

Editorials

**Looking Forward
... And Back**

As with many things in our so-called modern society, the name January can be traced back to pagan origin. It is named for the pagan spirit Janus.

Janus was the god of beginnings and was highly esteemed in ancient Roman liturgies. Depicted with a two-faced head, he was exalted as a keeper of portals. With one face looking forward to new horizons and the other looking back on past events, he could also serve as a perfect symbol of the new year.

For surely, Jan. 1, the year of our Lord 1978, is a time for all of us to anticipate new opportunities to better ourselves and our world. It also is time to reflect on what has already become history, our own as well as that of the greater community.

It has become de rigeur to depict the Church as "the pilgrim Church," a figure of speech intended to imply movement, a sailing into uncharted waters, a trip leading to the ultimate discovery. All of this is, of course, true — to proceed in any direction but forward would be unnatural.

However, as has been said, those who neglect the lessons of history are doomed to repeat its errors. Thus a prerequisite of the voyage should be an in-depth knowledge of the past and a respect for its accomplishments and lessons which have brought us this far.

And while that great convocation which has provided impetus for the Church's mission, Vatican II, often has been pictured as an open window, perhaps it might serve equally as an open doorway. And much the same as ancient Janus, the doorway provides access to past roots and foundations as well as to the unknown lands beyond the horizon.

And it should be kept in mind that open doors and windows must be well-tended, for things of value can fly out as well as in.

Let Them Know

"Blessed are the peacemakers," the Man from the Middle East pronounced in perhaps his most famous sermon some 2,000 years ago.

Now, these very days, in that same beleaguered part of the world, other men are endeavoring to emulate the blessed role of peacemaker. And still others, of more common motive, are demeaning their efforts.

The hopeful peacemakers, of course, are Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menahem Begin of Israel, representing two nations whose mutual bitterness traces back to biblical times. The situation is vulnerable to allusion, even to the point that Sadat himself was born on Christmas Day.

We have already prayed for the Lord's blessings on these two men working for peace. Two faithful readers of the Courier-Journal have made a suggestion for furtherance of the efforts for peace in the Middle East. They ask that people write letters of encouragement to Sadat in Cairo and Begin in Tel Aviv. In a way it would be akin to lighting a candle of peace in a part of our world long darkened by the heavy shadow of animosity.

Try it for a new year's resolution.

Opinion

Research Can Spur Justice

Editor:

Scientific research can be an important weapon in the struggle for justice, as illustrated by Gunnar Myrdal's "An American Dilemma." Myrdal's comparison of American ideals with racial practice was important evidence that brought about the desegregation of schools and the passage of civil rights legislation to protect minorities.

The nationalist minority in Northern Ireland lives under a social system comparable to that which blacks formerly endured in Mississippi. They have tried many tactics to gain their human dignity, including boycotts, bombs, peace marches and political alliances. None have gained them relief from oppression. Maybe social science research similar to Myrdal's would work.

The problem is that those in the academic world who study prejudice, discrimination and conflict are not interested in the Irish. Of the 251 Catholic colleges and universities in the U.S., not one has a major commitment to investigate the sick society in which half a million Irish Catholics must live. The Office of International Justice and Peace of the U.S. Catholic Conference has thus far limited its support to the publication of a 16-page pamphlet Father Andrew Greeley is a notable exception to this indifference to human suffering.

Another exception is Dr. Rona M. Fields, a social psychologist, who did extensive testing in Belfast and Derry and concluded that the British were engaged in psychological genocide. Dr. Fields' book was published by Penguin Books, but all copies were quickly withdrawn from sale by order of the British government. Temple University Press has published a revised version, "Society Under Siege: a Psychology of Northern Ireland." Hopefully, it will awaken the British conscience, enlighten people of good will and stimulate social scientists to study a neglected area. In the meantime, those who do feel concern should ask their public library to get the book and reserve it for them to read.

**Rev. Cosmas Korb,
OFM Conv.
St. Anthony-on-Hudson
Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144**

COURIER-JOURNAL

**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President**

**Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager**

**Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor**

**Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor**

Vol. 92 No. 35 December 28, 1977

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 20¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$7.50. Canada and Foreign \$12.00. Offices: Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604 (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal 1

Unparalleled Snideness

Editor:

In an attack unparalleled for snideness against what appears to be the perfectly harmless opinion of a very correct priest, Father Andrew Greeley asks "Msgr. McHugh, name me a single person" misled by the snake-oil salesmen of birth control methods back in the 60s. Father Greeley hasn't been allowed to hear any really good confessions in the last eight or nine years, so let him read mine.

I am a mother of six children and a battle-scarred veteran of 22 years of a most extraordinary marriage encounter, and I bitterly regret the simple fact of my ignorance, fear and mistaken idea that experts could guide me. (So) I let my self be hoodwinked out of the other one or two or five or six people who should be mine, whose parent I should be.

It boils down to this, Father Greeley: God can run this planet and he can manage my fertility without so much as a calendar, thermometer or smart, smart, fellow at Princeton or Harvard or anywhere else. All you good scientists out there can get off fertility, contribute a few nickels from your royalties to Mother Teresa and realize that the fertility of other people is their glory and it is not anyone's problem unless it is stifled, thwarted, or — God Forbid — surrendered.

People do know how to live, how to support life and how to reach Jesus. Experts don't.

**Mrs. Marcia Scardino
296 Lakeview Park
Rochester, N.Y. 14613**

**CETA OK
Condemned**

Editor:

Tell a lie often enough and it seems to become the truth. That philosophy is currently injected in ERA, abortion, and now homosexuality.

