



"AND ANOTHER THING—RING-AROUND-THE-COLLAR, HERE DRIVES ME CRAZY!"

Opinion

Great Joy Over Story

Editor:

It was with great joy that we read your recent article on the St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, the Rochester Catholic Worker Community. We have attended many fine forums there in the past months, and have been excited seeing this integrated ministry of charity and social action.

When the first Rochester Catholic Worker newsletter arrived on our desk this past spring, we lauded the idea of a Good Friday "Witness for Peace" and joined with brothers and sisters there in that worship and vigil. Since that time we have been privileged to work with Deacon Dan O'Shea on programs concerning human rights in Argentina, the teaching of literacy to enable the poor to take control over their lives, reconciliation with justice in Ireland and nuclear disarmament. All the while we together have worked on ways of bringing justice issues far and near into a forum where we can dialogue with other Christians and non-Christians.

It seems exciting to see a deacon working right here amidst the poor of mind, body and soul as the early deacons were ordained to do. And, to you at the Courier-Journal we say thank you for bringing social justice issues to your readership along with the on-going daily needs of the poor. For only as we work for a better system at the same time as we try to solve those immediate needs are we going to build a better society for all.

Alison Clarke,
Jim Renfrew,
co-coordinators,
Rochester Peace and
Justice Education Center
713 Monroe Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

We Ignore Christ's Words

Editor:

Many letters to Opinion continue to overemphasize a lot of things that Jesus never heard of — communion on the tongue, and the Latin Mass among them. Be that as it may, let's be about the things Jesus DID teach, rather than the pursuit of new issues. A case in point is the contradictory

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note which permeates the much heralded Christian revival.

Is the exuberant wealth in our nation the gift of a loving father to his chosen people; or is it the windfall of inflation — the larcenous instrument of our independent money system? God the Father has provided bountifully for all, established fast rules for equitable distribution, yet Christ's very own are starving daily by the millions while affluent America, basking in preposterous luxury, wastes enough to feed them.

On occasion, God has indeed bestowed temporal blessings, but to our present society, the words of Jesus are more apt to apply: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

Be assured this writer has no yen for dictatorship of any sort but cannot help wondering if Russia's fanatic opposition to the West might not have a logical explanation.

Edward A. Veith
2952 Atlantic Ave.
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

Religious Education

Editor:

My thanks to Mr. Daniel McNamara and the staff at the Office of Religious Education, and Sister Barbara and the staff at St. Helen's. They coordinated a fantastic Teacher Training for the Southwest region. Each speaker did a quality presentation in his own field. There was much to absorb with a real desire for more.

Karen DeLorme
153 Holley St.
Brockport, N.Y. 14420

Coverage Praised

Editor:

We were very pleased with the Oct. 2 issue of the Courier. It always is splendid.

We want to call attention to your wonderful coverage of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

Thank you and God bless you.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Herrmann
33 Shorewood Drive.
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Pro-Life Misnomer

Editor:

Re your pro-life editorial of Oct. 26.

First, pro-life is a fraudulent name since many and probably a majority of its members support capital punishment just as they supported the Vietnam War. Secondly, it is intended to carry the false implication that those who oppose their pet constitutional amendment are anti-life.

Over the past 50 years, uncounted thousands of people have lost their life as the result of alcoholism and drunk drivers. Prohibitionists want to stop this loss of life by re-enacting a constitutional amendment to outlaw the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Would you call it un-

charitable, unfair and inaccurate if they were to call themselves pro-life and by implication characterize those who opposed such a constitutional amendment as anti-life?

Would you call it nonsense if a politician were to say, "I am personally opposed to the loss of life due to drunken driving and alcoholism but ... I am opposed to the attempt to stop it by means of a constitutional amendment outlawing the sale of alcoholic beverages?"

We tried outlawing the sale of alcoholic beverages and we discovered that it was unenforceable. During all the years that abortion was illegal, that law was even less enforceable than the Volstead Act. At least some bootleggers were arrested.

Abortionists plied their trade in all cities, including Rochester, yet the Courier-Journal was silent like the rest of the Catholic Press.

The Catholic press was too busy at that time campaigning against a proposed constitutional amendment that would merely permit Congress, if it so desired, to enact a law outlawing child labor.

The Catholic press was also busy campaigning against Federal aid to education on the grounds that if a school accepted aid from the government, that same government would have the power to tell it what it could and could not teach. Of course, it is singing a different tune now that it is trying to get all the money it can from the government to finance parochial schools.

