

# Opinion

## He's Standing With Altier's

Editor:

"NEVER ON SUNDAY" shouts out the banner as I enter Altier's store.

I was so inspired by this courageous stance that I overcame my customary taciturnity and spoke my admiration to the sales clerk. And he rightfully responded, "Don't tell me, tell Mr. Altier. Here's a card to mail." I took it and mailed it with my compliments — another first for me who have tried hard to remain an unknown member of the silent majority in matters such as these.

I feel so strongly about this Sunday sales issue that I reasoned that if Altier's had the courage to stand up against so many well-known merchants then I certainly should have the courage to stand up with them — thus another first in the form of this letter to the Editor.

I do think that some stores, e.g. drug stores, Mom and Pop neighborhood grocery stores, etc.

should be open a few hours on Sundays for the sake of serving the legitimate needs of the public.

However, when the powerful captains of commerce tell us that they are keeping their stores open on Sunday for the purpose of serving the public, do you believe them? Maybe my age is making me cynical, but I am tempted to think that their bottom line motive is profit and more profit. That shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and suffers the loss of his immortal soul? I wonder — if spiritual values are ever considered at all when it comes to business negotiations and decisions?

One small individual like myself has only one way to fight back, and that would be through my own personal business decisions. I have decided to make every effort to buy what I need only from merchants like Altier's who do not open on Sunday. This will be very difficult to carry out but I promise to do my best to be consistent.

This decision may accomplish nothing, but at least it gives me personal satisfaction.

Father James J. Marvin  
Pastor  
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## Prayers Asked For Bishops

Editor:

Thank God the U.S. Catholic Bishops are not bound to take action on the resolutions passed by the bicentennial conference in Detroit. The "Call to Action" passed such resolutions as:

• Endorse the Equal Rights Amendment, join the struggle for homosexual rights, ordain women to the priesthood, eliminate sexist language from church documents, catechisms, hymnals, abolish priestly celibacy, condemn the production of nuclear and all other weapons, even for deterrence.

Eleanor Schaffly, a delegate at the conference, wrote in the Eagle Forum (Nov. 1976): "I witnessed vital teachings and disciplines of the Catholic faith being chewed up. Catholic teachings were mocked, twisted, denied and destroyed."

We believe that Catholics should pray that our bishops, priests and lay leaders defend the Faith. We especially urge the Bishops to ignore the damaging resolutions from the bicentennial conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Hober  
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## Consecration Of Russia

Editor:

Through the Fatima apparitions (which have been approved by the Church) we have learned that Our Lady stated that there would be peace if her requests are heard and, if not, Russia would spread her errors throughout the world (Communism). The daily press brings news of the great strides of an atheistic communist society in our day.

St. Lucia wrote on June 12, 1930, "Our Lord promises that the persecution in Russia will end if the Holy Father deigns to make together with all the Bishops of the Catholic world a solemn public act of reparation and consecration of Russia to the most Holy Hearts of Jesus and Mary." When asked if this was still necessary under obedience to her confessor, she asked Our Lord and said, "He still insisted on the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary because He wants everyone to know that it is through the Immaculate Heart of His Mother that this great favor (the conversion of Russia and peace) is to be obtained."

Most Rev. Bishop Venancio, second bishop of Fatima and international president of the Blue Army, is devoting his life to making

known the Fatima message. It is at his request through the Nov-Dec issue of Soul that I make this plea to our diocese. One of the most urgent activities of the Blue Army at the present time, according to Bishop John Venancio, is the obtaining of petitions to the Holy Father for the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart. "I suggest," the Bishop said, "that now the petitions be sent directly to one's own Bishop with the request that they be forwarded to the Holy Father."

"And it is to be hoped," His Excellency added, "that many bishops will add their own petitions to the many that they will receive within their own diocese."

It is my prayerful desire that every parish in our diocese will be well-represented with many signatures on petitions asking for the collegial consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart, and they be forwarded to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan with a request that he forward them to Pope Paul VI.

Back up your petitions with prayer and sacrifice in order that the Holy Father may make this act of consecration.

Let your Holy Spirit direct this undertaking, O Lord, that we may all sing gratefully: Praise the Lord!

Mrs. Lois Metherell  
12 Ampor Beach  
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P.S. — Fr. Fox's tapes "To Teach as Mary Did at Fatima" (available on loan from Blue Army — Contact 621-8106) are doctrinally correct, beautiful in presentation.

## Story, Center Are Lauded

Editor:

Congratulations to the Courier-Journal for your excellent coverage of the MacDonald Medical Center (in Woodhull) in your Dec. 8 issue.

Both the Village and the Township of Woodhull are a part of the parish of St. Catherine of Siena in Addison. And, as a former pastor of St. Catherine's, I can speak from experience of the magnificent work that is being done at the clinic by Sister Mary Scholastica and Dr. Nasar Chaudry.

