

More Opinions

Congratulations

... But

Editor:

Thursday evening, May 4, 1978, Sister Susan Schantz, a Sister of St. Joseph, received a Masters of Divinity degree from St. Bernard's Seminary. She is the first sister of St. Joseph of Rochester to receive this degree and the second woman to complete the Master of Divinity program in our diocesan seminary.

Academically Susan placed first in her class. She graduates with a variety of ministry experiences including city and campus parishes, Diocesan Office of Human Development, Diocesan Office of Pastoral Ministry, Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, theology teacher and department head, hospital ministry. In July, Susan begins a new ministry as chaplain of Highland Hospital.

We who share life and ministry with Susan wish to publicly congratulate her at this time of graduation. We also wish to express our conviction that she is called to and ready for ordained ministry in the Catholic Church. We regret this option is not open to her or to any women of our faith.

This experience of witnessing exclusion of our sister saddens, angers and yet also energizes us. Because of it we reaffirm our commitment as women of the Church and continue to walk in the hope that some day we will collectively, as a Church, affirm that women are also called to full priesthood.

Sisters of St. Joseph
34 Monica St.
Margaret Rose Aungler, SSJ; Sheila Briody, SSJ; Kathleen Fletcher, SSJ; Maureen Halack, SSJ; Barbara Lum, SSJ; Rosemary Mackie, SSJ; Judith McKay, SSJ; Clare Francis Mogenhan, SSJ; Joan Sobala, SSJ; Patricia Trovato, SSJ; Sheila Walsh, SSJ; Mary Noel Woyciesjes, SSJ.

On Women As Deacons

Editor:

I am writing concerning the recent introduction of the permanent diaconate ministry to the Rochester diocese. My reactions stem from both feeling and thought on the matter which arrive at the same conclusion: that this program is neglecting an important resource to fully realize its own objectives by ignoring the potential of an active, as opposed to supportive, role for women.

The program itself, as described in the leaflet distributed in our parishes, sets forth highly worthwhile goals and practical means to carry out the intentions for renewal. Each qualification can be

applicable to those individual men and women alike who are ready, able and most of all, called to serve the needs of the Church community through this specific ministry. And yet women are not allowed to utilize these qualifications.

My feeling is that this restriction is grossly unfair as well as unjust. My thought coincides with this feeling and adds to it a thirst for a true understanding of the reasons behind the exclusion.

Indeed, there is much thought, time and prayerful consideration given by every concerned Christian to defining his or her vocational responsibilities in the Church. I cannot imagine that the varied opportunities available from the permanent diaconate ministry in the areas of "the liturgy, the word and works of charity" can or should be carried out only by men. I hope for a guided re-evaluation of such an important and relevant matter.

Catherine Fredericks
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'Dear Jesus, Thank You!'

Editor:

Please print this conversation I had with Jesus after reading the article by Father O'Malley, "Where Did We Go Wrong?"

Thank You, Lord Jesus for Father Bill O'Malley! I was pretty much down and out when You spoke through him to our beautiful Church. No matter how bad things sometimes seem, You will always send into our diocese an Israelite without guile, a voice in the wilderness. Thank You also for our Bishop Hogan who loves You and must therefore suffer so silently.

Dear Jesus, please send Your Holy Spirit to blow the dust off the hearts in this Church of Yours. Light a match so that they may spring to life and come to experience Your indescribable love. Lord, let Your judgement begin with this household of God, with every parish in our diocese. Let Your

trumpet wake those who are drunk with Mammon, arouse those smug adults who think gold is real and God "something for the kids." In Your mercy, bring our diocese, all of us, to repentance and daily death, so that Your Kingdom may grow with leaps of joy. Lord Jesus, conversion of adults is desperately needed down here, and neither Father O'Malley nor our beautiful bishop can do it, but You can. Please, dear Jesus, please!

Thank You, Jesus, for hearing my prayer and acting on it. Thank You for calling us to rebuild Your Church which, as we can see, is falling into ruin. Thank You for sending St. Francis when You needed him. Thank You for loving us so much, and thank You for rebuilding Your beautiful Church right now!

Paul W. Harper
29 Aquarius Lane
Rochester, N.Y. 14612

What 'Quality' Bars Women?

Editor:

Father Ronald Antinorelli (Courier-Journal, 4/28/78) seems to imply that since the pope has spoken on the issue of women's ordination, there should be no further discussion of the issue, let alone a movement to pursue the implementation of women's ordination.

Being neither a theologian nor a biblical scholar, my viewpoint may appear simplistic, but is there really a valid reason why women cannot be ordained? From my viewpoint, there can only be two reasons: either women are not human persons (maybe they are a business and not a "people") or there is something intrinsic in femininity which bars their ordination. The anti-ordinationists argue from the latter viewpoint (hooray for that much), quoting Scripture and imploring Tradition to support their arguments. All this provides a lot of material for a lively discussion of the subject, but I've never seen, heard nor had described to me what the intrinsic quality

of womanhood is that bars ordination. Unless such a quality is found or defined, I'm certain that the issue will remain before us — and rightfully so. If there is no such quality, why not get on with it?

John Balcerak
10 Solmar Dr.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Deterrent To Murder

Editor:

Again you are wrong. Capital punishment does deter murder. The murderer that Gov. Carey pardoned killed two cops in Brooklyn. Capital punishment would have deterred murder in that instance.

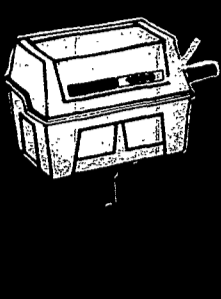
In order to prove something proof must be accepted. Obviously the Courier-Journal will not accept proof!

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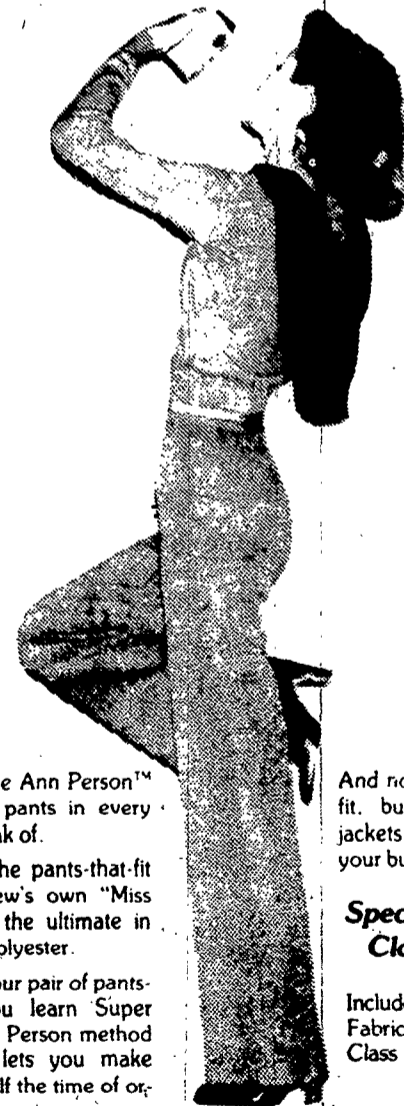
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