

Editorials

New Look

The Courier-Journal has a new look this week. We hope you like it.

We have changed our body type, that used in the text of stories, to a more readable face. And we also are using new headline type that is considered to be more appealing to the eye.

In addition, we have altered our approach to graphics with the aim of producing a breezier and more inviting appearance.

In addition, we are making other layout changes to improve ease of using the Courier. For instance, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's weekly Pastoral Perspective and the weekly article from Pope Paul VI will appear on Page 5. Because this page faces our editorial page the combination will provide a two-page editorial section strengthened by the addition of the pope and bishop.

A new weekly feature will appear on Page 2 -- a capsulation of the more important stories in the paper. This will give readers the opportunity to quickly get the gist of any story and the chance to turn to the full stories for further details.

A table of contents also will appear on Page 2 to help readers find columnists and features more readily.

Though the general revamping is aimed at making the Courier easier to handle and more visually appealing, we will in no way be diminishing our continuing news coverage aimed at reflecting life in the diocese. Efforts to report on newsworthy events in all 12 counties of the diocese will continue as will our award-winning youth section, RapAround, and the popular centerfold spreads on special activities.

In addition, we will be keeping on the alert for the more unusual developments and ideas to keep our readers informed not only on news events but also on trends and thought within the world of religion.

For instance on Page 14 this week is the Chicago Declaration, which poses some heavy questions for the Church in general and the laity in particular. We invite your reaction.

There also is an in-depth interview with Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi, who heads a program for the Permanent Diaconate in our diocese.

And, of course, as always, we invite your parish or organization news. After all, that is what we are all about.

Puzzlement

It makes little difference if Gov. Hugh Carey actually hung the threat of veto over the anti-abortion amendment during last week's State Legislature hassle, as some have claimed and the governor has denied.

The fact is that the governor indeed would have vetoed any measure to cut off Medicaid funds to pay for abortions.

The governor is an enigma. On the one hand, despite public opinion, he courageously and commendably, makes it known that he will veto the death penalty because it is morally wrong.

On the other hand, although he says he is personally opposed to abortion, he refuses to support anti-abortion bills because he says morality cannot be legislated.

Where is the consistency?

Opinions

An Open Letter to Newly Ordained Priests

Editor:

An open letter to our Brothers, John DeSocio, Robert Schrader, Christopher Linsler, James Peters, Leo Reinhardt and John Gagnier.

We, your sisters share in the joy of your ordination. We rejoice that your gifts and talents are recognized and that your call has been heard, tested and affirmed.

We also experience sadness and pain at the occasions of your or-

dinations. It makes clear our reality that the institutional Church excludes women from full participation in the Church by not recognizing our call to priestly ministry.

Women have God-given gifts and talents for service to the people of God in full sacramental ministry. We too have a call from God through community and we are asking the institutional Church to hear and test our call in the same process that is open to you.

We pray that as you begin your official priestly ministry that you recognize that justice has an intrinsic role in your ministry. You and we are called to challenge and change structures of the Church that do not reflect justice as a constitutive element of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When one member of the body is denied justice, all other members are also denied justice. It is also unjust to the entire Church community to be deprived of the gifts that God gives to be shared.

May the spirit of God

set your heart on fire with the good news of Jesus, whom we proclaim is the Christ, and who, with God, lives in the hearts of every woman and man forever and ever.

Joan Sobala, SSJ, Diane Blum, Mary Jane Mitchell, SSJ, Jeanne Gehret, Denise Mack, Addie Menges, Rosalie Muschal-Reinhardt, Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz, Lorraine Cappellino, Gracia L'Esperance, RSM, Ruth Haue, Anne Minton, Rochester Regional Task Force on Women in the Church



"CLINTON IS OBSESSED WITH THE LOTTERY!"

Death Penalty Opposed Rewrite Book

Editor:

In regard to capital punishment, I feel that it is an uncivilized type of punishment. No one has the right to take another's life, whether "under the law" or not. By using capital punishment, we are just trying to rid ourselves of a problem by creating a much bigger one -- legalizing murder.

Colleen McBride
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Editor:

We agree completely with Mrs. Foley's letter (C-J, March 29), about the "extremely diluted Catholicism" offered in the Sadlier and Silver Burdett series. We are horrified by the stuff these books push, and hope that other concerned Catholic parents will examine them as carefully and as intelligently as the Foleys did.

We feel if the Foleys studied the sex education and sex films used by the diocesan education department, they'd see the same trends! We were told last year that Education in Love was approved by the Vatican (untrue) and now they say the book is being revised. It should be completely rewritten.

Thank you for Mrs. Foley's letter.

Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Shaffer
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lack of logic in a Courier-Journal editorial and in a letter to the editor from Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret (3-22-78).

Using our Lord's death as an excuse to ban the death penalty, the Courier-Journal launched into a self-righteous tirade against capital punishment.

Yet wasn't the death of our Lord necessary for our salvation?

In another attack on the death penalty the d'Audiffrets stated in their letter that "killing a person for a crime, however, is so extreme and irreversible, so savagely violent, so against our normal human instincts."

A few weeks ago in New York City, a paroled murderer killed again. Had this individual been executed, an innocent life would have been saved.

The late Pope Pius XII echoed these sentiments in a 1952 address when he stated, "It is reserved to the public power to deprive the condemned person of the enjoyment of life in expiation of his crime when, by his crime he has already deprived himself of his right to live."

The deterrent factor which the Courier-Journal stated "something most experts

agree does not exist" is a questionable statement because who these experts are is not mentioned.

Experts are those people usually in contact with those involved with murderers -- the police.

Now most police and other law enforcers overwhelmingly favor the death penalty because they know it deters murder and thereby saves innocent lives.

Professor Isaac Ehrlich, also an expert regarding the death penalty, stated that in the period between 1933 and 1969 "an additional execution per year -- may have resulted on the average in seven or eight fewer murders."

Already millions of innocent children have been murdered via abortion with but feeble protest from the Church. Euthanasia laws have also been passed in several states again involving the killing of innocent life.

Consequently we need laws to protect innocent human life. The death penalty is a giant step in this direction. Write your congressman and your governor today!

Robert Bart
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Praises Bishop

Editor:

Each week I look forward

to Bishop Hogan's message, Pastoral Perspective. I think that the people of Rochester are fortunate to have a religious leader who is so open and who humbles himself so beautifully each week.

He truly is an example of one who holds the spirit of the Living Christ in his heart.

We should give honor, praise and glory to God for this beautiful man.

Thank you, Bishop Hogan, for sharing your thoughts about Jesus with His people.

Patricia Russo
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Student Opposes ERA

Editor:

In the March 29 "Equal Time" column in Raparound, the question is asked, "Is the Equal Rights Amendment necessary?"

All six Nazareth Academy students interviewed were in favor of passage. Are we to assume that all the girls at Nazareth are in favor of ERA? Or, that your reporter accepted only the first six viewpoints?

Inasmuch as the title of the column is "Equal Time," it

would be more interesting if equal time was allowed for pro and con of any question.

Phyllis Schlafly, national chairman of STOP ERA, with a master's degree from Harvard University, spoke at the University of Rochester, at 8 p.m., March 20. Apparently none of the students interviewed heard her speech or they would have had more individuality in their replies.

Mrs. Schlafly says that "she is the perfect example that a woman can be just what she wants to be; she can make her life any way she wants to without amending the Constitution."

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Editors Note: The Nazareth Academy students were interviewed before Phyllis Schlafly's talk at the University of Rochester.

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Death Penalty Defended

Editor:

Opposition to the death penalty again revealed its

Letter 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.