



"HIS CATNAPS ARE DRIVING ME CRAZY!"

**Editorial**

**Who? Us?**

The Catholic Church has not exactly been getting very much "good ink" in the secular press over the past few years, and we speak of the press in general, not necessarily locally. That may be good or bad, after all the mission of the Church is not a package that should be tied up in public relations ribbons and sold as a commodity.

Nonetheless it was refreshing to read a column by Clayton Fritchey in a recent Democrat and Chronicle under the 60 point headline "Catholics press the fight for human rights."

Fritchey praised the Catholic Church for "playing an ever bolder role in opposing political repression and the violation of human rights."

He points out several examples, the "most dramatic" being the manifesto of our South African bishops denouncing that nation's "social and political system of oppression." As we must realize the bishops there are not merely paying lip service to a creed, they are risking their holy necks. The danger is not remote.

The editor of the Church's diocesan newspaper there declared, "We are in a fighting mood." Indeed the Church seems to be shucking its part and parcel aspect of despotic regimes in many parts of the world. Fritchey points out Chile, Brazil, Uruguay, Spain and Portugal where cardinals seem to be replacing their sobriquets of "Prince" for the more Christian name of servant.

Fritchey then pays the Church a fine compliment. "If the Carter administration is going to practice what it preaches about human rights, in Asia and the Far East, it could take some lessons from the Catholic elements who have been protesting against the brutal suppression of political dissidents by anti-democratic governments in South Korea and the Philippines.

"While Washington continued to support the military regimes in those countries with American troops, bases and arms, the militant Catholic clergy in the Philippines was busy circulating evidence of the Marcos government torturing and killing political prisoners.

"And in South Korea, where harsh prison sentences were meted out to 18 political dissidents, including a former president of the country, Stephen Cardinal Kim, declared, 'This is a tragedy not only for the people involved but for the whole country.' Five Catholic priests were among those jailed. The U.S. State Department finally protested, too, but in a whisper."

While columnist Fritchey has turned his attention toward the government in Washington, we do not think the rest of us can do much pointing and accusing. At least not until we let Washington know that we want to stand arm in arm with those unjustly denied their rights lest the world think we are linked with the oppressors.

And to Mr. Fritchey and the Democrat and Chronicle, "Thanks, we needed that."

**Opinion**

**Disappointed At Statement**

Editor:

As Catholic men who are in the process of preparation for ordained ministry in the Roman Catholic Church, it was with a sense of disappointment that we read the recent Vatican statement concerning the role of women in ordained ministry. We would like to focus attention on the divergent opinion presented by some of the best scholars and scriptural theologians. The Pontifical Biblical Commission has studied the issue and concluded that there is no scriptural basis to exclude women from the priesthood.

At the same time, the theology presented in the Vatican statement does not answer some questions. It is because of the grace bestowed upon us in Baptism that we become images of Christ, not because of genetics or biology. With the association of the Incarnation and priesthood does it not follow therefore, that women should be excluded from Baptism and even salvation? The many facets of the Church are not cited in the Vatican statement, most notable the Church as the people of God as developed in the Lumen Gentium. While we affirm our belief in the magisterium, we must recognize that the Spirit of God penetrates and speaks throughout the entire Church. And finally, the document presents a notion of priesthood which is cultic and elitist. Such a regression is disappointing because the document singularly avoids the pastoral implications of priesthood.

It is becoming increasingly clear that women have always had, and will continue to have, an integral role in the Church. Today where women are participating in more official types of Church ministries (i.e. university or hospital chaplains, pastoral assistants, seminary professors) and as their competency becomes more developed, we look forward to sharing in the ministry with them.

It is our belief that women have tremendous gifts and responsibilities toward the future of ministry and a com-

plementary style of living out of their baptismal commitment which includes a sense of freedom, mobility, reflectiveness, deep contemplation and willingness to serve.

It is also our wish that dialogue be maintained so that further study may be made. To that end we support Bishop Hogan in his pastoral concern for the people of God and his desire to maintain open channels for dialogue on the issue concerning women in ordained ministry.

The Church has always included diversity and in today's world it should continue to encourage theological perspectives.

Michael Bausch, Gary J. Schummer, Kevin Morrisroe, Michael Schramel, Gary Fry, Francis O'Loughlin, James Peters, Robert Werth, Timothy McCluskey, Dan Almeter, Michael J. Sullivan, James M. Murphy, John J. Jaglia, Timothy M. Brewer, George Norton (all of St. Bernard's Seminary).

**Bella, Gloria In Vatican?**

Editor:

The following is my list of "nominees," not for an Academy Award, but for those women who, I believe, best fulfill Father Henry Atwell's qualifications for female advisorship to our Holy Father, Pope Paul VI.

Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinem, Mary Ann Krupsak, Madalyn Murray O'Hair, Florynce (Flo) Kennedy, Angela Davis, Jane Fonda, Elizabeth McAllister Berrigan and Indira Gandhi.

