

Editorials

Disarmament

If there is such a thing as world opinion, that is, if there is any semblance of a collective body of thought uniting peoples from all the distinct customs and national entities, then it is time that we all work to influence it toward disarmament.

And if there is a world opinion, we feel it would be safe to assume that it would lean toward freedom from fear of nuclear holocaust.

We are not talking here about those who have power as a god or riches as a goal. We speak of the mothers of the world, of the average person in the street, whether that street be ineking, Moscow, Nairobi, Rome, New York City or Rio de Janeiro. All would like to wake up tomorrow morning free from the overriding shadow of nuclear destruction -- not just for personal safety but also for the preservation of institutions and ideals, for the simple opportunity to plan for a constructive future.

We all pray for freedom from a world run by madmen with the ultimate weapon in their hands.

Beginning, Thursday, May 23, the United Nations will begin a month-long, unprecedented special session on disarmament. We hope it is an idea whose time has come.

Needless to say, disarmament is a delicate topic

and only the supreme optimist could declare it is even possible in a world long accustomed to living by the sword.

And all must realize that any disarmament negotiations will be fraught with peril. We have seen or heard little either from the U.S.S.R. or Communist China that would move us to trust the future of our nation with them. Complicating the picture is the fact of nuclear proliferation. Many lesser powers now possess devastating capabilities and more are seeking same.

Despite these obstacles, we must endorse the concept of disarmament and work toward it. For even the striving constitutes a trend that would at least keep us from easily sliding backward into the precarious practice of nuclear posturing.

Catholics have been provided with a wealth of guidelines as regards the armaments race.

Pope Paul VI, that great apostle of peace and justice in the world, has long condemned the armaments race not only because it is intrinsically evil but also it is a form of robbery of the poor and downtrodden of the world who need food and shoes and a chance to improve themselves and their world.

"It is unthinkable that no other work can be found for hundreds of thousands of workers than the production of instruments of death," the Holy Father has said.

Vatican Council II stated, "The armaments race is

an extremely grave affliction for humanity and does intolerable harm to the poor.

We urge all to follow the U.N. disarmament session. In this diocese, the Justice and Peace Commission is providing a way of learning more about the issue first-hand. Father J. Bryan Hehir, executive secretary of the Office of International Justice and Peace and a member of the Vatican's delegation to special U.N. Session, will speak at Nazareth College, at 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 31.

Disarmament is not easy. But it is necessary.

Select Men

A bishop is called upon to make many choices and one of Bishop Hogan's wisest was his selection of Father Michael Conboy as his first, and until now, only secretary.

Father Conboy has served the bishop and the diocese in that capacity since Bishop Hogan became the ordinary in 1969. In a delicate and often difficult position, Father Conboy has not only done a superlative job for Bishop Hogan but for the entire diocese as well. We are sure he will perform equally well in Seneca Falls where he will assume his first pastorate. Pastoral work is a natural endeavor for priests and Father Conboy has been looking forward to the assignment.

We feel that Bishop Hogan has made another sound choice in naming Father Charles Latus as Father Conboy's successor. We wish both God's blessing.

and Opinions

Gannett Criticized

Editor:

The St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild was disappointed at the lack of Gannett coverage of our recent forum on teenage sexuality despite numerous written and verbal requests to them. Dr. Eugene F. Diamond, a pediatrician, father, author, professor, social worker and president of the Chicago Medical Society presented an interesting newsworthy contrast to Sol Gordon,

the much publicized and Gannett editorially-supported speaker for Planned Parenthood on the same timely topic.

Many parents would have been interested in the striking contrast between traditional sex values and those suggested by Sol Gordon. Mr. Gordon's cartoon book entitled "Ten Heavy Facts About Sex" distributed locally to teenagers by the government-subsidized and Community Chest-supported Planned Parenthood organization instructs teenagers that one of the "Good Rules

for Girls" suggests that sex with other than a longtime lover is acceptable as long as a contraceptive is used.

Dr. Diamond criticized sick cheap approaches to teenage education as aiming "at exploitation and neurotic compensation which avoids real love and depth of understanding." Instead, Dr. Diamond recommended that parents have a meaningful role to play in teaching teenagers the important distinction between sex and love. He especially emphasized the necessity of teachers and groups to stress the traditional positive moral values including chastity which more properly reflect the parents' and

community attitude rather than the cheap values taught by Sol Gordon's sex cartoon book and distributed by Planned Parenthood.

I believe Gannett did the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild and the community a disservice by their blackout of a fine and important program. Hopefully, they will rectify the situation in the interests of fair press coverage by allowing the Guild to present an article regarding its concern on this critical subject which abuses should be made known to the public.

