

**Editorials**

**Let's Forget New Collection**

We were pleased to see that a proposal for an annual national collection to finance use of communications media for evangelization failed to get the necessary two-thirds majority from the U.S. bishops at their meeting last week.

Our happiness, however, is diluted by the fact that 91 of the 140 bishops who voted on the proposal were in favor. Furthermore, Bishop Joseph Crowley of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S.C.C. Communications Committee, told Religious News Service that the proposal will be introduced again in a "year or two."

The proposal which has been revised since it was first announced about a year ago would provide that the funds collected in each diocese would be equally divided between the diocese and the U.S.C.C. Communications Department with each local bishop deciding how to use the funds retained by his diocese.

When this plan was first revealed, we editorialized against it. What the Church, the man in the pew, the pastor struggling to make ends meet, least needs now is another national collection.

Since a great deal of the national funds would be earmarked for radio-television with just a small portion for the diocesan press we might be accused of crying sour grapes. Untrue.

We stated last year that this newspaper would be averse to accepting any such funds. We reiterate that.

Furthermore we call on the U.S.C.C. Communications Committee to drop the idea in the name of grass roots contributors across the land. Communications is a multi-faceted concept and the very idea of such a collection tells beleaguered parish leaders as well as the people in the pews that consideration of their problems is lacking on the Washington level.

**Let's Get Together**

Some random observations about the two women's meetings in Houston last week.

The very fact that there had to be two get-togethers harms the women's movement, especially for future progress. It seems that now the sides have been drawn and we all will have to face the prospect of division for years to come.

We think both pro-lifers and adherents of the Equal Rights Amendment make a tactical mistake when they take on every issue facing women. We think the pro-life cause is hurt when its supporters spread themselves thin by fighting ERA. Likewise, the ERA cause is hurt when its backers fight for federal funding of abortions, homosexual (in this case lesbian) rights and other items which may turn off many would-be ERA supporters.

We wonder how many pro-lifers would like to back ERA and how many who favor ERA oppose abortion on demand. With the present dichotomy we will never know.

We understand the emotionalism involved. Women have been second-class citizens in many phases of our society. Abortion indeed is a heinous act. It is difficult to be calm and rational in the face of either. But if progress is to be made then zealotry must give way to reasoning.

Let's keep the issues separate instead of rolling them all up into one amorphous mass.

We wonder how many took note of the irony that while our feminine leaders were meeting at separate tables in Houston, the heads of two of the most natural enemies the world has known had finally gotten together and admitted the folly of their ways.

If Anwar el-Sadat and Menahem Begin can sit down together in the interest of peace and progress then is it possible for Bella Abzug and Phyllis Schlafly to do the same?

**Opinion**

**Dispute Leaves Sour Taste**

Editor:

The latest little squabble between the two reverend gentlemen, Cuddy and O'Malley, leaves a sour taste in my mouth.

An incident that may have shed a bit of light on a very difficult subject, the theological education of young people, has turned into an exercise of ego bolstering platitudes so much that I even wonder if Rev Cuddy ever met the two young men who triggered the exchange between the priests. It seems to me that these two "typical young men" are the traditional straw adversaries found in dusty theological tomes who are doomed to be refuted, confounded and once and for all put in their proper place.

The response of Rev. O'Malley smacks of shocked theatrics.

What I found most curious in this battle of the titans was the lack of reference to the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of personal example that is necessary for the education of the young.

I fear that Jesus is being presented in such a way that the mysterious elements of his life and work are missing and Jesus comes out too familiar and "mea culpa" but familiarity breeds contempt.

Come, Reverends, get down to a real theological discussion. Hopefully you are on the same team so work together and forget the little self-pats on the back.

Up to now your exchange calls to mind the words of the Roman Horace -- "Parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus" -- if your Latin is a bit rusty -- "The mountains are in labor, and a silly mouse pops out."

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**Good Things About Church**

Editor:

There are many bad things going on in the Church today, such as the opposition of some theologians to the authority of the Holy Father, the condoning by certain priests

of sexual aberrations that are clearly immoral; the abandonment by Catholic colleges of teaching the truths of the Faith, and the secularization of such colleges; and the general destructive attitudes of relativism and subjectivism that have supplanted the constant and explicit doctrines of the Church in many areas of faith and morals.

However, I would like to list here some of the positive events or trends of the present and recent past that I personally think are of great importance in showing the dynamism and vitality of the Church.