Any of these women should be able to sit down for 10 minutes to help him to see the logic of giving in to the demands of a group such as St. Joan's International Alliance, which, after all, must represent at least one tenth of one percent of women in the Rochester diocese.

The nominee selected, with the help of a Process C Task Force, would have the assignment of pointing out to the Holy Father the following accomplishments of the feminist movement in America: first, a truly "liberal" abortion law, which grants a mother supreme power over the life of her unborn child; and other great advances such as the omission of prayer in our public schools, and the right of feminist leaders such as "Flo" Kennedy to direct an obscenity at a Roman Catholic priest over a major television network discussion show in the name of "freedom of speech." In addition, the female advisor to the Pope might point out further accomplishments such as the present all-time high divorce rate in our country, the tremendous upsurge in venereal disease among our nation's teenagers and the stunningly rapid advances toward achieving full and equal rights for lesbians.

After I read Father Atwell's column in the Courier Feb. 23 I suddenly realized what Jonathan Swift must have felt when he sat down to write his "Modest Proposal." God bless Pope Paul and may he excuse me for employing a Swiftian type of satire in expressing what is obviously my deep respect and support for the

wisdom and vision of Pope Paul.

Jane E. Callahan  
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**Let's Join With Others**

Editor:

Being an avid reader of the Courier, a paper I deeply enjoy, I felt it time for me to have my say.

Ever since Vatican I and II, our Church has indeed experienced many changes. We definitely are on the road to true ecumenism and reconciliation with all our brothers and sisters of all other faiths but has our pace, indeed our willingness, to step up these programs slacked off?

Now, more than ever, we Catholics have opened ourselves to the needs and wants as well as the learning of people of all religions everywhere. We reflect back on our recent Holy Year and we see how many non-Catholics joined us in love and prayer.

Now, then, don't you think it is time for us to really rekindle our spirit toward these goals? Remembering always that our blessed Lord prayed in the garden for unity and love among all men.

Can we now resolve to step up our pace, to strengthen not only our Catholic spirit but a true spirit of love and brotherhood among all Judo-Christians everywhere. We have only just begun, let us all continue until we are all one in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Robert Buckner  
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**Group Offers Programs**

Editor:

The National Panel of American Women marks its 20th anniversary this year. The panel is an organization whose purpose is to increase intercultural understanding. Its members are dedicated to contributing to the growth of our society by making it one in which the rights and dignity of every person are respected.

In 1957, four women in Kansas City — a Jew, a Catholic, a black and a white Protestant — joined to form the first Panel of American Women. The format remains the same today across the country, with panelists of diverse racial and religious backgrounds entering into dialogue with audiences, offering and eliciting personal thoughts and experiences in the areas of race, religion and ethnicity.

The Rochester Panel has been giving presentations to Scouts, youth groups, PTAs, school classes, religious groups, civic and social organizations since 1972. The original nucleus has grown to 30 women.

To schedule a discussion with your group, write Panel of American Women, 17 Frederick Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534, or call 381-5137.

Patricia A. Geraci  
Coordinator  
Panel of American Women

**Write Now, Think Later**

Editor:

The "Toward Tomorrow" column in the Feb. 23 Courier-Journal was an unjust attack on His Holiness and the Body of Christ. It appears that Henry Atwell has joined ranks with the Currans and Greeleys, the write now, think later group.

When Pope Paul commissioned the study on women's ordination he did not say he would necessarily follow its directives, or agree with its findings. Since God will not allow His vicar, nor the bishops (when teaching as a body) to teach error, it's obvious that women as priests is not His will.

It would seem though that we are asked to believe that the Holy Father's statements are not the will of Almighty God. We're asked to believe that the promise of Jesus to remain with His Church, to guide it, to protect it from teaching error, is no longer in effect. We're instead to trust in the statements of those who speak without authority. We are to trust in those who, in this instance, insist that the "door" is still wide open.

We're told in the Bible, that Judas "went to his own place." I submit, that those who find no comfort and satisfaction in the way He "runs" His Church, they go and do likewise. They'll find plenty of company.

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**Asks Prayers For Atwell**

Editor:

May I ask prayers for Father Henry Atwell? Not only because of his recent illness but especially because of his intemperate language in reference to our Holy Father in his Toward Tomorrow column in the Feb. 23 Courier-Journal.

Our bishop explained his reference to the Vatican document on the ordination of women as an opportunity to teach. Can it possibly be that the Courier-Journal, his official paper, can condone one of its priest-columnists stating: "This I do know, the Pope and his Church, must soon open the Vatican to the voice and ministry of women and begin to learn honesty and common sense."

Does the Courier-Journal intend to tell the people of the diocese that our Holy Father has not even begun to learn honesty and that he is lacking in common sense? How much longer will this scandalous dialogue continue?

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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.

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