

Editorial



FATHER CUDDY

FATHER ATWELL

The Odd Couple

We can think of no better example to point up the lesson of Lent than the fact that when Father Henry Atwell goes on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from April 21 to May 5, his fill-in at St. Agnes in Avon will be none other than Father Paul J. Cuddy.

Now, don't get us wrong. This is not a reconciliation in the sense of the world. Although the two priests have found little to agree about over the years, they have maintained a warm friendship in spite of their differing views.

So it was only natural that when Father Atwell was hospitalized recently, Father Cuddy was among his visitors. "Realizing his great devotion to Our Lady," said Father Atwell, "I thought it fitting that he be my replacement, particularly on May 1."

We hope the lesson in this human vignette is so apparent that it needs no further verbiage.

Thank you, Father Atwell.

Thank you, Father Cuddy.

B-1 . . . No!

A letter from four Catholic agencies in Iowa to President Carter urging him to halt the development of the B-1 bomber "for the sake of peace" points up the problem facing Carter and all of us.

Only the most naive of citizens would deny the threat to liberty represented by the U.S.S.R. and Communist China. And yet it is difficult to defend the expenditure of \$92 billion for a fleet of these bombers, the necessity and effectiveness of which is widely questioned.

The insanity of the arms race becomes clear when one considers that the cost of one B-1, \$86 million, would keep nine community colleges, each serving 10,000 students, in business for a year, according to the pacifist American Friends Service Committee.

And if the total cost \$92 billion were injected into housing, for example, think of the multitude of good provided — solving an embarrassing national problem, creating jobs, injecting equity into the economy.

Popping off is not recommended in this era, if ever it can be condoned. At the same time, however, after due and Christian consideration, we must reiterate our objection to the B-1 bomber. Its creation will only produce the need for further development of death-dealing machinery both here and abroad. The time has come in many spheres of our life — abortion, the death penalty, genocide, to name just a few — for us to say no to death and violence.

Sorry, But . . .

Unfortunately this newspaper is prohibited by postal regulations from promoting or advertising any games of chance — raffles, Bingo, Las Vegas Nights, etc.

We have editorialized that we feel these regulations are unnecessary especially when very often such affairs are for excellent causes and also in the light of the ever-increasing trend toward legalized gambling promoted by state governments.

In the meantime, we must abide by the law and ask the indulgence of our parish news contributors in the matter.

Opinion

'Action' Raises Misgivings

Editor:

As we complete the Parish Council process for input into the Call to Action program I find silence a tempting course to take.

However, the more responsible course seems to give at least expression to some misgivings about specific issues and recommendations and about the approach and methodology of the project.

We are called upon to rank order a number of issues. I give zero priority to the majority of them as either ready or fit for action by the bishops' conference in 1977.

There is call for a vote on 12 particular issues, after a maximum of ten minutes discussion on each issue. What are we voting on when we vote "That the local Church should be involved in the selection of bishops and pastors?" By what process? How involved? By praying? By paying? By lobbying? Specifics are needed on what is being proposed as involvement before a person can intelligently vote yes or no!

Some of the proposals are objectionable as items for an agenda of the American bishops, e.g. Number Three, issue four, wouldn't the bishops be giving us all a peculiar lesson of docility to authority by engaging in the circumvention of the recent Vatican declaration on the non-ordination of women; Number Four, issue five, and Number Seven, issue ten, are we developing a compulsive penchant for more pronouncements? Part of our real trouble seems to be that people do not have time to read or the space to file the multitude of statements, pronouncements, position papers, resource material, special reports that deluge us now! Gresham's law has now found application in the Church, driving out of circulation theological classics, declarations of the Holy See, or bishop's statements that were written scarcely a month ago.

There is no objection to getting soundings of opinions. But let us hope our bishops never come to consider themselves as just poll takers! There must be some provision for

evaluating the competence of voter judgement.

Father Bertrand Scully, OFM, Cap. St. Fidelis Friary Interlaken, N.Y.

Doesn't Like 'Call to Action'

Editor:

According to Father Vincent Micelli, SJ, the "Call to Action" in Detroit in October 1976 was more a "call to rebellion." He states that the group attending the conference was mainly composed of priests, liberated nuns in secular garb, ex-priests and malcontents, usually found present in gatherings of this type.