- The tremendous achievement of the Second Vatican Council in clarifying and re-presenting so many of the Church's teachings for the present day. This was certainly the greatest event of the century.

- The really outstanding encyclicals and other documents of Popes John XXIII and Paul VI, covering almost every area of faith, social concern, and morality. These documents comprise a storehouse of great wisdom, with which we should all become familiar.

- The remarkable growth of the Church in Africa. There are now more than 300 African bishops, and the following percentages of Roman Catholics may surprise many readers: Equatorial Guinea, 76 per cent; Burundi, 61 per cent; Gabon, 52 per cent; Angola, 44 Per cent; Lesotho, 42.6 per cent; Zaire, 41.3 per cent, and Rwanda, 40.9 per cent. There are, by comparison, only three states in the United States that have more than 40 per cent of the population as Roman Catholic: Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. It seems to me that the next great flowering of the Church will come from Africa, and I would not be surprised if, a few generations from now, African missionaries by the hundreds will be evangelizing the rest of the world.

- The overall concern of the Church for basic human rights and social justice. The great impetus here has been the conciliar documents and Pope Paul's Populorum Progressio. This concern has been most notable in Latin America, where Catholic bishops have become the most dynamic forces for social change, protection of the poor, and challenge to oppressive powers.

- An important sign of the times is the number of recent beatifications and canonizations, among the latter being Saints John Ogilvie, Elizabeth Seton and John Neumann. Also the only two women among the 32 Doctors of the Church were added to the list of Doctors by Pope Paul in 1970. They are St Catherine of Siena and St Teresa of Avila.

- On moral issues it is reassuring to see the solid, implacable opposition of Catholic bishops all over the world to the evils of abortion, euthanasia, sterilization and contraception. There is no relativism here.

- The growing mutual understanding between Catholics and Anglicans is notable. One item of interest in this regard is the installation of a memorial to the great Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. At the ceremony in 1975, the



"SHE WANTS YOU TO BLESS HER MOPED!"

memorial was unveiled by the Duke of Norfolk and several of Hopkins' poems were read by Sir John Gielgud.

- The opening of several small, solidly orthodox Catholic colleges in the United States which provide an escape from scepticism and relativism. These colleges reflect the teachings of the magisterium and have a firm respect for the authority of the Pope. Their curricula are structured on the basis of Thomistic philosophy and on dogmatic and moral theology. (I know of four such colleges, and will send names and addresses on request.)

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**Response To CCD**

Editor:

There has been some discussion on the effectiveness of some CCD teachers in the Courier-Journal of late.

I went to CCD classes to be a teacher some years back. Among other things, people in my class, who were being prepared to teach young minds their religion, cheated on their exams. There was suggestive talk in our car on the way home. One teen-age girl who was teaching a First Communion class told us that she didn't know how she was going to teach about Confession, because she didn't believe in it.

Another lady who believed in spiritualism was teaching also for a while. Fortunately she quit. Needless to say, when my son changed from a Catholic school to public school (with the blessing of my spiritual advisor) I didn't want him to go to CCD classes. I figured I could do a much better job on my own without people in Catholic schools and CCD teachers to undermine my instruction.

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**Battle Is Ludicrous**

Editor:

It seems ludicrous that the O'Malley-Cuddy battle of the pens continued for more than one publication.

The continuing saga is sagging. If Father Cuddy

spent less time in airports and Burger King recording the word of any and all as ex cathedra, this whole controversy would have been averted.

This concern for religious education is understandable, but it seems to serve no useful purpose to indict the Jesuits or McQuaid on the basis of a fleeting conversation of one or two young men.

I could recount instance after instance of Christianity, Catholicism and Caring that is the hallmark of the people (lay and clergy) at McQuaid.

Father Cuddy, please investigate further and reconsider your hasty judgement.

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**In Defense Of Pope Paul**

Editor:

In response to your ill-chosen article from the Commonweal, "Pope Paul Should Resign, Commonweal Says," (Courier-Journal 11-9-77), may I add my complete disapproval of this highly controversial publication in its demand for Pope Paul's resignation.

Age is not a detriment to His Holiness, it is an asset! Truly this highly inspired Pope proved his capability prior to the papacy, preparing him for this exalted position of Christ's Vicar on earth.

In these turbulent apocalyptic days as endless "wolves in sheep's clothing" are surfacing, we need his wisdom and experience moreso!

May his reign continue until God calls him home for his eternal reward -- this "most suffering Pope" of all times!

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