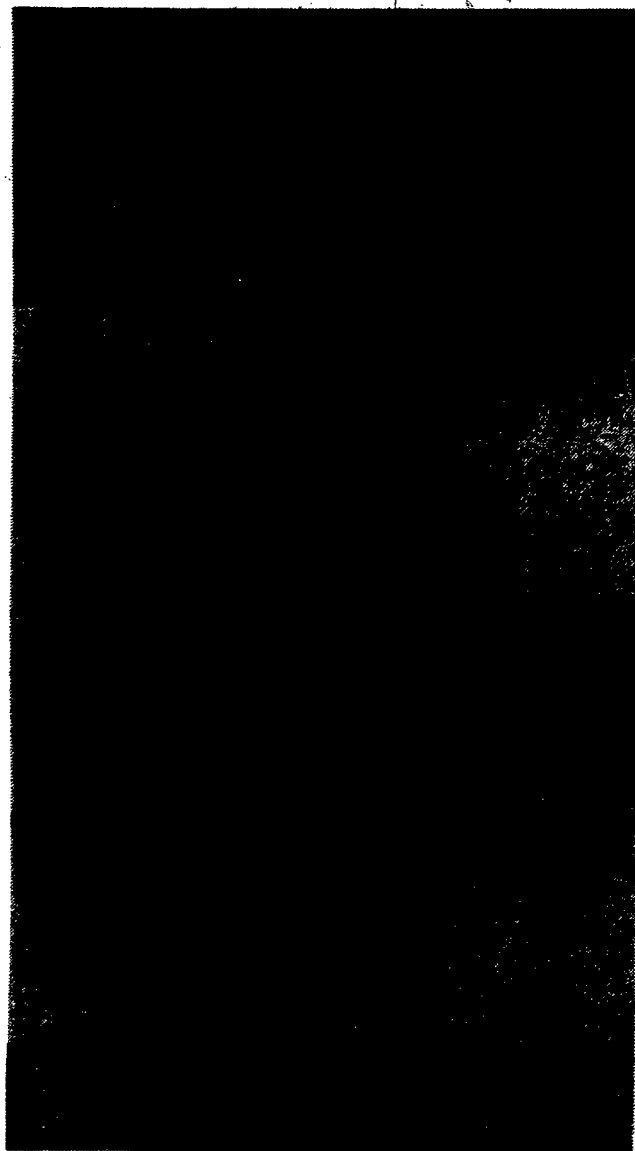


Editorial



A Chilean waif.

Mission Sunday

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's tour of the missions in Alabama and South America that include diocesan on their staffs is having a double effect, twice salutary. Not only is he fulfilling his announced intention to show those missionaries functioning in the most difficult places of the world, often under extraordinarily oppressive situations, that he and the diocese are behind them but he also is focusing attention on these outposts at a propitious time.

Mission Sunday is scheduled May 15 and anyone who is hesitant about joining the effort by making contribution should read the reports being sent back by the Courier-Journal's Anthony J. Costello. You will meet children getting one meal a day at a parish soup kitchen; families living on dirt floors; families racked by disease on top of poverty; whole countries of people with little to aspire to.

"These people are really hurting," said Costello in a verbal communique. "This is an emotional experience, almost unbelievable."

"Missionaries are very special people," he continued. "I have an unbounded respect for the work of our Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph in our diocesan missions and for all the priests who work down here."

A little bit of money goes a long way in mission areas — "even a gift of 25 cents can do very much," Costello said.

It is reasonable to say that we Americans, so worried over the cost of energy, the size of our cars, heating our houses, have perhaps lost contact with too much of the world. The thought of little girls and boys lining up at a soup kitchen for their only meal of the day — and with little relief in sight for the remainder of their mortal lives — might restore some proper perspective.

The bishop by making this extended and strenuous trip has been showing in the best possible way his concern and love for the missionaries — by his presence and his touch. He also has been taking on a leadership role to show the rest of us the way to help these missionaries perform God's tasks in places so far removed, geographically and socially from their home bases. Christian community is one name for it. Another is love, and that's not too sugary a term when you think of the little children who will be the benefactors.

Opinion

St. Bernard's Praised

Editor:

Since two letters have recently been published which seem to question the integrity of Catholic doctrine as taught at St. Bernard's Seminary, I would like to reassure your readers in this regard.

For the past six years I have been privileged to serve on the Board of Trustees and I have reviewed the program of studies and become personally acquainted with the members of the excellent faculty at the seminary. More than 20 courses in doctrinal theology are offered in programs leading to the graduate degrees of M. Div. and M.A. in Theology. These courses are taught to the seminarians and to area clergy and to qualified lay persons who may enroll in the Continuing Education program.

Not only is St. Bernard's fully accredited by the American Association of Theological Schools, but it is so well thought of by the Catholic episcopacy that many other dioceses arrange to have their candidates for the priesthood study here. By reason of their own training, it should be obvious that these bishops are especially qualified to appraise the soundness of the Catholic doctrine being taught at St. Bernard's.