William P. Polito
Secretary,
More Lawyers Guild
Approved by
Board of Directors

Resents Dad's Treatment

Editor:

Sammy Gingello's funeral must have been a great comfort to his family and friends.

However, I can't help remembering that when my father died 13 years ago in Niagara Falls, our pastor refused to allow a funeral Mass because Dad had not been a regular church-goer. Dad had been baptized, was raised and was married in the Roman Catholic Church, but was not buried from it. He had his human failings, of course, but then don't we all? To my knowledge Dad never broke a law.

Fortunately my mother found a kind and Christian man, a Methodist minister, who came to the funeral parlor for a simple and moving service: It was a great comfort to the family and friends.

Joanne Mitchell
169 Black Walnut Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

To 7

Paul tells us that "Jesus is able for all time to save those who draw near, to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for us." In the Hail Holy Queen we would address Mary as our most gracious advocate, but we are told that "we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."

We know that God chose Mary to be the vessel through which Jesus would enter the world. Certainly Jesus loved his mother very much and she was devoted to him even while most of his apostles deserted him at the cross; she stood by him faithfully. So, while it may appear to some that devotion for Mary has diminished, perhaps the Church has come to realize more fully the importance of Jesus' reply to the woman in the crowd who called out to Jesus: "God bless your mother!" And Jesus replied: "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it."

Joseph Hietu
Ontario Center, N.Y.

May Is Mary's Special Month

Editor:

During the month of May, many will remember that the Church offered various devotions to Mary. Today, it seems like the Church has changed all of this. Is it that we think less of Mary? Or could it be that we see her in a different perspective?

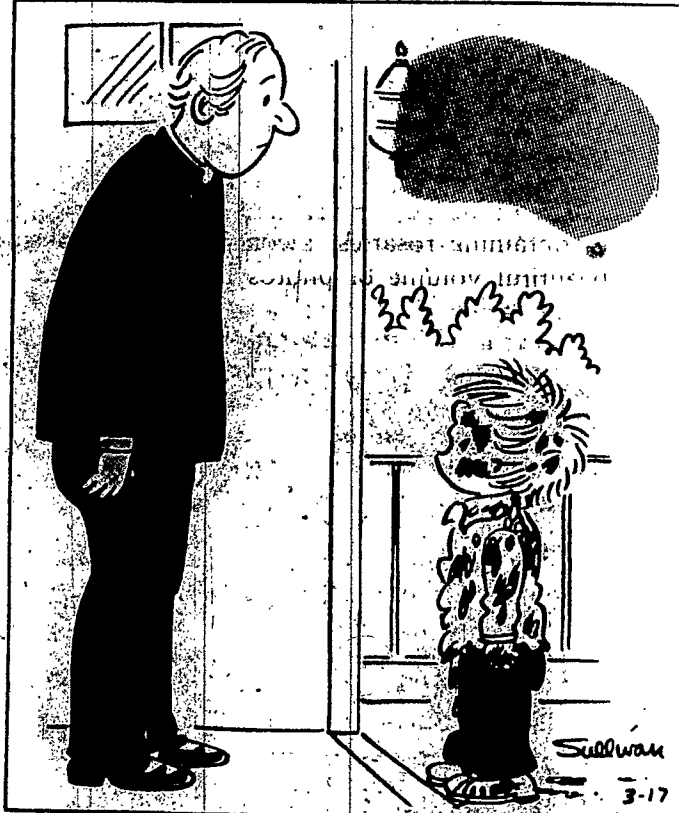
In a recent article in U.S. Catholic magazine, a Marianist priest suggests that "perhaps in the past, the Church offered us a vision of Mary standing on the planet Earth, with one foot crushing the serpent, while the foot is suspended over a crescent moon." To many she was given the image of being a "super-human" person, and this image made it very difficult to see that Mary really was a loving, devoted mother, raising a young boy and doing all the nice things that a young mother does in caring for her child.

Scripture tells us that,



although being very young herself, Mary had great faith and was obedient to God and also to the laws of Moses; and like most mothers, at times she found it difficult to understand her son's behavior.

Many have come to realize that, although they were told that Mary intercedes for them, Jesus tells us "I am the Way. None comes to the Father except by me." And St.



"I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE ABOUT A VERY LARGE DOG AND A CHOCOLATE CAKE MY MOM WAS SENDING OVER FOR YOUR SUPPER!"

Guidelines

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

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 83 No. 2 May 10, 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.

Courier-Journal 1