

**Editorial**

**Signs of Hope**

Every day the postman brings them. There may be 80, or 100, or even more. The envelopes are handwritten. They come from all over the diocese. The vast majority contain a check for \$10; some hold more. They represent the material assistance of the Courier-Journal Filter Campaign, which is less than three weeks has passed the halfway mark of its 1,800-family goal.

Each \$10 buys a filter for an impoverished family in the Vila Bella development in Brazil. Each is a sign of community between American families and their less fortunate counterparts in Brazil. Each filter bought will help children in Vila Bella fend off the blight of worms infestation.

But the envelopes mean even more than that. They are harbingers of hope for people used to despair. The filters' purpose is specific in one respect; they fight a definite malady. But the thoughts behind them build a spiritual dimension which might help the recipients face countless other mean adversities.

The contributions not only aid people who have been victimized by a quirk of geography but they also will strengthen the perseverance of those who serve them, our diocesan missionaries. The offerings provide the special gift of community to sustain these worthy people of God who have left home and hearth to work in far-off fields of misery.

The envelopes come mostly from families. But many represent the special earnings of children. St. Ambrose made it a parish project. And another parish, an Episcopal one in Auburn, also made a "family" contribution. A professed atheist also joined the cause.

The family-to-family, direct, personal approach has obvious merit. And in its small way, the campaign underlines the reality that all of us, whether living in this land of plenty or in places of the world where a simple, clean drink of water is a rarity, share a common existence.

**2 Bright Spots**

As in the case of the person who survives a delicate operation, it does not assure immortality but it sure feels good at the time.

Thus is the situation concerning the salutary decisions reached concerning two diocesan hospitals last week. The Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency voted against ending the obstetrical unit at St. Mary's in Rochester. In Elmira, the decision to continue the OB unit at St. Joseph's Hospital was on a smaller scale — the subarea council of the FLHSA, but nonetheless was a victory for the hospital. Besides the obvious benefit of these rulings, there is an important aspect to the two decisions. They represent the first two bright spots in a steadily increasing crunch Catholic institutions are experiencing from public boards. The happy results also are a direct result of diligence, perseverance, and adherence to principle on the part of the staffs of both hospitals. The entire communities involved, particularly Catholics, owe a debt of gratitude to those who refused to lay down their shields.

By the time this editorial appears in print the decision concerning the future of bus transportation of city students to out-of-city private schools will have been made. We have a feeling that the decisions on the hospitals will have some influence on the community at large, including those making the school decision.

As regards the school situation, the City Council cannot tell the School Board how to spend its money. But if it votes to raise funds to the budget, it is crystal clear that it is with the intention that the transportation funds be restored. The public has also been making its opinion known on this question, with impact. We hope such efforts succeed.

In any case, as regards the hospitals, let us exult, however briefly, in the two victories for life and principle.

**Opinion**

**Why Not Vouchers?**

Editor:

Eric Steel in the Courier-Journal (6-1-77) refers to the cost of private and parochial school busing. This cost is merely a pittance when compared to what these Catholics and others with children in private and parochial schools pay in tuition and in local and state taxes. Catholics do comprise a large percentage of taxpayers in N.Y. State, well over a third, and in Rochester, over 40 per cent.

He also claims that the public schools give whatever "diversity of education" suits the fancy of people. And suppose it suits the fancy (choice is a preferable word) of parents to have their children in a religiously-oriented atmosphere? What he should have said was that the public schools give no choice in the matter of religious education.

In an analogy, he points out that if you prefer a private school or a religious school, it is comparable to preferring a Cadillac. You pay extra for that right. We are supposed to believe from this "logic" that going to the public school is like everyone getting a Honda for our tax money and going to a religious school is like purchasing a Cadillac. Says who? I don't buy this analogy or this type of choice.

He forgets that I am not forced to spend my money for either a Honda or a Cadillac. I can buy or choose any type of transportation, including using the RTS. But I am being forced to spend money for education, and now I am told what type of school is suitable for students, or pay dearly for dissenting. The federal government in its GI Bill did not tell veterans what school they had to attend with the government money, or the government voucher. These veterans were given a choice.

Secular humanism is being promoted in the schools. Christ pointed out that "He who is not with Me, is against Me." What parents object to is the ignoring of religious content in the education of their children. This indifference, this exclusion of religion from the curriculum amounts to considering religion as insignificant, as not necessary for the

complete, full-rounded education of our youth. The message is loud and clear. Students are indirectly led to the belief and the attitude that religion is insignificant and does not count. Nothing even has to be said for or against religion. Is this not promoting secularism?

No one objects to Mr. Steel and others like him having his schools for his purpose, but why does he oppose vouchers, for example. Vouchers would enable parents to present these certificates to the school of their choice for paying the costs of education. Why be so paranoid and afraid of this type of free democratic competition? Why keep insisting on the monopoly of all tax education money (much of it Catholic) collected for his type of school only? I call that stealing (no pun intended).

Public schools were originally established to teach reading and writing to all so that the Bible could be read. Public schools originally had a religious purpose. They were also established so that the poor could receive an education. They were never intended to exclude religion, as they do now. Let us continue the fight to change this ugly status quo of the last number of years.

Father Thomas M. Miller, CSB  
Aquinas Institute

**Chesterton Work Offered**

I have two presentations relating to the great British writer and apologist, G.K. Chesterton, either of which I would be happy to give as part of a parish educational program. The presentations are:

- A lecture on "Chesterton Today," which brings out many of the reasons why GKC is important to us at the present time. This paper would take about one half hour, and I would combine it with a series of GKC "miniquotes" and a tape recording made by Chesterton. This recording, which I obtained from the BBC, is the only one in existence of Chesterton's voice.

