

Editorials

Mission Sunday

This mission: To go and find the others.

That is the theme of this year's Diocesan Mission Sunday when we are all given the opportunity to help missions supported by this diocese in Selma, Ala., Brazil, Chile and Bolivia.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan gave a clear picture of this diocese's work as regards mission when he made public, in an historical departure, his ad limina report to Pope Paul VI.

He explained our involvement in South America as a direct result of invitations from Pope Pius XII and Pope John XXIII. He also mentioned the fact that we

have 75 missionary priests, Sisters, Brothers and lay persons claiming the Rochester diocese as their home.

And most significantly, perhaps, he revealed that over the last four years this diocese had contributed \$2.6 million to foreign missions. That is a proud figure and one which reflects handsomely on the people of this diocese.

Bishop Hogan long has encouraged such mission activity as underlined his pastoral letter of 1975 "You Are Living Stones" when he stated, "I want the Church of Rochester to be a missionary Church, for I believe this is central to abundant life in Christ."

Diocesans have always responded generously to this annual opportunity, a fact appreciated by Father Joseph Reinhart, missions director. When asked what is meant by missions, Father Reinhart responds, "Basically go and find the others in the sense of sharing the good news of Christ's message."

"We are evangelists, sharing the good news and

listening to other cultures and ideas and accepting help even from those developing peoples and nations. I have always enjoyed working with the missions for it is truly a two-way street; we receive as we help."

In this diocese, we often are prone to think we are limited to 12 counties of New York State. The fact, however, is that this diocese embraces Selma, Ala., and Uberlandia, Brazil, and Santiago, Chile, and LaPaz, Bolivia, and other remote towns and villages in South America.

But the spirit of giving, of evangelizing, of helping, of sharing, of joining goes well beyond even those geographic realities. For the true spirit of mission is as wide as the heart is wide and as high as the spirit is capable of rising.

That is why this annual opportunity should mean so much to all of us. For we, too, can join in the spirit of mission -- to go and find the others.

and Opinions

Too Much Confusion

Editor:

In response to Rev. O'Malley's article, April 26, "Christian Education, Where Did We Go Wrong?" He states it is his main job to look at the sad state of so many young people who have "left" the Church. Perhaps the sentence was worded incorrectly. I thought the main job of a "religious" was to educate our young people and give them someone to emulate.

When a priest of his popularity publicly states that symbols such as medals, rosaries, novenas, benedictions and monstrances are gone, how can we, as parents instill a love for these beautiful devotions in our children. Where have these symbols gone? Did the Vatican II Council say that they were outdated or not modernistic enough? If so, then you are saying that Our Lady was wrong when she told Bernadette at Lourdes and the children at Fatima, to whom she appeared, to pray the Rosary.

What happened to Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament, processions and Holy Thursday Mass and reverence for the Blessed Sacrament?

I've always thought that a priest's hands were anointed by the bishop, on his ordination, so that he could handle the Host. Now, anybody can handle it. Is it the Body of Christ or not?

At the rate our Church doctrines are changing is it any wonder that our young people are confused? Do we see any of those who have "left" the Church coming back?

Who would recognize most Catholic churches today? They are being totally stripped of all their beauty. Soon, we will have to go to Canada or Europe to see a beautiful church.

Even Communist Russia preserves beautiful churches as landmarks. Perhaps we should be reminded that the Mass is the unbloody sacrifice of the Cross and that Christ died for many.

I've heard Catholics say that they don't believe in hell or purgatory. Where does all this confusion come from?

Why are so many priests and nuns leaving? Maybe they're not sure of what's expected of them.

Perhaps we should review our outmoded Baltimore Catechism and discover why God made us and what we have to do to gain heaven.

Mrs. Genevieve Lazeski
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Life Center Needs Help

Editor:

We would like to call to your readers' attention the important work of the Human Life Center, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn.

The Human Life Center of St. John's University is dedicated primarily to the enrichment of married life, which today is in turmoil. Through high quality educational programs in parenting, sexuality and love, natural family planning, death and dying, etc., this international center attempts to promote human life in all its stages and vocations. In the increasingly important area of responsible parenthood, the center has always approached and presented natural family planning as an integrated "way of life," rather than as a "birth control" method, thereby encouraging married couples to explore the fullest potential of their mutual procreative and unitive powers. Also emphasized is a full exploration of the deepening controversies over medical and human life ethical decisions. The fundamental purpose of the center is to promote and revitalize our founding Fathers' Judeo-Christian values in today's world. The special work of the center is the enrichment of human life from conception through childhood, adolescence and adulthood to natural death.

