

Editorial

No, Thanks

We were pleased to learn that the U.S. Bishops have deferred consideration of a proposed national collection to support communications efforts in the Church, explaining that they had more important issues to consider at their May meeting.

Basically the proposal, made by the U.S. Catholic Conference Committee on Communications, would set up a nationwide annual collection to aid the Church's media efforts. Most would go to television and some to diocesan newspapers.

The Courier-Journal editorialized last Dec. 15 against the proposal, primarily because we feel that the world needs now is not another collection even though this newspaper might stand to gain financially. We urged that "the project, as proposed, should be abandoned."

Since then the Catholic Press Association has joined in criticizing the plan. Chances are that it may be considered at the bishops' November meeting. We reiterate our opposition.

Letters, Letters

Letters, we get letters. Thank God. That means that this newspaper is being read and perhaps, more importantly, is serving as a forum for the many opinions concerning vital religious and social issues in today's world.

Because so many diocesans are not apathetic about their Church and world a problem has been created. We just do not have the space to print all the letters being received. We do not want to set any hard and fast rules but would ask our readers' indulgence for the following request.

Observe the rules concerning the length and remember the shorter you take in airing your thoughts, the more chance others will have for theirs.

We ask that you limit yourself to no more than one letter a month. Many letters on a given subject will be reduced to their main point. Keep them concise to begin with. In this way, we will be better able to print more letters from more readers in a more timely fashion.

Holding Out?

The nation's four black Catholic bishops (4 count 'em 4) agree that things regarding racial discrimination in general have improved dramatically over the past 10 years. But they added that racism still exists and society needs to do more.

All four are auxiliary bishops and all originally came from the Gulf Coast: Joseph Francis of Newark, N.J., Harold Perry of New Orleans, Joseph Howze of Natchez-Jackson, Miss., and Eugene Marino of Washington, D.C.

While they spoke of gains in society in general, they also alluded to the Church in particular, voicing the hope that a black ordinary (the head bishop of a diocese) soon would be named.

Bishop Francis said that their positions helped a great deal "people respect us because of the positions we hold." Bishop Marino points out that "there are people in the black community capable of doing the job." We agree.

Not to make a facetious analogy but we all can remember the justified criticism baseball faced until Frank Robinson became its first black manager. Professional football is in that boat now, still awaiting its first black head coach.

We ask how long can the Catholic Church hold out?

Opinion

Bishop Hogan Commended As Teacher

Editor:

The recent statement of the Vatican Congregation on the ordination of women has provided an opportunity for Bishop Hogan to exercise one of the major roles of a bishop in his diocese, namely that of teacher.

The Second Vatican Council in its Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church says that the bishop's role of teaching is "conspicuous among the principal duties of bishops."

Teaching is the process of discernment. A good teacher helps students to discern and understand. Bishop Hogan has helped us to consider the document in its proper perspective, by recognizing the various levels of teaching within the Church. Thus, we can distinguish between a document belonging to the ordinary, non-infallible teaching of the Church, and an infallible teaching.

We do not intend this letter to be an endorsement of either position regarding women's ordination. Our sole intent is to commend Bishop Hogan for the responsible exercise of his office as teacher.

We appreciate his willingness to invite discussion so as to arrive at a deeper understanding of the Church's discipline.

The following are priests and deacons randomly called by a group of fellow priests who subscribe to this letter:

Fathers William Amann, Gerald Appelby, Theodore Auble, Peter Bayer, Raymond Booth, Charles Boyle, James Boyle, Richard Brickler, James Burke, James Callan, George Cocuzzi, Robert Collins, Walter Cushing, Sebastian Falcone, Rev. Mr. John Firpo, Father William Flynn, Rev. Mr. John Forni, Fathers Paul Freeman, David Gramke, Robert Gaudio, William Graf, Edward Golden, Emmett Halloran, Ronald Harley, L. John Hedges, Raymond Heisel, Douglas Hoffman, Louis Hohman, Joseph Jankowiak, Rev. Mr. Matthew Kawiak, Fathers Robert Kennedy, Roy Kiggins, Thomas Koester,

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Courier Journal

Robert Kreckel, Charles Latus, James Lawlor, Frank Lioi, Phillip Lioi, William Lum, James Marvin, Rev. Mr. Joseph McCafferty, Father Elmer McDonald, Rev. Mr. Kevin McKenna, Fathers Robert Miller, Edwin Metzger, Michael Mahler, Thomas Mull, Charles Mulligan, John Mulligan, Kevin Murphy, Robert O'Neill, John Quinn, John Reif, William Roche, Rev. Mr. James Sauer, Fathers Donald Schwab, James Schwartz, William H. Shannon, Gary Shaw, William Spilly, Ronald Stacy, Eugene Sweeney, Daniel Torney, John Turner, Anthony Valente, Otto Vogt, John Walsh, Rev. Mr. Stephen Ward, Fathers Robert Winterkorn, Edward Zimmer, Edward Palumbos, Henry Atwell, Joseph Beatini, Gerald Connor, Thomas Statt.