- A series of "Readings from Chesterton." This is an evening-long program, with a short intermission. It consists of several parts: essay excerpts, poems in various categories, Chesterton's writings about America, an account of his Father Brown detective stories, etc. For several of the selections I request volunteer readers from the audience.

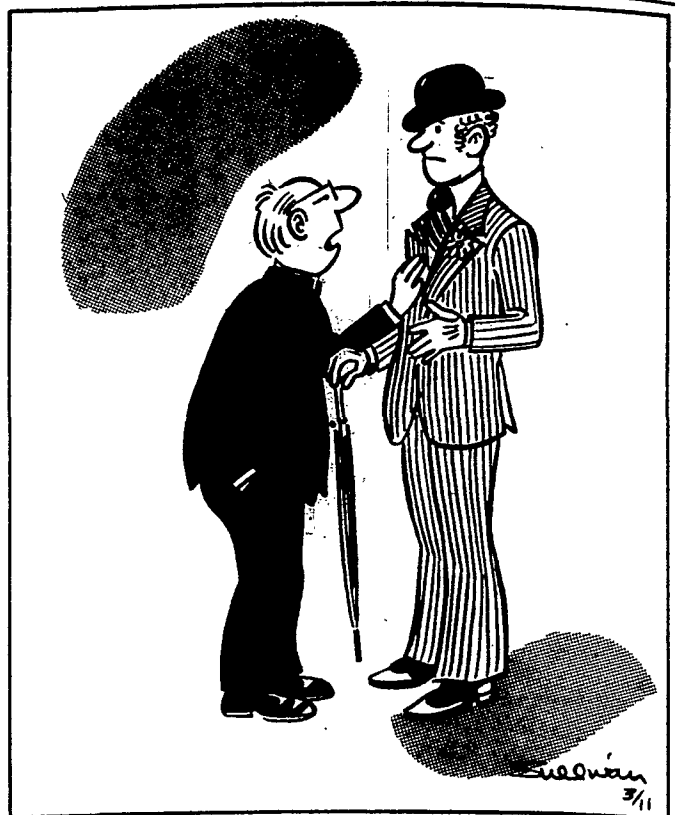
With either of the above, I would present a display of books by and about GKC, copies of the Chesterton Review and other related items. So I would appreciate hearing from the educational representative of any parish that might be interested in either of the above programs.

Robert Knille  
Eastern U.S. Secretary  
The Chesterton Society  
102 Lynnwood Dr.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

**No Time To Think**

Editor:

I'm getting a little tired about all the "action" in the Church. What I would like is a little solitude for a



"I WAS IN TO SEE THE BISHOP TODAY, TOM, AND HE DECIDED THAT YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO CLERICAL DRESS!"

change. We don't have time to think, pray or meditate anymore.

The hierarchy is involved entirely too much with problems of the world. We should all be concerned, of course, but their specific duty is to teach and guide us in our Catholic faith.

Mary Trenkler  
5 Hillswood Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

**Apples, Oranges?**

Editor:

Pray tell — what kind of pie did Mr. Schwartz decorate Archbishop John R. Roach with?

It would be interesting to know! (Courier-Journal 6-1-77)

Vivian R. Hennan  
236 Monroe St.  
Honeoye Falls N.Y. 14472

Editor's Note: Chocolate cream.

**Corpus Christi Sends Thanks**

Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who is helping us. We would especially like to thank our friends at Holy Trinity School for their generous donation of \$500 on June 7.

They had a mission drive and decided to donate their proceeds to Corpus Christi School. We are very grateful.

It will be friends like Holy Trinity School that will make Corpus Christi School a success in the future years.

**Corpus Christi School Evolution Seen 'Anti-Catholic'**

Editor:

For those concerned with the prevailing anti-Catholic teachings that are being pumped into the heads of our children, as well as many adults, there is a priceless little masterpiece just out from Lumen Christi Press which superbly treats one of these fraudulent bits of knowledge.

This is the popular notion that man has evolved over the years from the lower animals, therefore denying original sin and numerous truths of the Catholic Faith.

The first half of this book deals specifically with revealing these erroneous

claims that are still being perpetrated by evolutionists in control of "many universities and major seminaries." The irony of all this is that leading atheists have disclaimed these theories as foolhardy.

The second part reveals the Catholic advocates (Fathers deChardin, Bone, Francouer, Schoonley and Smulders) and their pathetic ideas. Father Teilhard deChardin is primarily centered upon with his plan to "change the Church" to his way of thinking; if one can call this thinking that is

The book is a must for every concerned Catholic and is far more so for high school and college students. It is easy to read and yet is filled with scientific data and true Catholic teachings. Write to Lumen Christi Press, PO Box 13176, Houston, Tex. 77019 and ask for "Original Sin in the Light of Modern Science," by Father Patrick O'Connell, B.D. And believe it or not it costs all of one dollar.

Richard Hussar  
340 Jordan Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

**Grateful For Columnist**

Editor:

Recently we had the opportunity to hear Mrs. Nancy Murphy give a very informative and, at the same time, a bit terrifying report on the background on some organizations which are entrusted to "educate" (quotation marks are mine) our young people — even in our Catholic schools.

We are indeed fortunate to have someone of her caliber to ferret out these conditions and keep us informed. I have been a reader of her column and have had occasion to seek information from her. I just want to state my support for her much needed column in the Courier-Journal.

I also appreciate Fathers Shamon and Cuddy.

Eleanor C. Shaffer  
85 Chapel St.  
Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148

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.

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President

Anthony J. Costello  
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci  
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 92 No. 7 June 15, 1977

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 20¢, 1 year subscription in U.S. \$7.50, Canada and Foreign \$12.00. Offices: Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604 (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.