

Editorial

A Time For Action

A bright spot shone through the cloud created by the City School District's announcement that it plans to stop paying for busing students to private and parochial schools outside the city. That ray of hope was provided by the speed, sense and cohesiveness of the diocesan response.

Though the diocesan Education Office was not given the consideration of advance notice of the school district's plan, Sister Roberta Tierney and her office mobilized quickly in response. Working with Sister Roberta the diocesan superintendent director of education, was Timothy Leahy, the deputy superintendent, Gina Ouweleen, Rochester Federation of Catholic School Parents; Sister Mary Smith, diocesan Federation of Catholic Administrators, and Brother Aubert Harrigan, Catholic Diocesan Association of Secondary School Administrators. This group represents effectively all concerned and it is a credit to the diocese that their cooperation is active and effective.

Even so, their hands will be tied unless they receive wide support from the Catholic school public at large. A public hearing on the school district plan is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 19 at East High School. The education office is working to have one representative from each school affected to speak at that hearing. Their words will be far more effective if they receive the moral support of parents, teachers and students attending the hearing. Those who agree that the plan should be discarded should stand up and be counted, so to speak.

The education office listed the major drawbacks to the city plan in the Courier-Journal of April 6. This response deserves reiteration, especially the fact that the city board acted without informing the diocese. This lack of communication has made a bad situation worse and is a turnabout from the open communication that the two bodies enjoyed in the past.

The crux of the matter is economic. The school district, like everyone else, is in a financial bind. But that does not warrant putting "another roadblock in the path of the constitutional right of parents to send their children to a school of their choice," as our education office put it. And why should city residents already living in the highest taxed state in the nation and who already pay city school taxes plus school tuition now face the added burden of financing transportation to their child's parochial or private school?

And perhaps the best economic point made by the diocesan group is that the cut would be foolhardy in the very light of finances. Because the state reimburses the city district up to 90 per cent of its transportation costs, the city plan would actually result in saving just \$44,000 instead of the \$441,185 initial figure.

In the event that the city plan becomes effective, what then for the parents and students involved? Either the schools and diocese will have to establish some sort of office of transportation to rent their own buses at considerable duplication of expense, bureaucracy, etc., or the students will have to find their own ways to the schools. One result probably will be that many will opt to transfer to city schools creating new expense for those schools.

We suggest that those concerned mark the date down — Tuesday, April 19 at East High. The American principle of freedom of choice for all is at stake.

Opinion

Infallibility Discussed

Editor:

All human minds, even the most brilliant, are capable of error. One mind is better than another but none is perfect; and if any one mind were perfect, the minds of other men would not be perfect enough to know it. If God had given men a deposit of truth and left it to their mercy, there soon would have been no certainty of truth left in the world. But there are truths about which it is vital that certainty should be possible; and since this certainty cannot be provided by men, God saw to it.

That is the point of the doctrine of infallibility. God made his Church infallible. When we say the Church is infallible, we mean the bishops, for they are in the fullest sense the successors of the Apostles and their infallibility means simply this: Whatever is taught as to the revelation of Christ by the bishops of the Church cannot be wrong; God will not allow it.

This does not mean that each individual bishop is prevented by God from teaching error, or that particular groups of bishops in this or that place might not teach error; but that when any teaching is so widely given by the bishops of the Church that we can say it is the teaching of the episcopate, then we can know that that teaching is true.

Yet a situation might arise in which it would be difficult to tell with certainty what the common teaching of the episcopate throughout the world actually is. This is the normal ground of action for the infallibility of the pope. Just as the Apostles had their successors, the bishops, so Peter has his successor, the Bishop of Rome. And the pope is endowed with that same infallibility with which God has endowed the Church. The pope must learn his doctrine like anyone else. No hidden source of doctrine is available to him that is not available to any other citizen of the Kingdom.

But God sees to it that when the pope gives the whole Church a definition of faith or morals bearing upon the revelation of Christ, there will be no error in it. If the pope defines a thing it is so, it is so. If he defines that it is false, it is false.

So it seems to me, if we

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are going to listen to one authority on a subject, should it be our parish priest, our diocesan bishop, or Our Holy Father the pope? The choice should be simple.

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Soviet Aim Unchanged

Editor:

Father Henry Atwell in his column of March 23 failed to distinguish between the immorality of Uganda's Idi Amin and the morality of nuclear defense.

While lamenting the genocide being practiced by the Ugandan president, Father Atwell despairs of stopping this mania and takes the U.S. to task for progressing nuclear weapons.

Unfortunately Father Atwell ignores the fact that the Soviet Union is arming itself to the teeth and now surpasses the U.S. in destructive power.

In the Aug. 22, 1973, issue of Pravda, Soviet leader Brezhnev stated: "Peaceful coexistence does not mean the end of the struggle of the two world powers. The struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between world socialism and imperialism will be waged right up to the complete and final victory of Communism on a world scale."

So there we have it! The Soviet Union unmistakably intends to control the world. To unilaterally disarm ourselves will only guarantee Soviet domination of the United States and the rest of the world.