The Heart Of Mass

Editor:

I read with great edification, sympathy and delight, "Jesus IS Eucharist," by Agnes O'Herran in the Courier Jan. 19.

She has gotten right to the heart of the matter. Once we were truly convinced that the Adorable Love of All Loves, Jesus, is truly present in the tabernacle. A church, no matter how poor or plain has infinite charm and attraction.

The Holy Mass, simple, reverent and plain, is a delight when one has some idea of what is taking place on the altar.

It is not hard to understand that the Heavenly Choir comes down around the altar and prostrates themselves at the Consecration.

We do not need to be entertained. All we need is love.

Mrs. Arlene O'Connor
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Answer Call Pastor Urges

Editor:

To say the least, the Detroit Call to Action Conference was a controversial one. There was nothing that could not be discussed. There was little of importance that was not discussed.

There is no obligation imposed upon the American Church that all of the issues selected in Detroit must become a part of our Faith and Practice. In fact, the Conference was not the most significant part of the process. The significant part begins now.

Every member of the American Church is invited to look at the issues facing the Catholic Church today, and to comment upon them. The result will be a reflection to the bishops of how American Catholics feel about the significant issues facing us.

There is a danger, because the issues selected



in Detroit are controversial, that people will try to cloud the process by saying that these are the wrong issues, or that the wrong people were sent to Detroit, or that the liberals are taking over the Church, or whatever. But we should not be sidetracked by such nit-picking. The bishops have invited American Catholics to register their opinions about significant issues. To refuse to answer this challenge would be gross irresponsibility.

As Bishop Hogan points out, there are too many important tasks to be done to use excuses to do nothing. And there are too many issues facing us to suppose that people shouldn't have differences of opinion. That is not the problem. The problem will be found in the failure of people to be bothered. Let's hope that doesn't happen.

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pastor
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Labels, Boxtops Needed

Editor:

St. Joseph's Home-School Association is collecting Campbell soup labels and Post cereal boxtops. If any readers are willing to send them to us, we would be most grateful.

Send them to St. Joseph's School, 43 Gebhardt Road, Penfield, N.Y. 14526.

Mrs. John Bigenwald
Home-School Secretary

We Simply Need Christ

Editor:

It seems, in the Christian community today, a continued emphasis on social duties has taken much away from the true concept of Faith, Doctrine and Morals. Little or rarely is attention given to prayer, sacrifice and penance.

What does seem to take precedence these days are fewer confessions, general absolutions, new penitential services, communion in the hand and women vying for the priesthood. All these are being implemented on us by an insensitive episcopate

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acting on the advice of a totally unrepresentative, progressive coterie.

More than anything else, the faithful are simply asking the clergy to return to their God-given mission in witnessing to Christ, not the kind of secularized witness tailored to suit the design of secularized consciences.

We should not seek to adapt Christ's Doctrine to the ideas and mentality of the world. Commissions, committees and conferences are nothing but a lot of trivia. What we simply need is Christ. The rest will take care of itself.

Thelma L. Cutler
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Call to Action Question

Editor:

With all due respect to the man as a priest of the Rochester Diocese, what in the world is Doug Hoffman so excited about? The potential readership of the Courier is 62,500. Two thousand, five hundred of us responded to the condensed clarifications of the interpretations of the voluminous Call to Action. That's less than a 4 per cent response to a much-publicized affair.

In the newspaper business that may be viewed as a healthy response, but when a majority of the minority voices dissent from the teaching authority of the Pope in those areas where CTA opposed the Vatican, why would a Roman Catholic priest rejoice?

Tom Murphy
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Editor's Note: We assume reader Murphy refers to a story in the Feb. 16 Courier-Journal in which Father Hoffman is quoted as being "very happy about the number of responses." Father Hoffman was referring merely to the number of respondents not the content.