

**Editorial**

**2 Requests**

Pope Paul VI last week used the occasion of some ambassadorial chores to make some serious proposals to the people of the world.

While receiving the credentials of the new ambassador from Finland, the Holy Father called on all signatories to the Helsinki accords to respect their provisions — totally and faithfully.

The Soviet Union and its six Eastern Europe satellites were among 35 countries, including the United States, that pledged in writing at Helsinki in August 1975 to "respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief, for all." The nations also promised to facilitate the movement of peoples across borders.

"These accords have attracted the attention and hopes of many people," Pope Paul said last week. "We hope that these expectations are not disappointed" and that they "are applied totally and faithfully by all who signed them."

When the pontiff later in the week greeted Vice President Mondale he took the occasion to praise President Carter's pledge to work for an end to the nuclear arms race. The Holy Father said that Carter's stance will be of "immense service to the world."

He said, "We are pleased that this policy is based on the desire to promote peace and international cooperation." Alluding to his message "If You Want Peace, Defend Life," the Holy Father added, "We are convinced that everything that wounds, weakens, or destroys life will also destroy peace and degrade humanity. It is thus with optimism that we note the commitment of your President in favor of the reduction of weapons, particularly of nuclear weapons."

Here then, implicitly, are two goals for Catholics: Work to see that basic human rights are respected behind the Iron Curtain; seek the end to the arms race.

**Something Missing**

Catholic Archbishop Francis J. Furey of San Antonio said he strongly supports the death penalty. "To those who say 'capital punishment is not a deterrent to crime,' I say this is a lot of hogwash."

The archbishop then alluded to the execution of Gary Gilmore, declaring that "he was given a fair trial and many, many stays of execution. Here was an admitted criminal who was given the punishment he deserved."

Where then, we'd like to know, was the deterrent of capital punishment in the Gilmore case?

**Caveat Emptor**

Censorship is in a sense ungodly in that it keeps His greatest creation from using his unique quality — the ability to think.

Yet in the case of two movies currently being discussed, censorship is tempting. We refer to "Passover Plot," a movie which distorts history to show Jesus engineering His own crucifixion for personal glory.

Someone financially interested in this film has defended it by saying the Jesus in it is "real machismo." This sort of silly, juvenile talk rivals the idea of the film itself in crudity.

The other film involves the odyssey of one Jens Joergen Thorsen who has been traveling from one national doorstep to another, trying to get permission to film a pornographic movie on Christ. So far, this mercenary has been stopped, Israel being the latest country to give him the cold shoulder. But he will probably persist.

We should be alert lest such travesties be offered in this area.

**Opinion**

**'Pray for Vocations'**

Editor:

After reading your front page article on "Priest Shortage," (*Courier-Journal* 1-26-77) may I suggest prayer, an old tried and true remedy for problems. It was not mentioned in the article.

My job as a traveling salesman took me all around the United States for many years, and I had the great good fortune of attending daily Mass in many churches. I can't recall ever hearing any real prayers for vocations. The lack of vocations was mentioned of course.

We need nuns and priests. Our Lord said, as we all know so well, "Whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give it unto you."

So for heavens sake let's forget about "recruiting," "one to one contacts," and committees and church councils going over the problem, and have every parish in the diocese, better yet in the country, say a very nice little prayer right after Mass, everyday, for vocations — or is that too simple in this wonderful age of renewal!

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**'Fight Racism Everywhere'**

Editor:

The *Courier-Journal* (1-26-77) announced the establishment of the International Justice and Peace Commission of the Diocese of Rochester which issued a statement condemning white majority rule in appealed that "all available means, public and private, political and moral, should be used to restrict and discourage U.S. business and investment in Rhodesia, Namibia and South Africa." The members of the Commission stated that they would "speak and act here, in this nation, with all our resources and strength, to end forever the rule of racist regimes everywhere."

"The goals of the Commission are indeed all encompassing and quite ambitious, but they are extremely narrow in scope considering the Commission's impressive title. I wonder whether the Commission will also consider the plight of Roman Catholics in Lithuania, Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and in Russia itself? These people are persecuted for their religious beliefs as much as the native Africans are by the "racist" countries of that continent. It appears that it is easier to mount a campaign of vilification and hostility against Rhodesia and South Africa as these countries are small and exert little influence in the international political arena. To include the Soviet Union as an oppressor of minorities and Catholics, would antagonize American liberals and Marxists, who have tunnel vision in viewing the Soviet Union's

persecution. It would also spoil "detente" and hamper the activities of big business in selling the Soviet Union the most modern array of technological equipment.

Unless the International Justice and Peace Commission can include representatives of Rochester's Ukrainian, Polish, and Lithuanian organizations in seeking the support of Catholics to combat racism in Africa and Europe, I must conclude that its actions are purely political and deserve no greater support than the propaganda of many left-wing organizations which are attempting to convince Americans that the United States should disarm thus benefiting and strengthening the Soviet Union's hegemony, not only over Eastern Europe, but also the African continent.