During the 1976 election campaign, the self-styled Pro-Lifers waged an intimidating, one-issue campaign against all candidates who were not in favor of their proposed constitutional amendment. The voters repudiated their intimidating tactics.

Isn't it about time the Courier-Journal admonished them? The Catholic Sun did.

Walter O'Hagan
7 Sherman St.
Auburn, N.Y. 13021

Keep Mass In Church

Editor:

Bernard H. Florack, in his letter of Oct. 12, made the outrageous proposal of curtailing daily Mass in order to save on fuel.

At Immaculate Conception Church here in Ithaca fuel is saved during the winter by having daily Mass in the school basement.

Nevertheless, I believe our Lord would receive greater honor by keeping daily Mass at the church.

Even during depression times daily Mass was held in the church and no one seemed to complain about heating costs.

I think the fact of the matter is that Mr. Florack and other Catholics consider daily Mass a waste of time. A gathering place where little old ladies and feeble old men mumble incoherently and beat their breasts.

Yet Mass remains the one place where we can be most pleasing to Him (Our Lord) and have the great privilege of receiving Holy Communion.

Perhaps Mr. Florack derives more comfort from a well-spoken homily but

A Need For Used Stamps

Reader Joshua G. Stokes Jr. of Eastman Kodak Co. has learned through family friends in Kimberley, South Africa, that used postage stamps, from all countries, are useful to the missionary work there.

They ask that envelopes be sent by regular mail since duties are required on mailed parcels. The stamps should be sent to Bishop E. Hecht, OMI, Bishop House, PO Box 309, Kimberley 8300, Republic of South Africa.

And, of course, prayers for the work of missionaries in such areas are always helpful.

comfort is incidental to our spiritual welfare.

Therefore the Mass should receive the highest priority in our spiritual lives. If the relatively few people attending daily Mass were to dramatically increase, I'm sure our social and economic problems would be solved.

Robert Bart
PO Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Missing the Boat

Editor:

I think Arlene O'Connor is missing the boat completely in the Courier-Journal issue of October 19. I can't disagree with her more.

Six months ago I started reading the Bible and attending Charismatic prayer groups. Jesus Christ is more alive to me now than ever. Why shouldn't we celebrate and shout praises to the Lord. Let the world know about Him. We have been silent too long.

Sure we need time for meditation but it doesn't necessarily have to be done only at Mass time. I talk to the Lord while driving along in my car or when I take my noon hour walk.

Too many of us are just Mass time Christians. Actually, we have 24 hours a day to spend with Him and talk with Him in between our daily tasks. God's church is more alive today than it ever was.

And you better believe that Jesus is my brother and my pal and by far the most powerful and mighty force in my life. I look to Him for my every need, PRAISE THE LORD. He is the power and might in my life every minute of the day and I thank Him daily for His awesome sacrifice on Calvary.

Incidentally, I recently turned 50 years of age so I am acquainted with the old and the new.

Bill Rottkamp
9 Buttermilk Hill Rd.
Pittsford, N.Y. 14534

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.

Editorial

Short Shorts

Father John H. Albrecht, the rector of St. Mary's Church in Lake Orion, Mich., has been delightfully surprised by the response to his plan to preach the world's shortest sermon on Nov. 20, the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The Episcopal rector has asked for suggestions and so far has received advice from as far away as Amsterdam, Holland. Many of the suggestions have been one-word homilies, such as "Love" and "Joy." Father Albrecht, however, will not necessarily limit himself to one word. He may opt for something a bit longer.

He has promised to report his final choice to the Courier-Journal for the edification of our readers. In the meanwhile, we will be glad to pass on any suggestions our readers may have for him.

Thanks

PBS on Move

A new audience survey by the A.C. Nielsen Co. should give responsible television executives, both on the network level and on local affiliates, plenty to consider.

The survey shows that three of every five American homes owning television sets are now tuned in regularly to public television — a record high.

The survey taken during March of 1977 showed that some 27.5 million households or 38.7 per cent of the U.S. total, watched public television an average of 2 hours and 55 minutes each during the week.

And even more significant is the finding that public television viewers parallel the population in general as regards race, level of education, occupation, and income of heads of household. This is "encouraging," said PBS President Lawrence K. Grossman, because it shows that audience interest in PBS "is highly representative of all economic, racial, occupational and educational groups in the total population."

Still commercial television executives hang on to their defense of violence and sex as the only salable commodities. We hope advertisers take note. It not only may be time for a change, the change may already be taking place right before the unseeing eyes of too many of those responsible for television programming.