The ones in charge would not tolerate any free discussion and at one point when some eastern Europeans wanted to bring up the cause of freedom under Communistic rule, they were turned off because they did not want anything negative brought up in this meeting. However, Father Micelli states when the criticism was leveled at the Church and her so-called failings, this negativism was encouraged.

The meeting was obviously run by a bigoted minority group of agitators. It makes one wonder why the people in our diocese have been kept so ignorant of the facts as to what actually went on in the Detroit meeting. Father Micelli states that this meeting was run "a la Sol Alinsky" style. I'm sure most Rochesterians remember the late Sol Alinsky who rushed into Rochester when we had our little black revolution in the '60s. The same revolutionary tactics were used at the Detroit meeting.

The majority of Catholics have wisely chosen to ignore the "Call to Action" but what is incongruous to me is why the bishop still persists in spending his time, energy and the people's funds on such a worthless cause. Perhaps if we silent majority all wrote to the bishop in protest, maybe he'd be so swamped with mail that it may cause him to a "Call to Action" in a more constructive direction.

Anne B. Christoff 154 Crittenden Way, No. 3 Rochester, N.Y.

Editor's Note: The Courier-Journal staffed the Detroit meeting last October and published first-hand reports. All diocesan, silent or vociferous, have been given the opportunity to make their opinions on Detroit known to the bishop through the Courier-Journal. Many did just that and the bishop has been busy reading their views.

Sees Pulpit 'Abused'

Editor:

At St. John of Rochester Church, on Sunday, March 13, Father Vincent Collins gave his predictable, personal and very colorful opinion of ERA and the feminist movement. This in itself is nothing to deplore. However his abuse of the pulpit and the Church in



"FORGET IT, MRS. RAFFERTY!"

supporting his personal political viewpoint is

The distribution, after each Mass, of pamphlets damning ERA, gave one the impression that this was the Catholic Church speaking. This is not so. The speaker is Father Collins, the text prejudicial and the methods unfair.

Joan Garstka 3 Chesham Way Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Hurrah for Father Atwell

Editor:

Laetare. . . Rejoice! . . . Father Henry Atwell seems to be back on a regular basis. He will bring a few breaths of fresh air to an atmosphere which has lost a good deal of its freshness since Vatican II.

His recent columns on "no women can be priests" and the strangling authoritarianism which lies behind the declaration were magnificent.

The inclusion of Henry Atwell makes the Courier-Journal a much better newspaper.

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret RR2, Naples, N.Y. 14512

Ordination Unforgettable

Editor:

Some things in life are too beautiful to be forgotten. The greatest memorial in the history of mankind is the one Jesus Christ ordained in the divine command, "Do this in memory of me."

On Friday, March 18, a new link was joined in this chain of command. John A. Firpo was ordained a priest in the ancient order of Melchizedek. A dynamic "yes" registered his commitment not only to God's call, but also in humble service to the needs of the People of God. As the new fire of the Easter Vigil symbolizes the new life which came through Christ's Resurrection, this new leadership in the priesthood will continue to keep the Light of the world, Christ, ever bright in the hearts of the People of God. The People of God applauded with a resounding applause

of approval for their new priest.

Once again we witness a graphic demonstration of the efficacious emphasis of Vatican II in the community perspective of the Church's liturgy as the People of God assemble in the focal point of their faith, the Celebration of the Eucharist. On Saturday, March 19, the community assembled at St. Pius Tenth Church to witness and participate in Father Firpo's first Celebration of the Eucharist. The ineffable beauty of that moment caused the emotions to surface and overflow, rendering difficult an articulate description of the scene. Perhaps, it might be said that even an atheist invited to this beautiful banquet and having partaken of the wonderful food, would be compelled to believe that there was indeed a Great Chef somewhere here.

The Spirit of God is readily visible in the community of man. As the Lord is the unfailing source of life and of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the human race, so is the new priest an extension of this life giving Spirit, bringing newness of life to all who receive Him.

The culmination of this memorable moment was especially noted as the People of God resoundingly applauded their pastor, Father Donald Murphy, whose priestly example and dedication was cited as a catalyst in Father Firpo's progress to this ultimate reality, the priesthood.

So, it is with unsuppressed and justifiable pride that the parish of St. Pius Tenth registers this special moment in the history of its people.

Richard E. Blind 24 Shrubbery Lane Rochester, N.Y. 14624

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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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