

Editorial

**The Missions . . .
So Little,
So Much**

Next Sunday is the annual Diocesan Missions Sunday when collections go to helping missions supported by the diocese, not only in Latin America and Selma, Ala., but also in impoverished areas in our own diocese.

In the past, diocesans have always been generous with the missions, but this year a personal trip by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has brought into sharp focus the extraordinary work being done by missionaries amidst the most depressing conditions.

Anthony J. Costello, the general manager of the Courier-Journal was among those making the tour with Bishop Hogan, and the rest of this editorial is his personal reflection on the missions.

"I can't help feeling that the people, mainly the children, that we saw have so very little and yet so much. So little materially but so much in love - to one another. How often do you see children sitting together with their arms around each other's shoulders, or walking hand in hand? Wherever the missionaries went they would be greeted with joyful hugs.

"I realize the story of the missions and the people served is not a new revelation. We all knew we have missionaries working in Selma, in Brazil, in Chile, in Bolivia and that their work is commendable.

"But you don't get the actual feeling of what they're doing and how much it means until you see it.

"I know that my experience in touring the missions will affect my life and will continue to influence me and my family and those around me.

"Hopefully this newspaper will do more to promote the cause of the missions.

"For instance, in this edition you can read of six families who live under a bridge - I saw children and pigs sharing the same plate of food.

"How can these people be helped? Well, \$200 will buy a piece of land for a family. Another \$400 will build them a house. Not much by our standards but by theirs it might as well be a million dollars. Unless we help, they'll never get out from under the bridge.

"When you see children with stomachs distended by worms and ask why, the sisters inform you that a major reason is contaminated drinking water. You learn about a filter which will eliminate the worms from the water. It costs \$10 - a figure out of the question for the families who often can't come up with a few pennies for some rice.

"Just think of it - \$10, the cost of a new shirt, or a date, or a hairdo

"No, I won't be the same and I hope this newspaper won't be the same. I hope our readers won't be the same after reading and seeing the accounts of the visitations of the bishop and priests who visited the missions. Our feeling is different towards missionaries, our feeling is different toward the missions, our feeling is different toward our fellow human beings who have so little and so much.

"Reflections - there are so many. The two sisters who turned their convent over to a large and needy family and went to live in a two-room house, with an outhouse and outside well. Our own priests who established a parish in LaPaz and who lived under conditions which most of us would find impossible.

"We all can't go and to be honest I really didn't want to. But if I can relate to my family, my friends and readers of this newspaper what I learned then in the future when you see a picture of a child, stomach distended by worms or hunger, and you pay a little more attention, then it will have been worth it.

"Next weekend when you use your mission envelopes think of the missionaries performing their tasks at the same time principally spreading the Gospel of the Lord but also helping so many destitute people to help themselves maintain their dignity - to get out from under the bridge."

Opinion

**Call to Action
'False Teaching'**

Editor:

St. Bernard's seminary is becoming a breeding ground for far out liberal seminary students, radical and dissident priests who openly oppose Pope Paul's declaration banning women from the priesthood, and they could, have learned much from the example set by our beloved Bishop Kearney in obedience. In addition - the Rochester Roman Catholic diocese headed by Bishop Hogan and his far out liberal priests and nuns who question the Church's authority is discouraging to young men with an interest in the priesthood who are fearful of the excessive liberalism which is prevalent in our seminaries and churches.

Decisions on celibacy and women's ordination are endlessly debated by our bishop, Father Atwell and other radical priests and nuns and students of St. Bernard's Seminary as if it is up to the debaters to decide these questions.

The "Call to Action" was a false and misleading teaching and controlled by radical elements, who always have the ear of the Press. It represents a minority and was not really powerful at all, and its supporters have lost the respect of members of the Roman Catholic Church.

Who should know better what the Bible says than the men on a Biblical Commission appointed by the Pope himself. But being an "expert" on the Bible entitles no one to say finally what the word of God does or does not allow. The judgment belongs to the magisterium of the Church, which takes account of human judgment, but is superior to it. Bishop Hogan's repeatedly taking a stand different from the Pope only brings anguish to himself and discord to Roman Catholics.

Does not common sense tell us that Christ keeps his promise to abide with his Church? Instead of following what "experts" say, does it not make sense to follow ONLY what the Holy Father chooses, out of the fulness of his knowledge and light, to tell us? In these difficult days, should we not cling to his every word, knowing that the holiness of the Church and the promise of Christ sustain him? One great message comes from

all authentic sources to the people of our times: "Follow the Holy Father!"

Joseph Barberio
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**Mission Future
Needs 'Action'**

Editor:

Jeff, age 23, is from England; Mary and Sally, also in their early 20's, are from the U.S. They're among the some 200 evangelical Christian missionaries with whom I'm studying Spanish. I'm an "over 30", and the only Catholic.

The other day I spent 2 1/2 hours allowing myself to be grilled by Jeff, Mary and Sally about the Church. Their questions revealed a tremendous ignorance of Catholic doctrine, which they facetiously reject. After our session they remarked with new-found appreciation for things Catholic that others at the language school should have the same opportunity.

