



"THE WORLD ISN'T AS IRRIGIOUS AS IT SEEMS! TWO GROCERS JUST ASKED ME TO BE THEIR CHAPLAIN IN A PRICE WAR!"

Editorial

Pro-Life

Perhaps the most rankling position in the whole abortion discussion is the one that claims that Catholics control the pro-life movement and are trying to impose their convictions or morality on everyone else.

This false argument ranks in nonsense with the politician who declares, "I am personally opposed to abortion, but..." To rebut these stands we would like to quote a Protestant, Lola Kindley, writing in the Oct. 16 National Catholic Register. She is writing in reaction to a previous article by Father John Sheerin and she says, "One may infer from the development of Father's Sheerin argument that opposition to abortion is an idiosyncrasy to Catholics, an odd turn of mind which they may be permitted, but which they must not impose on non-Catholics."

"On the most superficial level, Father Sheerin is mistaken about the nature of opposition to abortion when he restricted it to Catholics. It is stunning to meet this hoary, discredited charge from such a quarter. Abortion, dealing as it does with the definition of humanity and human worth, touches the lives of all men. If I were not to stand against abortion, if I were not moved to defend these defenseless human beings, my own humanity would be diminished."

Mrs. Kindley goes on to explain why all must be pro-life, using the fact that it is derived from God as argument.

The point here is that she neatly shows that opposition to abortion is not a Catholic exclusivity while at the same time exhorting others to stand behind their convictions.

Bingo News

How hypocritical can a law be? As is generally known, this newspaper cannot print any news about Bingo (our advice is that you read that word in hushed tones as on that television commercial about toilet tissue).

Although there is nothing illegal about Bingo (remember, now, hushed, softly) a federal law prohibits even remote publicizing of it and since this newspaper uses the mails we must, of course obey the law.

But, dear friends, just last week in an envelope with the letterhead New York State Racing & Wagering Board, Division of the Lottery, General Donovan State Office Building, 125 Main Street, Buffalo, New York 14203 (the words Racing & Wagering Board were crossed out by hand) we received through the U.S. mails news of Bingo.

Names of the State Lottery Bingo winning ticket holders were listed as well as other pertinent information.

Strange, indeed, that the State of New York may use the mails to publicize its Bingo games while the Courier-Journal cannot do likewise for Bingo, not sponsored by this newspaper but by others, mainly parishes.

Opinion

Book Like Fresh Air

Editor:

Today's Courier gives some space to the talk by Father Paul Shanley concerning homosexuality. As noted, the priest who had been slated to talk, Father John McNeill, SJ, had been silenced by the Holy See.

I just returned from a talk with the author of a new paperback that came out two months ago, "Sexuality Summary." Father William Allen, JCD, is the author. Father Allen taught Moral Theology at St. Bernard's Seminary for five years and is a well-known author of articles to "Pastoral Life." He serves on the matrimonial tribunal of the archdiocese of Miami. His paperback is divided into four big headings: Homosexuality, Abortion, Contraception, and Premarital Sex. It is very timely, and is a compendium of modern thought on these subjects. It also clearly states the reasons behind the position of the Church. Recent relevant documents are quoted continuing the story of the Church to always hate the sin, but love the sinner.

Today, many are bewildered by the opinions proposed in these fields. This paperback is like a breath of fresh air in this sometimes polluted atmosphere. For high school students, and others exposed to the prevalent surge of free sex, this book will be very helpful. It can be obtained from Alba Books, Canfield, Ohio 44406 for \$1.75.

Father Donald Murphy
295 Chestnut Ridge Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Letter Misses Point

Editor:

In the Oct. 12 issue, the letter to the editor by Bernard Florack seemed to overemphasize the importance of one part of the Mass. He indicates that it is the homily that the people need.

There are two main parts of the Mass - the liturgy of the Word and the liturgy of the Eucharist. The homily is an important part of the liturgy of the Word. Often the theme of the Mass, taken from the two readings, is elaborated in the homily. The homily helps us apply the lessons of

Scripture to our everyday life. The liturgy of the Word is a time of learning - we hear the Word of God and relate it to our lives - hopefully we let God into our life. Now we are ready for the second part of the Mass, the liturgy of the Eucharist. Through the reception of the Eucharist (Body of Christ) we share in the divine life of God - we receive the grace to carry out the message we heard in the first part of the Mass.

My point is that the reception of the Eucharist is necessary if the homily is to bear fruit. With the help of grace that we receive from the sacrament we are better able to fulfill the word of God we read in Scripture and that is spoken about in the homily. Without God's grace we cannot follow in Christ's footsteps.

I also disagree with Mr. Florack regarding daily Mass. It should not be curtailed - perhaps moved to a more economical location if feasible. For the same reason stated above - the Eucharist is important as a source of grace to live your life according to God's will. Therefore, the reception of the Eucharist should be encouraged in every way possible and not curtailed or the heat loss in the church considered a waste of resources. The price is worth it - the more people who seek God's grace will result in more people living as Jesus showed us how to live.

Carol Green
20 Cape Cod Way
Rochester, N.Y. 14623

Don't Curtail Daily Mass

Editor:

I disagree with the opinion of Bernard Florack stating that daily Mass should be curtailed. The Mass could be celebrated in other parish buildings or nearby homes during the cold season for economy but never eliminated.

