

Editorial

Mission Sunday

The irony is clear in the fact that while hundreds of thousands of people are starving around the world, Americans spent some \$10 billion on diet soft drinks in 1976.

We do not propose that we should feel guilty about being so well off that dieting is practically a national pastime. But we would suggest that when we are writing that diet soft drink onto our shopping list, we stop and think how fortunate we are in comparison with much of the world.

Or we might think of the world's underprivileged, both physically and spiritually, when we consider our share of the \$15.8 billion spent on beer in a year, or the \$3 billion on candy, or the near billion dished out for perfume.

There is little or nothing wrong with such spending in itself but think of the good to be wrought if it were balanced with some sharing with the destitute.

Next weekend we get the opportunity to help such people through the Mission Sunday collection.

The contributions we make to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith are used in many ways. For example, last year, nearly \$21 million was distributed to meet such needs as catechists' training and salaries, construction of mission stations, mission schools, social works and lay apostolate, renewal projects in Latin America, disaster relief, aid to hospitals, clinics and leprosy centers.

Are such funds needed? We all know they are. For quick and direct verification readers should scan the letters from missionaries in the centerfold of this newspaper.

This area has produced many workers active in God's fields far from home. Their names are listed elsewhere in this edition. We suggest that readers look over their names and perhaps say a silent prayer for these worthy men and women. They need our spiritual support as well as material help.

And, of course, the work of the missions is concerned with more than filling empty bellies and clothing sore bodies. The work of evangelization, telling the Good News, is the greatest and holiest work of the Church. Bringing the news of a loving God to people pressed beneath the burden of want and ignorance is truly an unequalled goal.

The thousands of missionaries as well as native priests and sisters, as well as an ever more responsible laity, are not asking for something extra that "could be used." They are begging for urgently needed assistance.

This week as we go about acquiring that diet soda, or beer, or chips and pretzels to add zest to watching telecasts of the Series, or of the National Football League, let us remember the work of those who have volunteered to serve far from Yankee Stadium or Soldiers Field. It will make us all feel a bit more comfortable.

Bing Crosby

We would like to avoid chauvinism as well as Harry Lillis Crosby did in his 73 years, but we feel it is necessary to point out that seldom has a Catholic American so well represented himself and his faith for so long.

He had the old-fashioned attributes that weather turmoil and tads. He was kind, loving, warm, humorous and patriotic. He was highly successful financially, too, but he never let that rob him of the common touch.

He left a huge legacy to the world of music but even this is exceeded by the love he shared with us all. Thank you, Bing Crosby, and keep humming on those heavenly fairways.

Opinion

Gospels And Justice

Editor:

Thank you for your article on education for justice. It was far superior to the article in the D&C which made the whole project sound almost Marxist. However, the C-J article was disturbing in its omissions and vagueness. Regardless of the D&C, it had been our informed opinion that this educational endeavor was to be based firmly on the great social documents of the Catholic Church — but not a single mention of *Rerum Novarum*, the doctrines of the modernists, social construction, atheistic communism, The Function of the State in the Modern World, Christianity and Social Progress, Peace on Earth, the Development of Peoples or any of the great social documents was made by Brother van Merrienboer from the NCEA.

We hope local Catholic schools will base social justice education on these immensely knowledgeable and inclusive documents. We hope they will not teach from what Father Andrew Greeley rather peevishly (although accurately) calls the "embarrassing" new Catechetical Directory which also fails to mention the subsidiarity and pluralism stressed in Catholic teaching. As Pope John wrote in 1959: "We must expend great industry, skill and ingenuity in assimilating doctrines which will affect not (only) earthly and mortal life, but the life in Heaven which has no end. Then alone, when we have reached the truth which has its source in the Gospel, and which must be introduced into life's activities, will our minds find rest in peace and joy." Pope John did not refer to it as a "social" Gospel.

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Favorite Things

Editor:

As a reader of the Courier-Journal, I wish to comment on the following columns:

Life, Liberty and Law, by Nancy Murphy — most

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serious and well researched; excellent.

Word for Sunday, by Father Albert Shamon — informative, exhilarating.

On the Right Side, by Father Paul J. Cuddy — interesting, down to earth; Old Faith.

This is as I see it, thank you. God Bless!

Mrs. John K. Callahan
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Panama Issue Not Religious

Editor:

With respect to considerations involved with the Panama Canal Treaty, in general, and Father Survil's letter in the Courier Sept. 28, in particular, I continue to have difficulty finding very much of a moral nature associated with the question.