Not only Sister Scholastica and Dr. Chaudry are to be congratulated, but also all the people of the Woodhull community who have had any part to play in starting this Medical Center are deserving of recognition.

Thanks to Sister Scholastica, the presence of the Catholic Church is very evident in that community and area.

Msgr. John F. Duffy,  
Pastor of St. Francis,  
Phelps, N.Y.

## Intercommunion Norms 'Binding'

Editor:

The Diocesan Office for Ecumenical and Religious Affairs' letter (CJ 11/17/76) was instructive by emphasizing John Cardinal Willebrand's hopes that the ecumenical movement will lead to a unity in the profession of the Catholic Faith and thereby in celebration of the Eucharist in ecclesial unity. Attention also was directed to the fact that a local bishop has "wide discretionary power" in judging whether or not the necessary conditions exist for exceptional cases in which a non-Catholic Christian may receive the Holy Eucharist. However, the binding instruction document and the cases and circumstances designated as "exceptional" are not subject to interpretation.

The Instruction on the Ad-

mission of Other Christians to the Eucharist teaches clearly that intercommunion among Catholics and non-Catholics is wrong and cannot be regarded as a means to be used to lead to full ecclesial communion. As for the exceptional cases: (1) the Catholic and separated Eastern (Orthodox) Christians have apostolic succession, valid priests, sacramental practices and beliefs that enable reciprocity regarding Holy Communion; Penance and anointing of the sick only when circumstances of spiritual necessity exist and simultaneously, access to one's church priest is morally or physically impossible; (2) other Christians (of Reformation-related Churches), if judged by the local bishop to have belief in the REAL PRESENCE of Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, to be spiritually disposed, and who for a prolonged period are unable to have recourse to a minister of their own religion, may be administered the Holy Eucharist.

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## Conference Unrepresentative

Editor:

The "Call To Action" conference claiming to represent all Catholics and to apply shared responsibility was actually represented by theological modernists and socialists who obviously were trying to replace charity with socialistic errors.

Passed overwhelmingly by the 1,340 delegates were resolutions to:

- \* ordain women to the priesthood
- \* abolish priestly celibacy
- \* permit divorced/remarried Catholics to receive the Sacraments
- \* join the struggle by homosexuals for their basic constitutional rights
- \* endorse the Equal Rights Amendment
- \* eliminate "sexist" language from church documents, catechisms, hymnals
- \* prohibit production of all nuclear weapons
- \* have the right to freedom of conscience on all issues

Total disregard to the teachings of the Church on sexual morality, distributive justice, ordination and marriage can only lead to the creating of an American Church that will end up serving the secular city rather than the City of God.

The bishops of the U.S. will not make any final judgment about the conference's proposal until May of 1977. During this six month period, we the Catholic people of this country, must make a determined effort to uphold the authority of the Church and her bishops in order to turn back the demands of such a non-representative assembly.

And pray! Ask God to bless our efforts to defend our faith, our country and our families.

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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

### New Collection? No, Thanks!

At a time when every sector of Church life, from parishes on up (or down, according to the individual perspective) to higher administrative offices, it ill behooves any organization to attempt to levy another collection on the man in the pew.

But that is exactly what the communications committee of the U.S. Catholic Conference has proposed — an annual collection to be spent in the media to spread the Good News.

The idea, which will be voted upon by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops next May, is to raise \$3.5 million, the bulk of which (\$1.75 million) would go for radio-television ads against a comparably paltry \$280,000 for the diocesan press.

It is not our intent here to crank up the oft-discussed argument of the print press vis a vis the electronic media. Suffice it to say that there is need for both.

Our contention is that although the basic idea of the U.S.C.C. committee possesses merit and that the aspiration to use every method for disseminating the healing Christ in this hurt world is commendable, this is not the time to be adding a new levy on the family in the pew or on already beleaguered pastors.

The word communication covers a wide and complex range of ideas; it is not merely the transmission of a thought from one point to another. Our attitudes, appearances, expressions are all forms of communication. And we fear that the addition of another national collection would carry an unintended message — lack of consideration for the grass roots contributor.

We stress that these points should not be construed as any indication of jealousy on our part against the electronic media. After all, regardless of the breakdown, publications such as this could stand to gain financially from such a collection. And although St. Jerome cautioned against looking a gift horse in the mouth, we would like this opportunity to stress that this newspaper is averse to taking any such subsidy from any source. We feel that it would hinder our journalistic objectivity.

Booming taxes and rising costs of living have afflicted all of us, from home managers to the government of our nation. Pastors are not excluded from the crunch. So let us not add straws to the burden. Grass roots contributors will appreciate consideration.

Again the fundamental premise is sound — to use effectively every method available to promulgate the Gospel message. But realistically, the project, as proposed, should be abandoned.

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