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Americans 'Super Race'

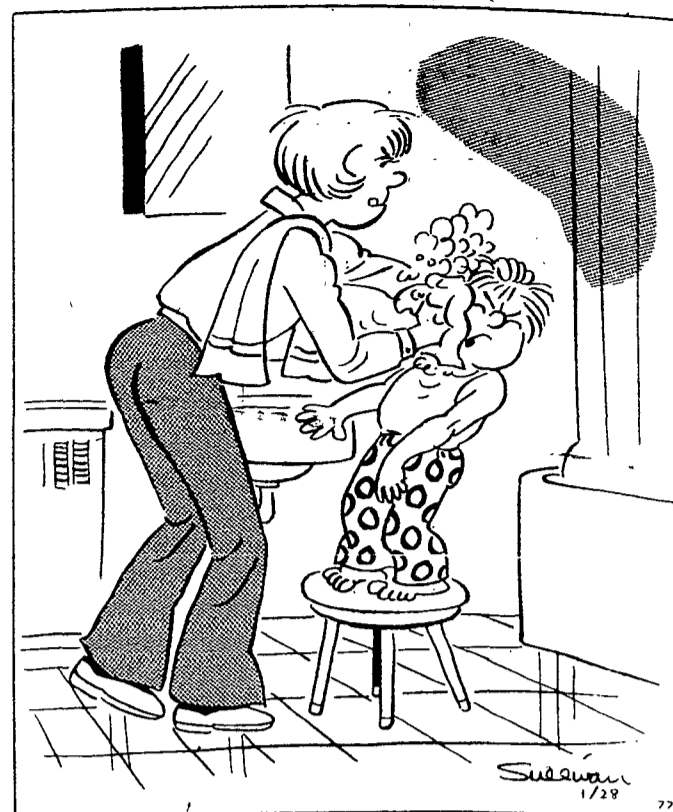
Editor:

On reading Father Atwell's column, I was glad to see that someone finally questions the "me too" writers of our media who never research what they write. They just agree and exaggerate undocumented sources. No, I don't agree with Amin's policy in Uganda, but I don't believe our American newswriters who always say "witnesses say the Uganda prelate was shot three times at close range perhaps by Amin himself."

I'd enjoy listening to a cute American lawyer tear that phrase apart.

There will be few Americans to become "disgusted" or "indignant" at our frightening nuclear power because it is our hand on the button. We would be outraged if a "stupid foreigner" had control — because "Americans" have now become the super race, but they will not look in a mirror to see what we look like to other nations. We have lost our moral outlook on killing people and only consider them statistics.

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"COME ON, MOM! FATHER TATE JUST WANTS US SERVERS TO BE CLEAN, NOT GLOW IN THE DARK!"

Resources Of Aquinas

Editor:

Building upon its tradition of 52 years of experience in educating young men, Aquinas Institute is the "alma mater" of over 12,000 alumni who are scattered all over the world working in various professions and occupations.

Aquinas Institute values the traditional academic college program but also recognizes the fact that the Christian school must see the students as individuals and provide for each one's unique needs.

Aquinas students have many advantages in their four-year training. A diversified and talented faculty of 18 Basilian fathers and 23 lay teachers gives the school the opportunity to offer many electives. To accomplish the learning required in the Aquinas students' program, the school provides a library with a large selection of books, periodicals and microfilm; resource centers in various subject areas; fully equipped science labs; study halls and music and art rooms.

Aquinas never forgets the individual person and his needs, so 32 boys are placed in a homeroom where the teacher becomes a counselor and a friend in an informal atmosphere. Religion classes are an important cog in the Christian wheel of education and are conducted in small groups where the expression of individual thoughts and feelings may be expressed. Retreat days and meaningful liturgies for the entire student body are offered commemorating significant feasts. Priests are always available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Daily Mass is said in the school chapel where study hall students are free to attend the daily Liturgy.

Because of the Aquinas concern for the individual, the school has three full-time guidance counselors and the services of a school psychologist and social worker. Thus, the young boy has available resources for individual help in personal development, academic needs and educational planning. Boys with a speech disability are helped by a trained therapist who serves on a part-time basis.

Since not all students are interested only in the math and science area, they can

also major in business, art or music. Recognizing the fact that some students can complete the high school curriculum in less than four years, graduation after three years is a possibility.

Academic, religious and social organizations and clubs, full intramural and interscholastic athletic program for all who are interested help to complete the development of the Aquinas student.

Aquinas welcomes anyone to visit the school and is happy to provide information for all those interested. Parents and students who are interested in "The Aquinas Way of Life" can call 254-2020 or write directly to the school at 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester, New York 14613.

William F. McCarthy
Director of Public Relations

Book on Faith Commended

Editor:

After having been subjected to the sophomoric responses from certain seminarians at St. Bernard's lately, I find that their definition of the ordinary teaching of the magisterium is so crammed full of nonsense that is not worth the bother to refute. However, I can understand how the unsuspecting can be duped in all the rhetorical buffoonery that they have mastered.

One could go so far as to say, if one knew nothing of the Catholic Faith, that they sound logical. But with a minimum of truth, there is not a tinkling of logic in any of it.

Be that as it may, for those who earnestly wish to know the truth of the Faith, may I suggest purchasing the catechism, "The Teaching of Christ." This can be purchased at Trant's or any other religious book store. And for \$5.95 you will receive exactly what the title says you will — the Teaching of Christ.

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