I see that Father Survil does refer to signs of economic activity that would benefit Panamanians. Neither he nor I nor anyone else knows whether acquisition of the canal by Panama will aid the average or poor Panamanian economically. Anyone addressing possible effects of any type to be brought about by Panamanian ownership has to end up with a great big question mark.

Other than this, Father Survil addresses only political questions. Truly, those are the only questions involved. Most Catholics wish to decide political questions on a political basis, not a religious one. Father Survil's letter and the resolution adopted by the American bishops are simply examples of attempts on the part of the Church structure to use its definite and obvious spiritual influence on me to form my political opinions. I don't care for it at all.

It is quite possible for a Catholic to come to the conclusion that the canal should belong to Panama, because it is Panamanian, without the assistance of the Church. I need the Church for another purpose entirely.

John B. Evans
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Paper Hats At Mass?

Editor:

Recently I heard it said that the old Latin Mass was a "show." I cannot disagree more. The priest had his back to us leading us in prayer most of the time. There also was adequate time for meditation.

Today the emphasis is on "celebration." I love the Mass and try to attend daily but my joy in it is deep and quiet. I don't feel like putting on a paper hat and blowing a horn and dancing around, which seems to be the feeling of many of today's liturgies, especially the folk Masses. In most cases the music is excessively loud, off-key,



Help light their world with Christ on Mission Sunday, October 23rd.

distracting and boisterous. The Mass is infinitely holy. That is God there on the altar. G-O-D!

What is missing, among other things, in the liturgy of today is awe. Today we are told, God is our brother. Our "pal." Forgotten is our "God of power and might."

Also forgotten is the awesome sacrifice made by our "pal" on Calvary. Such a love beggars the cheap emotionalism that passes as joy today.

Mrs. Arlene O'Connor
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Short Sermon

Editor:

This letter serves a twofold purpose. One, a short-short homily for Father Albrecht's consideration. It was written by me, many years ago, when I was a senior in high school.

I do not suggest that my idea does indeed "condense and crystallize the Christian gospel into one word or phrase" to quote Father Albrecht but I believe that short verse is as relevant today as it was when it was written back in 1939.

Life is a race...
We are the runners,
Days are the laps,
God is the Judge,
Eternity, the prize.

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Editor's Note: Father Albrecht plans on delivering the world's shortest sermon on Thanksgiving and is looking for suggestions.

New Practices 'Disobedient'

Editor:

For many, seeing the exercise of the option to receive Holy Communion in the hand will recall the milieu and process of spiritual decay which preceded the legitimization of the option. If conspicuous rejections of the Magisterium were no longer imposed upon us by some priests and religious, and if confusion, errors and rationalizations of Church Teachings were not prevalent, then there would be no material basis for considering the practice of the option as a means to further advance the on-going process of spiritual decay within the Church.

The refusal of nuns and brothers to wear religious

garb as a visible sign of their consecrated lives, and the refusal of pastors to prepare children to receive First Penance prior to First Holy Communion, are scandalous disobediences; based on the existence of the Church Magisterium. How can such sins be rationalized with Our Lord's teaching that His Holy Spirit of Truth abides only where there is obedience to Him whom Catholics recognize as the invisible head of the Magisterium of His Church?

"Insights in Liturgy" (C-J 9-21-77) obliquely leads to the view that "a piece of bread and a cup" become holy through the dispositions and actions of a community at prayer. This view appears intended since the Eucharist is later related to Christian life rather than Catholic life. Catholic life alone believes in the Real Presence through Transubstantiation. Consequently, the holiness of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass exists even when the priest is in the state of mortal sin, and when there is no community participation at all.

The reader is reminded that his holiness arises from his baptismal "consecration" with no mention of the recent Church Teachings which emphasize the need for receiving the Sacrament of Penance frequently. When we do not recognize frequent need of this Sacrament we are blind to our many sins and our need for continual dependence upon our Savior.

While the teaching "Out of our understanding of Christ flows our devotion and piety" may be inverted unintentionally, it is rationalizing scandalous disobediences in the guise of enlightened knowledge of Christ. The Church Teachings on the obedience of Faith and reasoning are contained in the documents of the Vatican I and II Ecumenical Councils. Our Blessed Mother is the Model of Faith: "...first believing without reasoning, next from love and reverence, reasoning after believing. And thus she symbolizes not only the faith of the unlearned, but of the doctors of the Church also..." (Cardinal Newman, 2-2-1843).

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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.