The Human Life center has been soliciting contributions by mail. Local organizations such as Natural Family

Planning and Right to Life need and utilize the services of this unique center and we encourage others to contribute what they feel they can to enable the Human Life Center to continue to flourish. Tax-deductible contributions may be made to the Human Life Center, St. John's University, Collegeville, Minn. 56321.

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Director
Natural Family Planning
Education of Rochester,
N.Y. Inc.

Jeanne D. Sweeney,
president
Rochester Area Right to
Life Education Fund, Inc.

The Opportunity To Be Happy

Editor:

After reading the Courier-Journal of May 3 we were filled with an outrageously happy feeling regarding our prophetic role as a Catholic couple. The combined essence of the columns, articles, pastoral perspective and opinions seem to be the prophetic role of living our values in society, as summed up in Sister Cratia's article "Christians Must Wear Two Hats."

What makes our feeling so joy-filled and outrageously happy is because we witnessed 30 married couples discover these values in their

sacrament on a Marriage Encounter Weekend April 28-30. And every weekend 30 more couples have this opportunity: to discover in their love relationship how to live as prophets in our "modern" world. We ask everyone to examine their role and see whether or not they would choose to be outrageously happy in belonging to Jesus, His Church and each other.

Bob and Debby Zeman
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Is Diaconate Progressive?

Editor:

Another step forward for the Church... or is it?

The diaconate program is being launched, and once again the specific phrase, "Open to any male," is emphasized.

We who are made in His image and likeness would like to share in this role of ministering to the needs of the Church.

Created equal... why must we always be forced to step behind?

Beryl Coleman
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Clearing Up Quote

Editor:

Regarding Father

are no new conflicts, there are only new players.

Theresa M. Hussar
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'Joyful Obedience'

Editor:

Re letter of May 10, Congratulations... But, signed by residents at 34 Monica St.

Have we as Catholics fallen apart to the extent that any small group can set itself apart from the leadership of the Holy Father, and using the prestigious reputation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, then exult in pursuing a course which is not only very bold, but quite out of touch with reality?

The letter from the dissidents who regret that the priesthood is not open to women, which "saddens, angers and yet also energizes" them, are setting themselves distinctly apart from papal directive, and are blatantly disregarding their vows of obedience, etc., which binds true Sisters of St. Joseph.

As we Christians attempt to follow the example of Our Loving Savior, let us fill our lives with "joyful obedience" and build up, and not "sadness and anger" and tear down.

Mary Tickner
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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.

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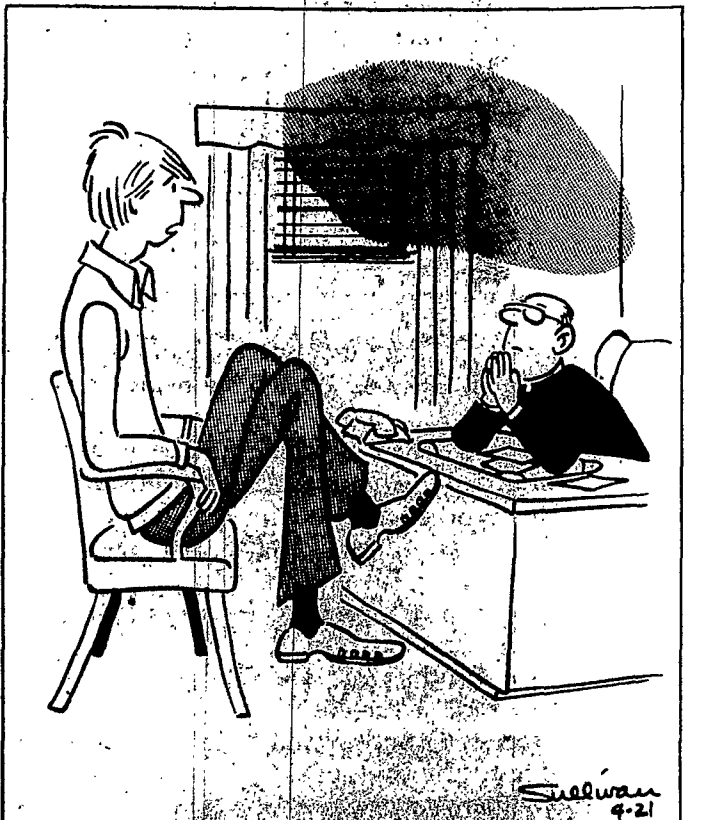
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"Lately I seem to be missing a lot of the baskets, I'm shooting for the Lord."