In fact, many other Christian missionaries to Latin America are not as openminded as these youngsters proved to be. Curiously, it has proven to be an advantage to the various sects and denominations working in the Latin American vineyard to avoid dialogue with the Catholic Church. It seems that the more doctrinaire groups are the very ones who are enjoying the greatest growth here, causing justifiable nervousness on the part of Latin hierarchies (see the Equadoreans Bishops' statement of several months ago).

The attitude of these successful but doctrinaire proselytizers parallels that of those Catholics in the U.S. who are opposing, as if they came from the Devil himself, the Recommendations made by the Detroit Call To Action Conference (which I attended as an observer). I've even heard that petitions are making the rounds which religious are signing, asking the Bishops to reject the Conference wholesale.

This tactic might well work. Over-simplification has its appeal everywhere. In like manner, Latin American Catholics are being persuaded to abandon their Church because they are scandalized by a single practice or doctrine, often misunderstood to begin with.

If the Call to Action is rejected, who will answer for those many, many excellent recommendations, say, in the "Humankind" section, that will directly affect our mission work for the next 5-10 years? Let the naysayers offer us alternatives

Bernard Survil,
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San Jose, Costa Rica

P.S. I've worked in L.A. for 3 years and was one of the 9 priests expelled from El Salvador in February, 1977.

**St. Mary's
Cooperates**

Editor:

The Democrat & Chronicle in an editorial (April 9, 1977) commented that St. Mary's Hospital had responded to the proposed

merger "concept" presented by the Monroe-Livingston Hospital Planning Group in a more negative way and "seemed to reflect a fear that the ultimate result of any hospital merger would be the loss of its distinctly Catholic identity". In a recent article appearing in the Catholic weekly, Twin Circle, (April 24, 1977), Msgr. James P. Cassidy, Ph.D., the Director of the Department of Health and Hospitals, Catholic Charities of the New York Archdiocese addressed this very question.

Msgr. Cassidy stated that he was "worried about the federal government's consideration of 'regionalization' by trying to merge hospitals and services. This could put an end to Catholic and voluntary hospitals. The plan if implemented would kill the incentive for good health care." He also pointed out the difference between a Catholic and non-Catholic hospital by saying that "the Catholic hospital, though it meets the same medical standards and qualifications for its staff as others, embraces a philosophy which involves the moral and ethical directives of the bishops . . . the awareness of the dignity of life."

In the area of health costs, Msgr. Cassidy commented: "The main reason why costs rise is because people are living longer and need more health care. But something must be done to lower costs. By 1980, health care will be the largest industry in the country."

St. Mary's Hospital is cooperating with all area hospitals in planning for the future and it is concerned that a distinctly Catholic hospital should continue its mission in Rochester, particularly when from a purely materialistic point of view, its per diem rate is one of the lowest. Need more be said?

Richard J. Brzustowicz,
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**Boycott
'Nasty Habits'**

Editor:

Every so often the film industry strikes a new low.

I refer to the film, Passover Plot, which accuses Jesus and His Apostles of falsifying Christ's resurrection.

Now we have a new film, which directly assaults the Catholic religion. The movie, Nasty Habits, tells the story of a nun who turns her convent into a love abbey for priests and nuns.

Nothing is sacred. This is the highest form of anti-Catholic bigotry. I am asking that all right-thinking people, including Catholics and Protestants and Jews, boycott this film.

If this film comes to Rochester, a vigorous protest should be made to the theater showing it.

Mrs. H. Pikuett
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Editor's note: Nasty Habits is the film adaptation of a satire by Catholic novelist Muriel Spark entitled The Abbess of Crewe. It lampoons political activity by placing it in the milieu of a convent.

**Don't Close
OB Unit**

Editor:

I wish to express my concern that the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency wants an obstetrical unit in Chemung County to close.

For some time now, as a nurse, I have been observing the pressure brought to bear on St. Joseph's Hospital. I have heard the anger and frustration of expectant mothers who were being coerced to go to the Arnot, and the refusal of many to do so. Others less forceful have gone against their will and have felt that their rights were being violated.

St. Joseph's Hospital provides the caring attitude about life from conception to death that many hold dear. Certainly at no time is life more dear than at birth. Any doctor will tell you that the psychological state of the expectant mother is of utmost importance. So why is it being undermined?

Along with the "patients rights" issued upon admission to a hospital should be given the guarantee of such an important service.

Ida G. Howell
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**Appreciates
Old Hymns**

Editor:

In reply to the nice letter of April 20 by Mrs. Florence Oehler:

I too wish they would sing the hymns from the St. Basil's Hymnal. I have one of those hymn books. I'm 76 and I sang them in our little "French Church" from 1907 to 1914 while I was at the "French School."

Father Notabeart was our pastor.

I still sing them daily from this book. Do you think they will ever come back to these beautiful hymns?

Mrs. Leo Krenzer
R D 3, Box 3207
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**Patient
Reflections**

Editor:

Some people in local hospitals have asked me to write a piece for their reflection.

Patient Reflections

Oh Lord, what is it that keeps me bed-ridden? If it is my lack of Faith to accept thy will, forgive me. If it is my lack of Trust in those caring for me, forgive me. If it is my lack of Charity then grant me those graces and fulfill my blessings. Amen.

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