

Editorials

Panama Canal

This newspaper has been on record since last September as strongly favoring the new Panama Canal Treaty. We listed at length our reasons in a special editorial page presentation last Sept. 27.

As just about everyone knows, the arguments on either side of this issue are strong. The upcoming battle in the United States Senate over ratification will be formidable.

Of the many viewpoints presented, we still feel that the position of Archbishop Marcos G. McGrath is one of the most effective.

The Panamanian archbishop says that a new treaty will be in the best interests of the United States. "The U.S.," said the archbishop in an interview with the Courier-Journal last April, "can really open a new era in relation to Latin America. . . Carter has an opportunity here to begin something new. We've been so used to having the U.S. get away with whatever it wants to do because it's the stronger party - this can really be done on the basis of the interests of all involved."

As the specter of communism looms uneasily over the nations of Latin America, it makes sense for the U.S. to begin to make some inroads of its own - but not the usual ways of massive giveaways, or gifts with strings attached, or increased armament.

Where possible we should use the most effective tool of all - good will. And perhaps nowhere more than Panama is this so obviously possible.

The diocesan Justice and Peace Commission has put together a position paper in favor of the treaty and hopes to make it available to all parishes. Check with your parish Human Development Committee for a copy.

Really Special

Proclamations of special days or weeks have become so commonplace that they have lost their impact. That is why, perhaps, not many realize that we are in the middle of the 45th annual Brotherhood Week.

Dr. David Hyatt, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, in noting this important week, has called on Americans to support the idea with a renewed commitment to stamp out bigotry and prejudice.

He decried the fact that neo-Nazi and Ku Klux Klan groups are still spreading their venom, a theme of many editorials in this newspaper.

"We must not let the evil history of anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, or the awful bitterness resulting from the scars of racism, to repeat themselves in new guises and new slogans," he said.

We urge that each family, perhaps as a positive offering for Lent, sit down together some time this week and discuss the necessity of brotherhood in this embittered world. We urge every parent to alert the children to the evils of Nazism and of the KKK.

Please.

Nice to Know

We appreciate the sentiment. Printed on the program brochure for the Natural Family Planning reception last Sunday:

"Children are very welcome."

Opinion

Columnist Has Heart

Editor:

Father Cuddy's columns on Wyalusing, Pa., were so heartwarming. I had each of my children read them, not because of the visions, not because we are avid fans of Father Cuddy, but because it proved once again how great and kind God is.

God communicates to His people in many ways these days, but the message is always the same: "I look not on your inabilities or ineffectiveness, but on the desire in your heart that drives you onward." Father Cuddy's desire to spread the Good News comes from a heart full of love of God and Man.

If we could only look at each other with our hearts perhaps we could be "one" for Him.

Mrs. K. Wall Hornell, N.Y.

Challenge Offered

Editor:

In the Speaking Out column of RapAround (Courier-Journal, 2/8/78), Chris Resch of Cardinal Mooney High School offers a challenge to those of us engaged in Catholic education. Basically, Chris asks us to "get into Jesus," and while this may sound like so much of what we would expect to hear from a teenage Catholic malcontent, I offer some insights into the life of the columnist which prove the contrary.

Chris Resch is the president of his senior class; he has participated in school retreat programs as a staff member; he is a regular participant in our weekly prayer group, and he has recently initiated a series of informal small group discussions for students needing support and encouragement in facing personal difficulties. I know Chris to be a very prayerful person, a young man "into Jesus." The ideals he offers in his column most nearly become reality in his own life.

During this Lenten season the Lord begs: "Return to Me with all your hearts." In making his return to the Lord, Chris Resch has offered the example of his life.

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 92 No. 43 February 22, 1978

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.

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to his fellow students and the faculty and for this we are grateful.

Brother Robert deLeon, CSC
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Sarah Child Appreciated

Editor:

Many thanks for the many chuckles and laughs Sarah Child has given me and the other readers of "All in the Family." I may not take the time to read the Courier-Journal in depth but I always seek out this column first to discover what is fresh and discerning in her viewpoint, and wish that years ago when I was raising my family I could have had her insight and approach to the everyday domestic problems as well as broader fields.

She is always interesting and I hope to have the pleasure of sharing her witty observations for many years to come.

Mrs. Renata Saunders
52 Dorking Road
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Thanks For Story

Editor:

You certainly took care of my requests (on the story, At Blessed Trinity, Water Damage Forces Move of Classrooms, Courier-Journal 2/8/78) very promptly. I appreciated seeing the name of Blessed Trinity School at the top of the article before the headline. You gave us such a nice spot where we could be easily seen.

I feel that mentioning the merger is another way of thanking the former pastors, Msgr. Joseph G. Gefell and Father Raymond Wuest, along with the present three pastors for all the time and effort they put into the merger.

I am very grateful that I may feel I can call on you for help at any time.

Sister Walter Anne
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Auburn, N.Y. 13021

Additional Line

Editor:

In composing my letter which appeared in the Feb. 8 Courier-Journal, "700 Club Beautiful, But . . ." I somehow omitted the very line that prompted it. The line that should be added to my comments on this program which is on daily at 6 a.m. on Channel 8 is, "One entire week was chaired and occupied exclusively by Catholics."

Edward A. Veith
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"IT WAS A GROSS ENCOUNTER OF THE WORST KIND!"

Avenues To Blessings

Editor:

I feel led to share some avenues through which abundant blessings are available.

Charismatic Renewal - To be part of a prayer community is a blessing second only to a good marriage.

Marriage Encounter - A gift from the treasury of Catholic spirituality and theology to any couple willing, and interested in deepening their marital love for each other.

Cursillo - It was on Cursillo that I learned that God "tells it like it is."

Television and radio - PTL Club is a definite standout.

On FM radio, Christian Broadcasting Network should be a preferred station.

Reading - This is the most effective method of learning and often greatest source of pleasure. In fact, God left a book - the Bible. The reading of His book must be a priority. Your local Catholic shop or Christian book store are places that are worth visiting for more good reading.

Prayer - Prayer is how we come to know God personally. One can only come to know God by spending time with Him. All other knowledge is superficial unless prayer and a personal relationship with our Creator, Savior and the one who makes us holy is a priority.

That one Christian life is a "drag" and "boring" is the biggest lie that Satan and his demons have ever told. It holds love for all, the fullness of happiness and an honest-to-goodness good time.

Leonard Dezelski
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From One Who Knows

Editor:

Some families treat their children like a picture on the wall. But a picture has more value and beauty than

a child who is worthless to the family.

When a child thinks he is nothing and no one cares, he doesn't care about himself and doesn't want to learn in school either. I know because I felt the same way.

Children need love, understanding, concern for them as a person. If a child has a lot of love, it really helps them want to learn and have higher marks in school.

It took being in jail before God helped me realize that I am just as intelligent as anyone else is.

Shirley J. Beach
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Column Missed

Editor:

It was more in sorrow than in anger that I learned of Peter Taub's Feb. 8 column in the Rochester Times-Union that you fired Nancy Murphy. In anger - at an act of blatant injustice and brazen censorship; in sorrow for the parishioners of St. John of Rochester Church and the clergy and laity of the diocese.

By your "editorial decision" of dropping Mrs. Murphy - one of the few remaining voices of sanity in your publication - you merely confirm once again the inanity of your general editorial policy as witnessed, for instance, in the current issue. I refer to your editorials on such vital subjects as the American Nazis and Larry Flynt, both concerned (supreme irony!) with FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

My first reaction was to cancel my subscription to what is coming to be known as "The Diocesan Humor Magazine" as I have many times in the past - but I will continue to subscribe only in self-defense.

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