

Editorial

Women's Role

The declaration by the Vatican Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith that the Roman Catholic Church is not authorized to ordain women as priests should end efforts in that direction. But it won't.

It is a fact of society in general these days, and the Church world is not exempt, that "no" is not taken as an answer. We pray that the bound-to-come reaction to the Vatican pronouncement will not convert what may have been natural evolution into revolution. We pray that those on all sides of this delicate issue will not fly off their respective handles in bitter exchange. We pray that there will be no extra-legal ordinations, as have happened in other denominations.

In all sensitivity, we urge those who feel it is a right of women to become priests to accept the Vatican ruling. There seems to be room within it for great strides in behalf of women taking on more responsible roles within the Church.

For instance, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin, president of the U.S. Bishops conference, in response to the declaration, said, "The need to identify and open up new ministerial and decision-making roles for women in the Church becomes more urgent, not less, in light of this declaration."

Those who have been striving for women's ordination have been doing so in a responsible manner. The burden now rests on them to continue their admirable approach in the face of this defeat.

Catholic Schools

The bishops of the United States have declared that Catholic schools are the most effective instrument we have for realizing the purposes of Catholic education. That is one way of looking at their necessity but there is another angle from which to judge their worth.

Not only do the schools perform a mission for the Church and for the individual pupil, but their work has a ripple effect, rolling out moral values, principles and Christian humanism into a society seemingly bereft of such virtues in many respects. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan writes of this wider impact in his letter on Page 1 and to use one of his examples to show this broader value of our schools, we point to pupils working with senior citizens.

The theme of this week's school observance is a proper one — A Plus for America. For while our Catholic schools strengthen the individual student by inculcating moral values as well as high academic standards, they also bolster the nation's standard of decency and morality.

And, of course, Catholic schools are valuable to so many parents because they provide an alternative for those who feel that public schools either can not or will not provide a God-centered philosophy of life. Freedom of choice of education should be an essential element of a democracy but withholding of governmental aid from nonpublic schools has undermined this right. While the diocese and independent organizations work tirelessly to reverse the trend away from such assistance, the best argument for the worth of Catholic schools continues to be the graduates themselves. Attempting to list the names of Catholic school products who serve their country or community would be foolhardy but we all know of their contributions.

We join with the schools throughout the diocese celebrating this week and want to let the teachers, administrators and pupils know that they are all the just object of pride. May they continue to provide a robust "plus" for America; the country needs it.

Exemplary TV

Congratulations to the American Broadcasting Company, local Channel 13, and the American viewing public for making Roots the overwhelming success it has been in the ratings. And, of course, thanks to author Alex Haley for making this remarkable story available.

There are many lessons to be gleaned from the success of Roots on television and one is that there is indeed room for serious historical drama in programming. The lesson from the Haley work itself should edify the millions of viewers who have been tuned into these sordid chapters of our nation's history.

Opinion

CHD Sends Gratitude

Editor:

This letter is being written in the name of the Campaign for Human Development to express appreciation to the thousands of people in our diocese who helped make this year's collection such a success. Given that 1976 was a year in which the evils of inflation, combined with a high unemployment rate, were deeply felt by so many in our 12 county area, it is a striking testimonial to both the goodness and social perception of our people that we had the second highest campaign collection in the six years of its existence.

It is probably always somewhat risky to single out certain individuals or groups for special commendation. However, it would be strikingly remiss if a few bouquets weren't thrown. First, we are profoundly grateful to our bishop who always gives to the campaign not only his much needed moral support but takes a most active interest in all that we do. His consistent generosity of time and self in meeting all requests we make of him is the envy of those in many dioceses. Second, we are grateful to the regional coordinators for permitting us to present our pre-collection educational program in their areas and, in so many instances, for being present with us for the evening.

To those pastors who were good enough to relinquish their pulpits so that many of us, from CHD could speak on the Sunday before the collection and to those Human Development Committees who put considerable time, effort and imagination into developing effective ways of communicating with their fellow parishioners we are also most appreciative. And, of course, all of these other blessings would have been for naught if the People of God in the Diocese of Rochester had not listened to the CHD message and responded so wholeheartedly.

Finally, though it is not considered "good form" to make a request in the context of what is intended to be an expression of gratitude, I would like to take this opportunity to do so. During the coming months your regional task

forces as well as the CHD board will be engaged in the arduous process of doing on-site evaluations then prioritizing all proposals from our diocese for both national and local CHD funds. All of us engaged in these tasks are constantly struggling to grow in our ability to be ever more responsible stewards of the money which you have entrusted to us. My request is that you keep us in your prayers as we attempt to do so.

May God bless you all!

Jean H. Cardinali,
chairperson
CHD Board of Directors
Diocese of Rochester

Get Into The Fight

Editor:

One of the first decisions President Carter will have to make is whether to let the B-1 Bomber program continue or to ground it now. What the Air Force wants includes 244 of the bombers at a cost of over \$22 billion over the next ten years. The figure includes nothing for overruns!

We don't know how many millions of Russians the B-1 is designed to kill, but we do know that \$22 billion could relieve the suffering and prevent the death of our brothers.

Our new president is going to be flooded with self-interest pressure from Pentagonians, aircraft people, hawks in the Congress and many others with a stake in the B-1. He's going to need a lot of reverse pressure from the unself-interest people. People like you and us.

