

Editorials

Thanks, Bishop

We would be remiss as a communications medium if we did not publicly applaud Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's decision to publish his "ad limina" report. This is the "state of the union" message that every ordinary in the world must make every five years to the Pope in person.

Giving the people of the diocese this report could mark a first in the world. The bishop explained his decision simply, "After all it is OUR Church and all the people of God have the right to know what is in the report."

The report, published as a special section in this week's Courier, is recommended as interesting, informative and educative reading.

Again we thank Bishop Hogan for his openness. Such sharing is the essence of communication. We urge all the bishops of the United States and the world to follow the same course.

Tax Credit

The battle over the Packwood-Moynihan Bill providing tuition tax credits for parents who send their children to private and parochial schools is coming to a head in the congressional arena.

Though the bill cleared the Senate Finance Committee handily (14-1), the road to enactment as law is strewn with obstacles.

A strong and apparently well-financed coalition headed by the 500,000-member American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO will begin extensive lobbying activities in the capital this week. Member

groups of the coalition apparently will take turns traveling to Washington to exert pressure against passage of the bill. In addition an expensive advertising campaign, which included a \$7,000 ad in the Sunday Washington Post and another big display ad in the Sunday Times has been launched.

If Congress nonetheless passes the bill, the Carter administration also is opposed to it. Whether the President is so opposed as to veto it remains to be seen.

Basically what the bill does is allow parents of students in college to subtract up to \$250 from their income taxes next year. In 1980, coverage would be extended to parents of students in elementary and secondary private and parochial schools, with writeoffs of as much as \$500 allowed.

Now, there does not exist among proponents of the bill any group with the financial clout of the federation of teachers or the AFL-CIO. So those in favor of Packwood-Moynihan had better write to their U.S. senators and congressmen to provide ballast for the heavy onslaught from the other side.

Some of those opposed to tax credits may see it as unconstitutional, others may see it as providing possible havens for those wishing to escape desegregation of schools. However, many, sad to say, are just anti-Catholic.

As for those arguments, if the bill is passed its constitutionality will be judged by the courts where it should be. After all, the American Federation of Teachers and the AFL-CIO have not been appointed keepers of the Constitution. As for those possible havens for segregationists, safeguards against such possibilities, which are not the intent of the law in the first place, can be built in.

As for anti-Catholic sentiment in this country, only God knows what can be done.

Deterrent?

No one has ever proved that capital punishment is a deterrent to whatever crime mankind is trying to rid itself of at any particular time.

The State, whether in ancient Egypt, in 18th Century France, which popularized the guillotine, or in the sterile gas chambers of modern America, has long been cold-bloodedly taking the lives of its citizens in retaliation for crimes attributed to them. The crimes persist.

Call it revenge, perhaps, but deterrent it is not.

Must the state continue to adopt the same barbarous methods of the lowest of its citizens?

Have we learned nothing from the countless executions already performed?

Is there no lesson for us in the Crucifixion of Jesus, just one of the many persons deprived of life by the state?

All of us are in total sympathy with the survivors, family and friends, of persons victimized by murder. We grieve for the slain, whether it be those killed in the line of police duty or a completely innocent bystander.

We cannot see, however, that capital punishment is the answer to such pain.

In a society which is prone to reach to death to solve its problems, we think we must resist this proclivity in all spheres.

We applaud Gov. Hugh Carey for maintaining a difficult moral position in the face of disapproving public opinion. It is obviously not a wise political stance. We may assume, then, that it stems from sincerity.

and Opinions

Story Applauded

Editor:

Your paper rendered a tremendous service in presenting its coverage of the highly controversial and offensive ads on radio for Widmers Wines.

I wrote them a letter of protest and received a reply disregarding the disrespectful attitude completely, and boasted of their "numbers of Religious" who supported their advertising in this respect.

"Might never would make right," when it is wrong originally!

Mrs. Edna C. Faulkner
480 Lyell Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Appreciates Coverage

Editor:

Just a few words (belated) to tell you how much we all appreciated your coverage of our Daffodil Festival in the COURIER-JOURNAL.

It received great response all over the city, inspired others to follow in the same footsteps and established some form of a liturgy of Hope in the fight against Cancer.

The celebration of the event at Corpus Christi was beautiful — Father

Dailey's sermon superb and we all feel, at the American Cancer Society, that the boost you gave us played an important part.

Our sincerest thanks and appreciation and may this day, I pray, become more widespread with each passing year.

Mary H. McConville
Chairman, American Cancer Society's Daffodil Festival

Thanks Johnny

Editor:

Johnny Cash made a generous contribution last week to T.V. programming!

His sponsorship of "Biblical Life of Christ" production from time of John the Baptist provided a beautiful "sharing experience" for all who watched.

From religious, artistic, and finally musical background provided by Johnny, himself, it was superb!

The Christ was most appealing from both the human and spiritual standpoint. His human relationship with the apostles running along the beach; literally jumping over the rocks was joyful to behold. His playing on the beach with little children besmirched with sand was delightful.

His encounter with Mary Magdalene depicted the "spiritual". One could literally see Mary's feelings for Him being transformed into a

"spiritual love". Her expression was beautiful.

The Way of the Cross and Crucifixion scenes were heart rending as one had built up such a rapport with this Man-Jesus.

The last scene of crucified Christ high above the ancient city of Jerusalem was transformed into one overlooking a modern city of sky-scrapers and motorized heavy traffic, leaving one with the feeling of a "suffering Christ" even today!

Let us look forward to a "repeat presentation" so more viewers may share a great experience!

Thanks Johnny!

Kay Sullivan
1 Lilac Drive
Rochester, N.Y.

Must Align With Poor

Editor:

It is our firm belief that if the church of Rochester is to remain faithful to the mission of Jesus it must align itself in solidarity with the poor and disenfranchised in our society.

Recently, the Diocese of Rochester has

(1) reduced the Urban Vicariate to an Urban Ministry.

(2) Reduced the Office of Black Ministries and the Spanish Apostolate from Diocesan departments reporting directly to the Bishop to one of a number of "special ministries" reporting to the Bishop through a department head.

While such restructuring seems, on the surface, to be a mere administrative reshuffling of offices and departments, we feel it raises serious questions about the evangelical fidelity of the Church in this Diocese because:

(1) To conceive of and relate to the poor and minorities in any other than as part of standard operating procedure is to marginalize them from the mainstream.

(2) Ministry to the poor and outcast is not just one of various ministries of the Church; it is the touchstone of its identity with Jesus who came "to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and — to set the downtrodden free" (Lk 4:18).

This restructuring along with some past Diocesan decisions (a regional structure in Monroe County which divides the Church of the poor in the city out of existence, refusal to finance inner-city schools adequately, the disestablishment of St. Patrick's as a parish, closing of St. Lucy's) compel us to ask our Church of Rochester if

(1) it does not more reflect the dominant values in our society than a prophetic voice crying out in a wilderness of affluence that the reign of God is of the poor?

(2) it is willing to validate all its structures, departments and organisms in the light of their significance to the poor?

Father Laurence Tracy,
Dan O'Shea, Father John V. Forni, Father Dennis Shaw, Ms. Ada Maria Isasi Diaz



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

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Courier-Journal 1