In the wee small hours of Wednesday, Nov. 23, the eight Democrats of the Rochester City Council, legitimized the illegitimate by approving the CETA application of the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley. It virtually — with the application approval of first the United Community Chest and then the Urban League (a Community Chest funded organization, \$500,000 worth) — made acceptable acts of sodomy and other homosexual relationships.

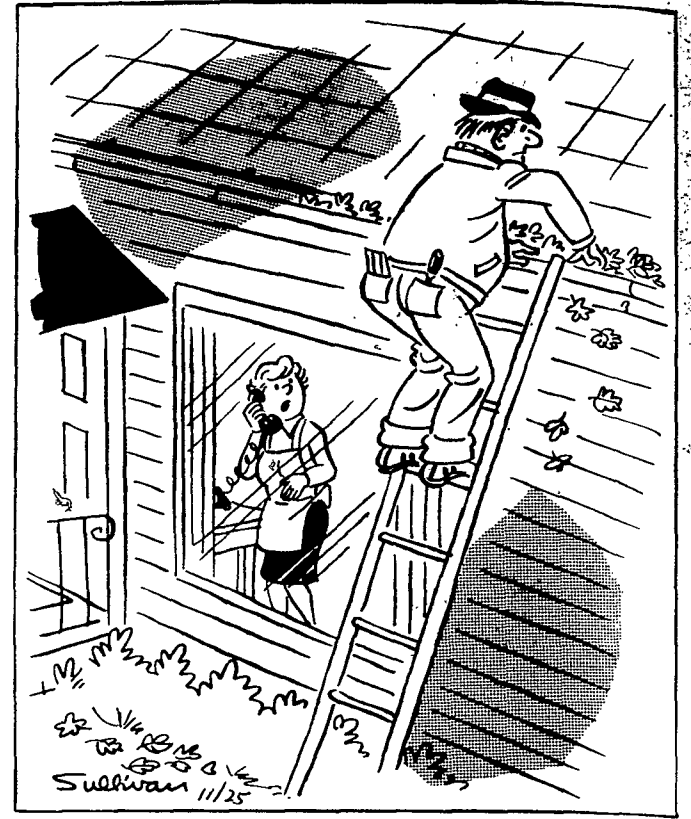
It also has set a precedent for further funding by other agencies moving homosexuality into the classrooms and making it a part of everyone's life.

The decent citizens of this community will not stand by and let you corrupt the values that this country was founded on. You are done!

**Michael Macaluso Jr.
Chairman
Citizens for a
Decent Community**

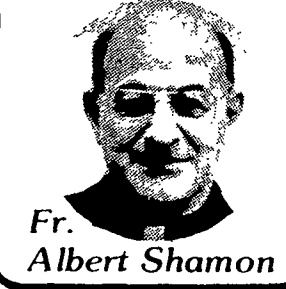
Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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.



"I'M SORRY, BUT MONSIGNOR IS IN THE GUTTER RIGHT NOW!"

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) 1.k. 2:16-21. (R1) Nm. 6:22-27. (R2) Gal. 4:4-7.

The New Year is traditionally a time for resolutions. Resolutions are the mother of action. Action and prayer are the lever and fulcrum needed today to move society in the direction needed to save itself. Trite as Edmund Burke's words may seem, they are also too true to be forgotten. "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing."

One of the resolutions I'd like to see Americans making this year is the resolve to take arms against the sea of immorality inundating our land through the media, and by opposing the Christian code of morality being attacked, yet we do nothing. The pen is mightier than the sword. I suggest that we buy a stack of nine-cent postcards. Put them on top of the TV set. Whenever a program presents anything offensive to Christian morality, register strong dissent by a note to the producers or sponsors. Threaten to discontinue their products if such offenses do not cease. **Talk back to your TV!** Here is a list of the major TV networks. Keep the list for reference.

American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. Leonard H. Goldenson, chairman; 1330 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10019.

CBS Inc., William S. Paley, chairman; 51 West 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019.

National Broadcasting Co., Inc., Julian Goodson, chairman; 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Henry Loomis, chairman; 888 16th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20006.

Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street, Washington, D.C. 20554.

Closer home is the Press. Not too long ago I was interviewed by a reporter on abortion. I reacted quite vehemently to the arrogant assumption that morality is simply a matter of opinion or Gallup poll. Society today is too much infected with such subjectivism, as though right or wrong is what I think or society thinks. That two and two are four is an objective fact, independent of what I think. Should I happen to think that two and two are five, then there is something wrong with my thinking and I had better correct it.

What makes a thing right or wrong is the purpose of the Creator, who is Someone outside man and above him. The fulfillment or non-fulfillment of that purpose determines morality. If to my eyes trees are blurred, the fault is in my eyes. I correct my vision with glasses; I don't try to prove that trees are blurred. Abortion is wrong because God creates life, and He creates it not to be destroyed but to be lived.

The Press now has a secularistic philosophy to sell that has no room for objective morality. Thus it seldom reports facts and censors news so that it will endorse only its godless philosophy. We call this advocacy journalism: fitting the news. For instance, in November 12,000 women met in Houston, funded by \$5 million of United States taxpayers. These women, radical, elite, articulate, pushed ERA, Gay Rights and Lesbianism (euphemistically called "sexual preference") Abortion ("reproductive freedom"). At their convention there was no flag, no prayer — just one big sign, "Woman." They did not, and do not, represent the views of most women. Yet the Press gave them extensive, and exclusive coverage.

At the same time, 15,000 pro-family and pro-life women met in Houston. They came at their own expense by car, bus, train and plane. Such national figures were there as Nellie Gray, Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson, Phyllis Schlafly. Yet what coverage did the Press accord these women? Not a line!

A second resolution is this: **Talk back to the Press, too.** Write letters to the editors. Fight the censorship imposed by Liberals.

Will this year be just another year of do-nothingism, or will it be a truly New Year?