Although one does not need to go into a "brick building" to talk to God, there is a closer union with Him available to all who take advantage of His invitation and partake daily in the Eucharist.

I have heard and read criticism of the Mass in a variety of interesting explanations: "too much music," "not enough singing," "no Latin," "too folksy," "not charismatic enough," "lacking spirit," etc. The complainants never cease to come up with another reason for dissatisfaction. Not all the new liturgy masterminded by experts nor all the theology raked over by the genius of men will bring us into a closer relationship with God. Every Mass is an unchanging miracle passed down through the centuries and living today. It is Jesus coming to us in a personal way bringing about a new birth for us. Unless we recognize Jesus in the breaking of the Bread and begin to truly love Him, all of these superficial complaints will continue.

Psalm 27 has become rooted in my heart: "The one thing I want from God, the thing I seek most of all is the privilege of meditating in His temple, living in His presence every day of my life, delighting in His incomparable perfections and glory." Happy indeed are those who are called to His supper.

Barbara A. Fischer
77 Harwick Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Anita Bryant Address

Editor:

If any valiant readers would care to send a note of encouragement to Anita Bryant in promoting her worthy cause, her address is: Anita Bryant, Save Our Children, Inc., Box 402745, Miami, Fla., 33140.

Also a note of gratitude is due her sponsor, Florida Citrus Commission, care of Art Darling, Lakeland, Fla., 33802.

Mrs. Edna Faulkner
480 Lyell Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Corpus Christi Thank You

Editor:

Corpus Christi School would like to thank the Courier-Journal for all the publicity you gave us during the play "Good News." We would also like to thank everyone who supported us in this project.

The young people of St. St. Monica's and St. Augustine's through their generous efforts helped raise \$800 for Corpus Christi School.

Again, thank you each person involved.

Kathy Smith
Corpus Christi School
880 E. Main St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14605

Many Things Befitting

Editor:

It seems to me after reading the lengthy dissertation by the gentleman on "Just What Befits God," that his main objection is to the folk Mass.

I have just returned from a most enlightening seminar at St. Thomas More on "The Church and the Sacraments" and it might be of some benefit for me to express my basic impression of the keynote address.

What "befits God" indeed, is the celebration of events which have already taken place, namely, the last supper and Christ's death and resurrection for the salvation of souls and the reconciliation of those souls through Him to the Father. Whatever technique of celebration by the Catholic community that has the approval of the bishops, etc. is a legitimate one and therefore nothing dedicated to completing the celebration of the above mentioned events could ever be classified as offering God, the "bottom of the bucket."

Personally, I also prefer the non-folk technique, however, I do not deny the right of those preferring to express their reverence and appreciation for those events to be a less or a more sincere method.

Perhaps it is the selection of the music, its volume or the general confusion that may exist at your particular Mass which causes you to be distracted. I have noticed different parishes handling this type of Mass to vary. If you feel comfortable in doing so, perhaps you could mention to the group's leader about their performance. If they do tone it down just a bit you may find it a most rewarding experience and may choose to use it only on occasion.

Judith Koszalka
2137-K East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

School Bill Needs Help

Editor:

Watch the New York State Teachers Union in the ensuing months as they open up their campaign guns on Sen. Daniel Moynihan for his advocating tuition tax credits. There is nothing they want which would help independent schools. They want the whole share of the tax education pie, believe me, and nothing else.

Oh yes, the independent schools are admired and they should exist. Why not? They lessen the taxes for public school devotees.

Competition is feared. I don't know why since they maintain that the public schools unify society and have such beneficial leveling effect. Could it be that they know that some parents have other priorities when given a free choice, that is, one really within their pocketbook capabilities.

Many parents like the public schools. Why then such panic on the part of public school teachers when mention is made of some relief for parents of independent school children, some share of the tax education pie.

This is the time to act. Write you congressmen supporting the Delaney bill for tuition relief, i.e., the House bill, or the other bill already mentioned - the Senate bill. Whichever gets more support will be the one that ultimately gets passed, if you, the parents, show your concern by writing. President Carter has promised in his campaign to find "constitutionally acceptable methods of providing aid to parents whose children attend nonpublic schools." Write to him, too.

The legislation is constitutional. It simply amends the income tax law to permit a deduction or credit for tuition payments, like charitable and religious contributions.

If you are one of those Catholics who believe that only the Church and the home are sufficient for the training of your children in their faith and in moral principles, don't make any move. But if you believe that the school can do anything you teach at home of what is taught in the little time devoted to Sunday school (CCD) and if you believe that the school must reinforce what is taught at home and in church, then fight for the Tuition Tax Credit Act.

Some will tell you that if you want a private road you pay for it. Schools involve values and since education is the prime responsibility of the parents, it is their right and obligation to see that their children are educated as they think best. Don't let a lobby of public school teachers that have always opposed fairness to parents of children in independent schools, decide the issue.

Father Thomas M. Miller, CSB
Aquinas Institute
Rochester, N.Y. 14613

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.

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Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
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Anthony J. Costello
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