gave a false impression when in reply to a congressional question as to whether he would pardon Nixon, he said, "The American people would not stand for it." Yet, as soon as he became President, Ford pardoned him.

Walter O'Hagan
7 Sherman St.
Auburn, N.Y.

**About Dolls
And Friendship**

Editor:

We would like to commend you for your excellent coverage of the story (Sept. 1) Japanese Doll Exchange and the resulting friendships that developed.

When the story began last January with the presentation of the Japanese dolls to Mayor Ryan, it would have ended there had it not been for the many hours of translating and corresponding done by Mrs. Tetsuya Goto, wife of a U. of R. graduate student and a member of the Rochester International Friendship Council. A subsequent article by Bill Beehey and a letter to the Gannett Newspapers from Beverly Koval, director of RIFC, made a plea for the school children of Rochester to pick up this torch of friendship.

Thanks to Mrs. Marcia Hokula, her daughter Renee, and Mrs. Hilda Smythe, teacher at our Lady of Mercy School, a bicentennial doll was sent to Mrs. Ishimaru in Japan.

A long correspondence developed between Mrs. Goto and Mrs. Ishimaru, who arranged an elaborate reception, television and press interviews for RIFC board members John and Judy Lynd (members of Blessed Sacrament parish) on their recent honeymoon to Japan. Mrs. Lynd also presented a beautiful handcrafted doll to Kofu City on behalf of the people of Rochester.

Thanks to Mrs. Goto's correspondence, Mrs. Ishimaru made a brief stop in Rochester, on her way to a World Health Organization conference in Ottawa, to meet her Rochester friends. In keeping with RIFC's philosophy of developing international understanding, good will and brotherly love, we extend our thanks to the good people at

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our Lady of Mercy School, for helping to keep the torch of friendship alive.

Mrs. Ishimaru's dolls may be viewed at the Rochester Public Library Children's room, where they are part of their permanent doll collection, along with the original dolls sent from Japan almost 50 years ago.

Beverly Koval,
Executive Director,
Rochester International
Friendship Council

**Archbishop
Remembered**

Editor:

The picture in the Courier-Journal of Archbishop Karl J. Alter was more than nostalgia for me.

Father Karl J. Alter came to our parish in Ohio as a new ordinate. I was just a child.

Then I remember vividly when he was made Bishop of Toledo — our house was in Toledo then.

The archbishop was always well liked and he is well remembered. I am now 76 years old, but able to recall those early days.

Miss Helen Wilke
458 E. Lake Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14544

**Thank God
For Priests**

Editor:

In reference to the letter by Anne B. Christoff (Courier-Journal 8/25/76).

If what she says is true, that seminaries turn out smiley showmen who act on their own behalf, the seminaries would be full.

Anyone could train to be a priest. Christ chose certain men in his time to be priests. Each of these men were unique. So too today, Christ chooses only those men he has given special talents to administer to his people.

Yes, I believe Jesus walked among the people in the temple when he preached. (Probably dialogue homilies would offend Ms. Christoff also) Priests in the aisle instead of the pulpit seem to bring these men off the pedestals we put them on. They are men. Take time to converse with a so called smiley toothed showman and you will discover he is a very humble man doing Christ's work.

It is very natural that not all of us will ever be satisfied with the Church. It will always be too traditional, too radical, too behind the times. But if we are sincere in our desire to participate in the liturgy, God will make available a medium we will be content with.

"Have a nice day." "Have a nice lunch. I'm starved." walking in the aisles, homilies of 1976, all make the Mass relevant to me. Thank God for the priests I have!

Karen De Lorme
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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.

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