Eugene R. Cusker
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Devil Is In Man

Editor:

A recent letter in the Courier-Journal stated, "The Church tells us that the serpent in the Garden of Eden was the Devil." That would have been news to Moses, who is considered the author of Genesis, because he never heard of the devil, satan or Lucifer in his lifetime. Pope Paul stated around three years ago that the devil was real. "He is Public Enemy Number One, the tempter par excellence."

The problem with believing in this ancient superstition, myth or allegory, is that to dwell on evil too much, can seriously affect some people. With the constant crusade against Satan, there are more people on earth today that are more against Satan than they are for God.

The only devil (minus the



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"d" is evil) is in man's own psyche, the unconscious mind.

God, being Absolute Perfection, could never have created anything evil. All the evil in the world comes from man himself. His lust, his greed are all to satisfy the body's desires.

I well realize that the "narrow path" in this materialistic world of today is very difficult; but Jesus showed us "the way," and it is up to all of us to put our feet on the path and start our journey back to God and to stand before Him in the "fullness and stature of Christ."

Let's stop putting all the blame on the devil and good old Satan. Let's bring the "shadow" out into the open and admit to the evil side of our psyches. Once we bring him out of the darkness and into the light he will be destroyed and he will be changed from an evil-image to a God-Image.

Robert C. Karley
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Asks Prayer For Killers

Editor:

I am asking for the prayers of all the readers of the Courier-Journal and from all the many benefactors of Hands of Mary for the repose of the soul of my oldest son Thomas Harrison Scott Jr. My son was found murdered in his apartment on Lime Street in Rochester on April 1. Two people had attempted robbery, and when my son fought back he was shot to death. Neither did my son ever do any harm to anyone in his entire life. Please also pray for the two people who took his life. They will have to live with this all the rest of their lives. They need prayers for God's Forgiveness! I hold no hatred for them, only pity.

Eldora M. Scott
Director
Hands of Mary
88 Maple St.
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Gay Lives Impressive

Editor:

The letter from Father G. Stuart Hogan published in the Courier-Journal of April 18, has caused me considerable distress. I can imagine how the homophile community in Rochester feels about it.

Though I doubt that many readers would be influenced by what amounts to pre-judgement and name-calling. I feel compelled to speak out from my experience of gay people in Rochester over a period of a year and a half.

I have been impressed with their desire and attempts to live deeply spiritual lives and to contribute as responsible citizens to a society which, if their identity were known, would reject them.

I can only hope that some day they will be judged on the same standards as all individuals in our society.

Sister Mary Claude
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"ONE THING WE DON'T NEED AROUND HERE IS A GOURMET COOKBOOK!"

Jesus' Film Seen Good

Editor:

In a letter in the Courier-Journal of April 20, Mrs. O'Connor said "When, oh when are they going to stop portraying our Lord as a humorless, glassy-eyed, spiel-talking fanatic?"

This also was my opinion of all movies shown in the past 35 years until I saw, on Easter night, "Jesus of Nazareth," Part II. This is just the way we were led to believe He would be from our Bible History.

It is a shame this young lady tuned it off before the best part came.

Robert J. Miller
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'Religious' Key Word

Editor:

In the sixth paragraph of the editorial of April 19, it is

stated, "those already in the Lord's service — priests, sisters and religious." What of all the rest of us?

I thought all those baptized were called to serve the Lord in whatever capacity he called us, whether single, married or religious.

Therefore let us pray for an increase in religious vocations when that is what we mean and pray for when we say vocations.

Mrs. William G. McKenna
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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.



bushes we discovered earlier in the week have been stripped of bark a foot from the ground and nearby a pile of rabbit droppings identify the culprit. There are disadvantages living next to this tiny thicket but they are minute compared to the beauty reflected there from April to November and enjoyed from our vantage points in kitchen and family room. Early coffee taken on the porch will often afford us glimpses of the pheasant family, although its members no longer feed under the sycamore next to the patio since the arrival of puppy dog.

On the other side of the yard under the arc of honeysuckle the purple violets show signs of having weathered the winter well as do the mother hen and chickens. Only the pachysandra remains petulant. Next to the honeysuckle the hybrid lilac (a Mother's Day present some years ago) is loaded with buds that resemble blackberries.

Last night in a rainy inspection of the backyard, the head of the house said he spotted greening signs on the three Oriental and London Planes, the last of all the trees with the exception of the beech, to show new life each year.

Clearly nature is ready to cooperate. We are ready to cooperate. Come, Mr. Weatherman, the rest is up to you!

Out on the tallest poplar tree a male cardinal resplendent in plumage of brilliant red sounds his territorial call adding both vocal and visual accent to the Master Designer's decor.

The flowering cherry