

# Opinion

## An Invitation To 8th Graders

Editor:

I very much agree with Bishop Hogan's recent letter in this paper in which he invited parents and eighth grade pupils to consider a Catholic high school.

The four years of a young person in high school are among the most formative years of life. In a world where so many people are confused, every opportunity for guidance that has proved to be trusted and true should be carefully considered.

Catholic high schools provide their young students a daily lesson and a constant example of God's teachings and laws; a unique addition not otherwise generally available.

I speak from my own experience as a student at Aquinas Institute and now as a teacher there. I have seen for myself that we are people who care for one another, we pray for one another, worship at Mass together and learn to share the joys and sorrows of everyday life. We try to be like Jesus Christ at Aquinas so we can learn to be like him in the world where we will work, live and have our families.

Aquinas students serve in many ways — tutoring elementary school pupils, visiting senior citizens in nursing homes, assisting in community activities, supporting 15 Aquinas alumni who are missionaries abroad.

To you young people now in eighth grade, I say, "Come, visit us at Aquinas or at any other Catholic high school. See how really great a school like this is."

To you who are the parents, I say, "Give your youngster the chance to consider a Catholic high school education — it could be a chance and a choice and a life-long blessing."

Finally, I would like to congratulate the Courier-Journal for their informative centerfold on the work of our fine Catholic High Schools. It was most interesting and inspiring.

William F. McCarthy  
Director of Public Relations  
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## Married Priest Comments

Editor:

I have seldom chuckled so much as when I read the letter of Thomas Wiesner in the Nov. 3 Courier-Journal concerning a married priesthood. Unfortunately, it was a saddened mirth which I felt because of the utter poverty of the writer's thought, experience, and knowledge.

Strictly speaking, the Roman Church has always had a married priesthood which is alive and well throughout the world. The validity of the married priesthood has never been in doubt by the Church of Rome.

Speaking as a married non-Roman Catholic priest I feel insulted by such nonsensical statements as "married priestly life means mediocre priestly spirituality." I would recommend that the writer do some serious study into the lives of married priests of the 20th century like Father John of Kronstadt, Father Alexander Elchaninov, and many others.

Even though I average 60 hours plus per week doing my "priestly thing" in my own parish I still manage to have a beautiful and deep relationship with my wife and three sons.

The only saving feature about Mr. Wiesner's letter may be that he is speaking more about personal observation than theological reality.

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## Too Many Counselors

Editor:

Significant:

God created the world — the birds, the beasts and reptiles; then He made man and through man the woman — yet chose the woman to assist in His creation with the power to help bring life into this world, to nourish and guide it.

Christ, through His example upon earth with the Apostles, chose man to assist in His special Sacrifice. For the Corner Stone of His Church He chose Peter — John 20:21. After Jesus had rebuked the Apostles and convinced them that

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"RIGHT AFTER I HANDED THE NOTE TO THE BANK TELLER, I REALIZED THAT WASN'T WHAT THE MAGAZINE AD MEANT WHEN IT SAID, 'MAKE MONEY WRITING SHORT PARAGRAPHS!'"

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education standard is higher. And if one is planning to attend college it would be better to study at McQuaid since three years of mathematics, two years of science and two years of a foreign language are required for graduation. Of course you might consider whether you will need these for your particular major. Furthermore, although there are very few priests or nuns teaching, the staff is quite competent and well-qualified.

I believe an investment in an education at McQuaid is well worth the money and effort; it will pay off in years to come.

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## Wage Battle With Prayer

Editor:

I believe that the ultimate weapon we Christians have against the tidal wave of impurity that threatens to destroy our country is prayer (particularly the rosary) and sacrifice.

Each time we hear or see something that grieves us, we should immediately make an act of love, "Jesus, Mary, I love you. Save souls," and offer up our grief and shame in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary. In that quiet, hidden way we can win the battle.

Those of us who can, must, in conscience, write our congressmen, the newspapers, the TV stations and the radio stations.

It's a battle to the finish, make no mistake, and the enemy is firmly entrenched, even within the Church itself.

But we can win! Our Lady has promised us final victory. "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph," she said. She is only waiting for us to unite our hearts with her heart.

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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.

## Editorial

# That Barge Canal

"South of the Barge Canal"

By now we have all probably heard that phrase used by those who feel that because diocesan headquarters, so to speak, is in Rochester, districts remote from the metropolitan area get short shrift in programs, consideration, etc.

Obviously there must have been truth in this sentiment, else the canal cliché would not have arisen. But we feel that the Pastoral Center has been working to erase any reasons for anyone's feeling estranged by reason of geography. More and more policy meetings are being conducted in diverse points in the diocese, the Diocesan Pastoral Council among the leaders in this effort. Diocesan offices (particularly Human Development) are being sprinkled in widely separated points throughout our diocese — rural and urban. Regionalism is a major step in spreading out diocesan decision-making.

Although some will still see reason for criticism, it must be noted that the pastoral center is indeed making the effort. On the other side of the coin, the need for a central seat of administration is evident, as it is in any organization. Diocesan offices must be clustered for effective coordination and duplication of such offices for geographic considerations runs the danger of increased bureaucracy.

The fact that this diocese covers 12 counties creates problems for all, including this newspaper. The Courier-Journal has long realized that no one area of the diocese has cornered the market on effective Church work. We have long tried to serve all parts of the diocese equally, while at the same time realizing that a lion's share of our work must be concerned with the pastoral center — where the action is, so to speak.

Recently we established a full-time editorship in the Southern Tier with a live-in editor, if you will. The office is backed by the full editorial and photographic resources of our main office. We hope it will not only improve our efforts to reflect diocesan life but will also add impetus to the trend to reachout programs in the diocese.

The reaction to our wider coverage has been positive. We are pleased but we also know that it is only an early step. We have as an open-ended goal the ever-improving service to our readership. We will never be perfect in this regard but in the trying we hope to do as effective a job as possible.

We have changed our organization, we have added the expense that goes with the new Southern Tier editorship, we are devoting extra space. We are trying to improve service not only in expanse but also in depth. We can try, but you, the readers, are the final arbiter on our efforts. Please let us know what you think!

In the meantime, we hope that old chestnut about "South of the Barge Canal" will die the quick death all overused phrases deserve.