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'Tormey Report' A Misnomer

Editor:

John Dash's front page story of the Mission Task Force report was greatly appreciated. The members of the Task Force are grateful that the Courier has responded to this report and given it such good coverage. Building awareness through every possible media was one of the goals of our group.

The correction I would like to offer to the story however is the use of the term "The Tormey Report". Every member of that Committee gave many hours of meetings and home work to the formulation of this report. Many diverse ideas from many varied backgrounds went into the writing of the report. This writer was only the messenger who carried it to the Bishop and the Priests' Council.

I appreciate Mr. Dash's intentions, but whatever credits or criticisms the discussion of the report produces, they go to the entire Committee.

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Moral Relativism Hampers Thought

Editor:

One of the fondest hopes of both responsible parents and conscientious educators is that the children entrusted to their care will internalize those principles which form the foundation for a satisfying and productive Christian life. A generation ago parents were assured that Christian values were being reinforced by the schools, the media and other influences outside the home.

Unfortunately in the past 10 to 15 years we have witnessed a barrage of secular philosophies and lifestyles seeking to undermine the Christian spirit, which is such an integral part of a working democracy. Present social problems are ready testimony that Christianity has failed to challenge the invading secular thrust and we have perhaps unknowingly adopted some of these secular philosophies in Catholic programs.

Recent newspaper reports describe values education programs in many of the public schools in the county, Mercy High School, Holy Trinity, and Saint Thomas the Apostle grade schools. The programs are promoted with the promise that the teacher will "not hold up the right answer in the end." This implies that there are no absolutes.

The governing principle of values education is that the students choose what they want to choose. Contrary to promoting thinking, the techniques used encourage superficial treatment of problems which are presented to students in emotionally-charged language.

Secular humanistic values have been taught by maverick teachers for over ten years in the public schools on an informal basis. Far too many of our confused young people reflect the resulting muddled thinking. The federally subsidized programs in the above Catholic schools seek to weave values education into every aspect of the curriculum on a formal basis. Based on the experiences with public schools, it is sad to envision the conscience formation of young Catholics utilizing a curriculum enveloped by moral relativism.

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'Gibraltar' Won't Crumble

Editor:

"Is Gibraltar about to crumble?" is the bewildered and apprehensive question of Catholics and my friends of other Christian persuasion. The news accounts of the United States Catholic Conference in Detroit, the final session of the Bicentennial Liberty and Justice Program, called "A Call to Action" shocked and confused not only Catholics but others. They seemed to find it difficult to reconcile the safe, secure traditional social teachings of the Church with the (frivolous) melange of avant-garde political positions and new morality, disarmament, Equal Rights Amendment, amnesty, married clergy, gay liberation's "Dignity" (?) etc.

These very concerned people did not realize the possibility that the middle echelon had taken a leaf from the ultra-liberal political strategists and contrived a near-consensus by the screening process. Eureka! Almost Una Voce! They were unaware that there were prudent and faithful delegates who attempted to relate the issues to the true teachings of the Catholic Church. Those who supposedly spoke for the bishops and all Catholics appeared to be the voice of Catholicism to the readers of the news.

To those who were so fearful that if "Gibraltar" cannot survive what chance have they, the smaller denominations, I offered the scholarly report by the Mindszenty Foundation, titled "Who speaks for the Bishops?" It will be my pleasure to send a free copy of this report to those who send a stamped-addressed #10 envelope.

Additional reassurance that the Rock of Peter "Gibraltar" is not crumbling can be found in the cogent quotations of our most prominent clergy which appeared in the "Catholic Register" and "Our Sunday Visitor". Both have carried these critical comments.

Gibraltar will not crumble if the laymen turn to Rome for the answers to social problems. Those monumental Encyclicals stand the tests of all ages. Rerum Novarum, Quadragesimo Anno, Divini Redemptoris, Pae in Terris, and Humanae Vitae! The very titles have the sound of Roman Legions about to do battle with those who would conquer truth.

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More to Love Than Sex

Editor:

Re: Letter of November 3 - Married Priests. I knew when I finished Mr. Wiesner's letter, I couldn't just toss it aside without a comment.

