

Editorials

We Love Downtown!

This newspaper is happy and eager to support the "I Love Downtown" promotion being planned by the Downtown Promotion Council for St. Valentine's Day, Feb. 14.

Without a trace of embarrassment or doubt we declare:

The Courier-Journal loves downtown.

And this is only natural because we are a downtown business. True; we are not merchants in the strict sense of the word. But this newspaper is as much a business operation as any. And our offices are in the heart of downtown — by choice.

We do serve a diocese which covers 12 counties and which includes other urban centers, such as Elmira and Auburn. We hope our readers in those areas will bear with us on this for in an important way what we have to say specifically about downtown Rochester can be applied to all urban downtowns

We think that a healthy, vibrant and attractive downtown is the key and heart of any community. Indeed the very meaning of community depends on such an area to bind its scattered parts together.

We must make it clear — we are not playing pollyanna. Downtown Rochester is not a perfect place. Much needs to be done in the way of creative thinking and planning to make it a mecca for area shoppers. Yes, there are problems of safety, of parking, of cleanliness. But it seems to us that of late more and more attention is being paid to these sore spots. That's what makes it doubly disappointing that a leading merchant should strike at the heart of the community just when the promotion council, the city leaders and others have been establishing momentum toward making downtown everything it should and must be.

We do not buy the line that quality businesses cannot make it downtown. There are too many established businesses who believe the opposite. Led by the traditional department stores — Sibley's and McCurdy's, the many quality businesses, and that includes jewelers, have hitched their wagons to the star of downtown.

And, of course, we do not mean to detract one whit from the businesses in the suburbs or in shopping plazas. They, too, are needed and part of community. But downtown, as we said, is the heart. If we let it go now it will be only a matter of time before an expensive transplant, figuratively speaking, will be required as replacement. We have the foundation to build on and it seems that the job has started.

Of course, more than establishing an optimum atmosphere for merchants should be done. Enticements should be made to lure residents downtown — folks of all incomes. It has been shown in other cities — Toronto, for one, — that when people live downtown it tends to become a safer, cleaner and more inviting place.

We like some of the things already done. Attractive bank buildings, Manhattan Square Park (although perhaps more consideration of existing housing should precede such renewal projects), the mounted police patrols, cleanup ordinances are some examples.

These are relatively fresh ventures and as we said it seems sad that just when things may be perking, aspersions should be made concerning the color of the pot.

To sum up: Downtown is not perfect. But hopefully it is on the road to a brighter future. This 92-year-old business, a longtime downtowner, doesn't mind saying it again:

The Courier-Journal loves downtown.

We ask all the other fine and varied downtown businesses to step forward and make clear their fidelity

Opinion

Correcting Father Fenton

Editor:

More than 400 persons listened to Father Francis Fenton and responded to his lecture with an enthusiastic, standing applause. Father Fenton's zeal in attacking internal and external subversion of the Church is commendable. Comment on only objectionable positions of the Father Fenton talk, and brief rejections, are necessitated by space limitations.

Major objectionable contentions of the lecture are: Pope Paul is a valid Pope, generally to be obeyed but his record is atrocious; "Vatican II Council, so obviously liberal and soft on Communism;" since the Council of Trent teaches "Tradition is the guardian of Catholic Truth" and the "traditional" words of consecration "... for you and for many" have been abandoned for the words "... for you and for all men," we now have a "sacrilegious," "false form of worship called the Novus Ordo;" Faith is a greater virtue than obedience

• Rather, the "inactivity of bishops" is atrocious. In failing to extend Pope Paul's leadership in Catholic teachings and frequent exhortations (attributed to the cowardice of some bishops and the loss of faith of others) the bishops have rejected and victimized the Holy Father as an unwanted child. We and the bishops need prayer

• The documents of Vatican Council II are a voluminous profession of Catholic faith, and thereby a clear rejection of Communism and other beliefs. "Religious freedom" is an appealing form of direct attack against Communism.

• Our Lord speaks frequently on eternal damnation, so what does he mean by "I ... will draw all men to myself," and "God desires all men to be saved"? Infallible interpretation of Holy Scripture and of the Council of Trent teachings is guaranteed by the Holy Spirit of Truth only to the authoritative Teaching Church. We can be certain that Our Lord wills the Church to offer itself as victim with him daily in the Novus Ordo of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and to use the words "... for you

and for all men." Participation in unauthorized Tridentine Mass or sacrilegious renditions of the Novus Ordo Mass are sinful and to be avoided.

• Authentic Catholic faith demands not only obedience, but humility and childlike confidence in Our Lord who visibly manifests His Mystical Body in the Church and in His visible head, Pope Paul, VI

Joseph J. Murray
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Homosexuality Sanctioned

Editor:

Tuesday, Nov. 22, the Democratic majority of the City Council approved the package of applications for CETA funds which had been prepared for them by the Urban League, a Community Chest organization. Among the applications was the controversial request for \$34,000 from the Gay Alliance, an organization of people who have in common the practice of homosexual acts.

Councilman Paul Haney read letters urging approval of the Gay Alliance funding from John Salter, director of the Office of Human Development of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, and a Methodist source. A woman, Pat Collins, read statements also urging approval from Msgr. George Cocuzzi, Catholic diocesan liaison to Dignity, organization of Catholic homosexuals, Rev. Gilbert of the Unitarian Church, and a sister counselor. A minister of the United Church of Christ, a student of Colgate Rochester School of Divinity, John O'Brien, a seminarian, and another seminarian also urged approval. Only a letter from a retired Catholic priest and testimony from a Fundamentalist minister represented opposition from religious professionals

While the people speaking for the funding spoke of human rights and civil rights, no testimony was given to actual instances of discrimination either in housing or jobs. The application requested jobs for people to look into possible discrimination, give counseling services and conduct public relation activities which would include expanding the homosexual independent publication, "The Empty Closet," now a monthly 12-page tabloid circulated to 5,000 readers.

I ask why would Msgr. Cocuzzi and the Office of Human Development throw the weight of their diocesan positions behind this funding when it is obvious from reading "Dignity" newsletters that the homosexuals want homosexuality sanctioned as morally acceptable? The teaching of the Catholic Church is clear. Why was this teaching not made officially at that meeting?

In their raw exercise of bureaucratic power, Msgr. Cocuzzi and the Office of Human Development have blatantly ignored Church teachings on sexual ethics and Catholic people who understand, and embrace these teachings. These are



"DO ME A FAVOR, FATHER — STOP PRAYING BY THE PLANTS!"

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Studies, others in theology, others in prayer life, others in sacraments. By keeping a child from attending CCD, one is not letting him learn different approaches in looking at and learning his faith.

I also feel it is the responsibility of the parent to check work assigned children, ask what the teacher has been teaching. If the parent feels the teacher is presenting errors or is setting a bad example in the classroom, it should be brought to the attention of the religious education coordinator of the parish. This will be an area that can then be checked on and the teacher set straight on errors if necessary. This also allows for removal of an inappropriate teacher

Most CCD teachers teach because they love their faith and want to share that love with others. Most receive no remuneration and often have to deal with children who don't want to attend but do so because of concerned parents

Margaret Cecce
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Page Draws Praise

Editor:

I take this opportunity to congratulate you for your efforts to reach the Hispanic community of Rochester

We are very happy and impressed that your paper is taking this new direction. It is our hope that our community will benefit by the presentation of this page

If we can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us.

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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.

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