The resolving of the future of the B-1 Bomber will be a major battle in the conflict between an acceptance of social responsibility on one side and more and more sophisticated weaponry on the other. This is a good time to get into the fight. Write or, better still, telegraph Jimmy Carter and tell him how you feel. Think a minute: turning our backs on the unfortunate is not a good way to hear Jesus tell us to feed the hungry.

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret
RD 2
Naples, N.Y. 14512

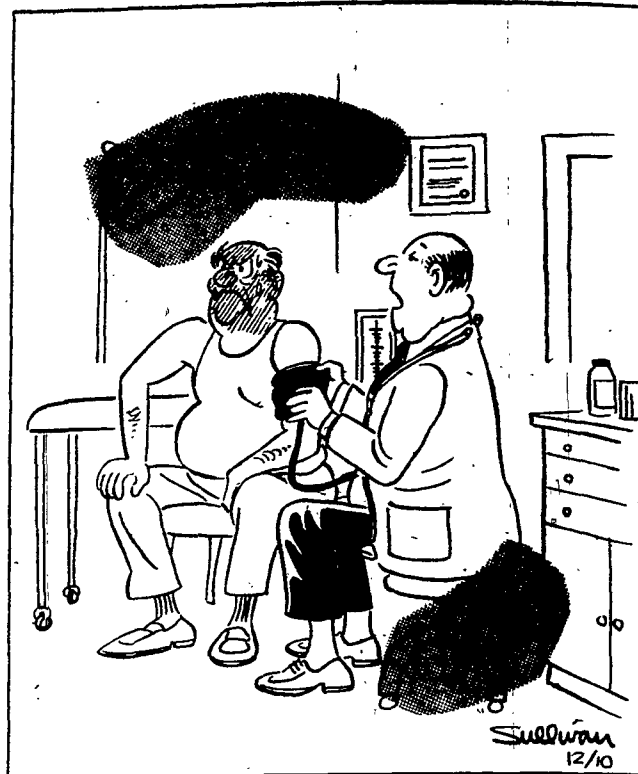
Detroit Wrong On ERA

Editor:

One of the more negative aspects of the recent Detroit conference was its endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment.

According to Mr. Clarence Manion, former dean of Notre Dame Law School, passage of the ERA would repeal all and every kind of anti-abortion law that we now have and would prevent the enactment of such a law in the future.

Currently abortion is only a Supreme Court law but if ERA becomes the law of the land in all probability



"IF I WERE YOU, I'D TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT THE BISHOPS' LETTER ON MORALS!"

abortion would become a constitutional right.

Inasmuch as women's rights are already protected by legislation such as the Equal Employment Act of 1972, women would do well to consider the right of the unborn to live as a higher priority.

Robert Bart
PO Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y.

Mrs. Morris B. Culhane
270 Brush Hollow Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

More Letters On Page 6

The Rochester diocese need every bit of it. We could all learn something from Bishop Kearney's life.

Rejects Call To Action

Editor:

The ABC's of the Call to Action vs. the Vatican:

A) The Catholic Church has many Catholic doctrines which teach clearly and wisely literally all of the social matters mentioned in the word-bound Call to Action paragraphs.

B) The Call to Action paragraphs reject and oppose existing Catholic doctrines.

C) The Catholic Church, as set up by Our Blessed Lord, is hierarchical in nature, not a social structure governed by laymen as envisioned by the Call to Action dissenters.

Nonetheless, America's bishops are committed to discussing the Detroit conference's recommendations at a meeting of their own in Chicago next May. Whatever they say will no doubt be influenced by the Vatican. Its early reaction to Detroit's "Call" was cool. Said a high-ranking prelate in Rome, "I'll take the event for what it was: an opportunity for anyone who had something to say to stand up and say it. The last word necessarily belongs to the hierarchy." (TIME, Nov. 8, 1976)

Therefore, I reject the Call to Action, and continue to follow and defend the Vatican.

Mrs. Raymond Mueller
554 Garnsey Road
Fairport, N.Y.

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.

Respect Lacking?

Editor:

I would like to say a few words about the funeral of our beloved Bishop Kearney.

I felt very sad when I witnessed some of our priests concelebrate from the pews dressed in either their suits or overcoats. They were not wearing their stoles or any type vestment. Respect! Dignity! Where have they gone? At the distribution of the Eucharist the priests were giving it in the hand to whoever requested it. Yes, the Church must move with the times but some things should never change. Respect for the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I could not get over how the priests who did not concelebrate stood during the Consecration. The laity, following the example of the clergy, also stood.

I also found out through your paper that the two women that read the readings were superiors in the religious orders in the diocese. Why didn't they dress as sisters and wear veils. Didn't this occasion warrant this? I wonder what Cardinal Cooke thought.

Vatican II has promoted the laity to becoming more involved with the Church. We no longer are on the sidelines. We should come forth at times like this.

Where is our leadership? For weeks there have been articles in your paper on Communion in the hand and how it is wrong and yet it is still going on. What happened to obedience? Whatever thoughts are on this issue we must obey the law. The bishops voted NO.

Thank God for the great gift of faith. We Catholics in

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 91 No. 40 Feb. 2, 1977

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 25¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$7.50. Canada and Foreign \$12.00. Office: Rochester Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.