What Mr. Wiesner seems to forget is that a person might for some reason live a life without sex, but a life without love is intolerable. Everyone needs someone who loves them and understands their day to day problems. Who cares enough to rejoice in their successes, comfort them in their failings and even disagree with them when they are obviously wrong or unfair.

The Church's present ruling not only forbids marriage but tries to wipe out all human needs and feelings. The very things that make a good priest. It teaches them to build walls instead of bridges. It tells them not to be seen in a car with a woman. Don't go into her home if she's alone and don't let her in yours unless you have a housekeeper there for a witness and/or protection. Keep your distance, your coolness and

custody of your eyes. In short the Church does its best to turn men into boys.

How are we women who are neither children nor his mother's age to feel ministered to when we are the No. 1 occasion for sin on his list?

I find Mr. Wiesner's letter offensive and insulting. Every married minister is now labeled as mediocre, weak, unprepared for changes and unduly influenced by his family. Their wives are considered argumentative, selfish, domineering and excess baggage.

He even does an injustice to the priests themselves by giving them no credit for brains enough to make a wise choice. A woman who really loves a priest would not be trying to win him away from the Church but to join him in service to it.

We show our love for God by our love for each other. It's the only way I leave Mr. Wiesner with this quotation to ponder - "You should not be so Heavenly minded that you're no Earthly good."

Gert Shemski
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Help Christians Behind 'Curtain'

Editor:

I want to commend Nancy Murphy on her fine series concerning the plight of Christians in the Communist World.

Personally, I support Pastor Richard Wurmbrand and the organization, "Jesus to the Communist World" Box 11, Glendale, Ca. 91209. Nancy Murphy wrote me concerning Pastor Wurmbrand, "It is my understanding that both the organization and the gentleman in question are above reproach, worthy of our support and deserving of wider publicity." Pastor Wurmbrand writes in his latest newsletter, "Many of the leaders of the Church universal no longer seem to realize the abyss which separates Christianity from communism."

Therefore, we receive too little teaching about the strong faith and

courage of the oppressed Christians behind the iron curtain, not realizing that we too may be called on to demonstrate the same virtues for love of Jesus.

Pastor Haralan Popov writes in his book, Tortured for His Faith, "I have spoken around the world on behalf of the Suffering Church and I have often asked, 'Who here has prayed for the suffering Christians of the Suffering Church?' Always the answer is almost no one! It is a shame on the conscience of all free Christians. We from Communist lands are your brothers and sisters in Christ. We are one body in Christ. We ask for Bibles and tools of evangelism we so desperately need to keep the Word of God alive. The tragic lack of Bibles is the greatest need in the Communist lands today. My people accept the suffering. They understand this is their cross. But they don't understand why their brothers and sisters in the free world seem to have forgotten them - even in their prayers."

Leonard Dezelski
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Exposing Communism


Editor:

Congratulations on publishing the columns of Nancy Murphy exposing the truth about communism.

In the Catholic Church's "stampede to the left" it is refreshing to

find one Catholic paper which is willing to expose the Communist plans to destroy religion and every facet of our daily life. Too many of our activist clergy and laity are assisting the Soviet plan to rule the world.

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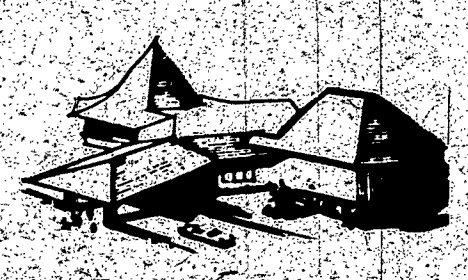
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New Hours for Brookwood Begin after Thanksgiving

RG&E's Brookwood Science Information Center will be closed on Thursday, November 25, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Starting November 28, Brookwood will be open to the public on Sunday only, from 10 AM to 4 PM. Group arrangements can be made for visits on Monday through Thursday, by calling RG&E's Corporate Communications Department at 546-2700, extension 2225.

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