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**Kateri Shrines Photographed**

Editor:

I was very interested in the story you published about the restoration of the sight of Father Walter Abbott, SJ, of Tennessee through the intercession of Venerable Kateri Tekakwitha.

I have a slide presentation of her life I photographed at her three shrines: Auriesville, where she was born in 1656; Fonda, where she was baptized in 1676; and Caughnawaga (near Montreal), where she lived her adult life.

Groups that are interested in her life and wish to see these slides may contact me.

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**'Mass' Response Defended**

Editor:

In regard to the letter criticizing the Mooney students' comments on the Mass, I have come to a decision. Both the Mooney students and the "disappointed" onlookers have brought out good points. However, I don't feel the Mooney students' opinions should have been attacked.

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

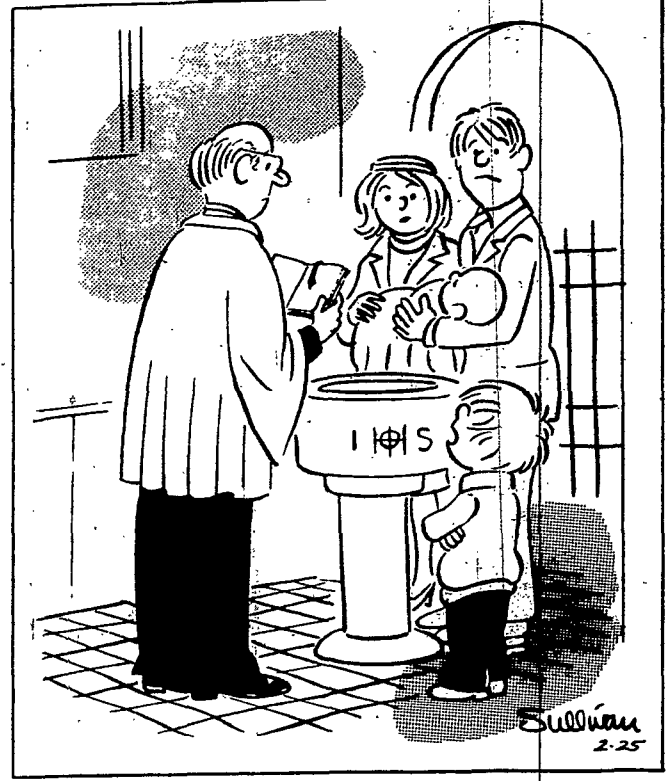
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Vol. 91 No. 41 Feb. 9, 1977  
Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy, 20¢; 1 year, \$2.00; 3 years, \$5.00. Canada and Foreign: \$12.00. Offices: Richard Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7000. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.



"WHEN ARE YOU GONNA DIP IT?"

The seniors made comments and some questioned religious tradition; that's all. Some of the letters made it sound like the new generation is turning to atheism. Not so!

I, for one, feel Mass can be a beautiful experience. I must say that my parish, St. Helen's Church in Gates, is a terrific parish. We have different choirs and folk groups to suit a person's taste. This is not saying that the church has to change to appeal to people. But, if music at Mass is what you like (and we all know we try hardest at the things we like), then what better way is there to show God our thankfulness?

These are a few of my opinions and thoughts and I hope that those "disappointed" people will reconsider and weigh both the students' and readers' opinions. If they do so, I'm sure they'll see that no one has been "misguided" but rather well educated and brave enough to question tradition.

Diana Georger  
Cardinal Mooney High School

**A Fitting Tribute**

Editor:

Large, bold print in the *Courier-Journal*, 1-9-77, reads, "His Greatest Achievement: Education." Subsequent narrative points out that many of the 45 elementary schools opened under Bishop Kearney's leadership have now closed. What a sad commentary for our diocese.

If we are, indeed, the teaching Church we claim to be, and if we are to accept the several research reports of recent years that would seem to prove that graduates of our parochial schools are more apt to be the leaders of our Church, then perhaps it is time to re-dedicate ourselves to the Catholic schools system rather than just lament the passing of a man and an era.

To those parents of children currently enrolled in our Catholic schools, I suggest an active role of support and participation in the education offered, including active recruitment.

To those members of our sisters' communities no longer in the classrooms of our schools, I suggest a re-

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examination and re-evaluation of commitment to the education of our children, both in schools and in CCD.

To those pastors and parish-councils who perhaps view their parish schools as little more than a financial albatross, I suggest honest reflection on the teachings of their bishops as set forth in "To Teach as Jesus Did."

To those parents of young children about to begin school, I especially urge an investigation of the excellent Catholic and basic education offered by their parish school: an education with a real plus — witness to the teachings of Christ throughout the day.

What more fitting tribute to the memory of Bishop Kearney than a revitalization of the school system he spent nearly 30 years building?

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**Archivist Asks For Letters**

Editor:

I am sure that some of the readers of the *Courier-Journal* possess and treasure correspondence from the late Bishop Kearney. A great many of the letters he wrote were in fine longhand. This means, unfortunately, that the Diocesan Archives have no copies of them.

I would like to invite those who do have such items of Kearneyana to lend them to me for copying. Once we have made the copies, the items loaned will be promptly returned to the senders, with thanks.

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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.