

More Opinions

Mass IS The Sacrifice

Editor:

In a recent Courier-Journal, a letter appeared entitled "A One Time Sacrifice." The writer states that after reading the Scriptures, he is of the opinion that the Mass is a memorial of the Sacrifice of Calvary, rather than the Sacrifice itself.

However, the Baltimore Catechism states very clearly that "the Sacrifice of the Mass and the Sacrifice of Calvary are one and the same sacrifice because the victim and the priest are the same, Christ, our Blessed Lord, and the ends for which the Sacrifice of the Mass were instituted are the same as those of the Sacrifice of the Cross."

I have quoted from memory, but, I believe with reasonable accuracy. It is now some 65 to 70 years since I first memorized the above answer from the

Baltimore Catechism. Father Cuddy, in his column, advises all teachers of religion to return to the Baltimore Catechism. I quite agree with him.

Over the years, the Baltimore Catechism fell into disfavor because the wording of SOME of the questions was considered to be unsuitable for the minds of children and because it was felt that the teaching of religion, in the past, had overemphasized dogma to the neglect of teaching "practical Christianity." So now the pendulum has swung the other way. We

emphasize charity instead of dogma. Why can't we emphasize both dogma and practical charity? Which comes first, dogma or charity? Dogma, because everyday Christian charity must rest upon our belief in the love of God and Jesus for us.

The letter should never have appeared in the Courier, at least not without an editor's note with the Baltimore Catechism quoted answer.

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On Working For Schools

Editor:

Having been a Bingo worker for the past several years, and sharing Mr. R. Michael Fitzpatrick's concern (Courier-Journal 7-13-77) regarding his deep sense of commitment to our neighborhood, I wish to offer the following:

St. Augustine's Parish Council is experiencing the same dilemma confronting many organizations—lack of people willing to work for the organization that benefits them. Why is it necessary that the same few individuals always do all the

work? My church, Our Lady of Good Counsel, has been running Bingo games for the past several years. We began with ten teams, 15 or 16 people per team who are required to work just five times per year. We soon discovered that the majority of the workers failed to meet their obligation, resulting in a team trying to do an effective job with six or seven people.

Bingo proceeds help finance our school, as I'm sure is the case at St. Augustine's. While tuition is mandated, it pays less than half the cost. Apparently many people fail to grasp this, or if they are aware of the necessity of bingo, could care less.

I would ask Mr. Fitzpatrick to consider the ramifications in this situation, if St. Augustine's was forced to close its school, or Our Lady of Good Counsel, or any of the parishes in the city. He can be sure that his, and my, deep sense of commitment to our neighborhood would be for naught as we would witness the biggest exodus to the suburbs since the end of World War II.

Bingo is a necessary evil, and it requires workers. St. Augustine's Parish Council is to be lauded for the stand it is taking.

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