

Editorials

Tax Credits

If, as William P. Gallagher, director of the State Federation of Catholic Schools, says, the overwhelming approval given tuition tax credits in the House of Representatives is due to "grass roots" pressure then the job ahead is clear for proponents.

The House victory probably will be repeated in the Senate but from there the tuition tax credit bill faces an uphill struggle. President Jimmy Carter has already said he will veto the bill when it gets to his desk. If all of this comes to pass then will come the attempt to override in the Congress.

We tend to agree with Mr. Gallagher that the heavy support of the average voter played a big role in the success of the bill thus far. It is even more important that it continue now.

At this juncture, such support of the bill should be sent to President Jimmy Carter at the White House. To this point, he has been adamant about his opposition but if he is to change his mind it will be because he senses the popularity of the bill.

Joseph Califano, secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, has been presenting a different side of the issue. He says the bill should be defeated because it is unconstitutional and the courts will eventually invalidate it.

There is absolutely no proof that this will happen. Indeed opinion among the legal community is sharply divided on the constitutionality of the bill. Those who see the bill as acceptable point out that

the credits go directly to the parents, not to the schools, thus avoiding the question of church-state.

Regardless, we should let the courts decide. It is unseemly for someone in the executive branch, Califano, to tell the legislative branch, the Congress, what to do because he can safely predict what the third branch, the judicial, will do in the future. That is counter to the whole system of checks and balances provided by the Constitution.

Nor do we think it wise for an executive to announce in advance that he will veto such a bill. It creates a complicating wrinkle and obscures the judgment of legislators.

But while the issue is complex politically and legally, the job is clear for proponents. The president must know now of the support of the bill. The next step depends on his reaction.

and Opinions

All Seasons Priest

Editor:

Father Ehmann's ministry may be prophetic teacher-apostle. However, he is a scholar, liturgist, musician who was an early apostle in diocesan liturgy work, a teacher of priests, and a pastor of an inner city bilingual parish.

It would be very difficult to limit God's charisms in him to one word - music. Ministry is one word. Charism is another word. Mrs. Cruttenden's interesting letter may not reveal a complete understanding of the meaning of the word charism. I am currently attending a Bible Study given by Father Ehmann and have attended one given by him several years back.

Our present Bible study group has been blessed to see and hear God's gifts at work in him. Priests and laity would confirm his ministry and the fruits of the Spirit revealed in him. Besides praise, Father understands the reverence and worship due God from His people!

Mrs. Marthy Shapley
2069 Hudson Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Deacon Werth

Editor:

Recently, our fifth and sixth grade religion class talked to Deacon Robert Werth.

He gave us a short class on the Sacraments and on making the choice of what we are going to do when we grow up. The deacon just talked about the basics: being single, married, a priest or a brother or a nun.

After the talk, we asked the deacon questions. One girl asked why he wanted to become a priest. He answered it was the best way to serve God, and told us how he was a social worker at St. Joseph's Villa on Dewey Avenue and a program director at Braddock's

Bay State Park playground for five summers and about the three churches he worked at before he came here to St. Mark's.

He said, "That's how I can stand up here and talk to you," meaning after being a social worker and a program director with many children.

He was asked what he would have done if he could not become a priest. He said that he would probably have stayed a social worker or become a policeman; but not a policeman who busts people all of the time but a policeman who helps them. He said he loves children and likes to work on his car. He said he has been studying for the priesthood for three years.

By this time we had to go home. It was a very educational talk, and it was fun.

Kathie Gagnier

(Editor's Note: Kathie Gagnier is 12 years old and is a pupil in Mrs. D. Perry's class at St. Mark's)

Father Hedges 'Finest Priest'

Editor:

As his time of departure from St. Charles draws near, I'd like to publicly thank our pastor, Father L. John Hedges, for all he has done for me over the past 10 years.

During that time, his wise counseling and advice helped me hurdle probably the greatest crisis of my life.

I could go on and on, but as I don't like mushy letters, just let me say to the finest priest I've ever met, "Thanks a lot, Jack."

Bill Schneider
122 West Parkway
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

CYO Rules Discussed

Editor:

We are writing this letter to support a very important matter, con-

cerning the Mother of Sorrows Girls Softball Team.

On May 22, at softball practice, we were told by our coach that our once 4-0 record is now 0-4. This means that all our games we won and worked hard for now mean nothing. They are considered forfeits. All the rest of the games we play, if won, will not be recorded or counted. With this, our team has no chance of being placed in our division. We also can't play in the championships if we should win. This is also true if we win all the rest of our games and are Number 1. We are not saying that we would definitely be Number 1 but this ruins our chance for it.

What is the reason? It is simply because we have three players that do not attend our school, but attend a public school nearby. They are called illegal "players." This does not seem fair as they are members of our parish, live in it, and attend MOS CCD classes.

In our basketball rules, we could have one public school player for every two MOS players. We don't understand why the basketball and softball rules are different.

I know that all you who read this will not agree, especially the families of the girls, and the girls themselves we play against but you must realize how we feel.

Mother of Sorrows Girls Softball Team
(Signed) Christine Ruff

Editor's Note: CYO softball rules state that "all players must attend the school." The rule has been in effect for many years. The basketball rules are different because that sport is played on weekends while softball is after school weekdays creating a transportation consideration. Thomas C. Cotterill, executive director of CYO, points out that rules must be obeyed but there is always opportunity for consideration of changes.

A Time For Healing

Editor:

Since Vatican II, Holy Mother Church has been

shaken to her very foundations and roots, she has been mocked, ridiculed, criticized and even despised. There have been those who have deserted her, drunk with the power of their newly-found freedom but as Gertrude von Le Fort said so well in "Hymns to the Church" (Sheed and Ward), "he who lets go of you (the Church) has never known you." From the same poem she says to the mockers "all your slanderers drew their life from you." She speaks to the so-called "paperback theologians who raise their voices and are called the wise of the day, who had their hour but now are fading into oblivion, "those whom the world held wise have betrayed her." Her spirit is dauntless and "the world shudders at your folded hands and trembles at the ardour of your kneeling" for the world well knows the power of prayer though they seek to destroy it.

But now the time is here for healing - to bind the wounds of Holy Mother Church and as Gertrude von Le Fort so well puts it "because you (the Church) bear love to all those who would injure you; you bear great love to all those who hate you. You bless those who no longer know of your blessing. The wayward are not lost, because you know the way, and because you make intercession, sinners are spared. Your judgement is the last reprieve for the hardened one. You pray for souls and this is their salvation. You sacrifice for souls and this has been their food. You mourn for souls as for a lost jewel, souls for this rejoice in your name. You raise souls up as queens (and kings), for this they lie at your feet."

The Church cries out to all souls so they will no longer be "orphans in the banquets of life." She says "should the Church be silent for a day, our light would fail and were she to cease for a night, we would be no more."

This poem is truly an inspired masterpiece that helps us to appreciate and see Holy Mother Church in a magnificent and glorious light. Maybe we should all read this poem, if we haven't keeping in mind exactly who the Church truly is.

Anne B. Christoff
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Corpus Christi Says Thanks

Editor:

The parents, students and staff of Corpus Christi School would like to thank everyone who came and supported us during our Spring Festival.

A few days ago a lovely gentleman, who was a 1913 graduate - of Corpus Christi School sent us a donation and a

note, reminding us that "Every little bit helps".

With the help and support of people like this gentleman and the people who came down to our festival we are able to keep our fine school open and make the city a better place to work and live by offering our children a quality education.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who has helped us.

Kathy Smith
Public Relations
Corpus Christi School



"NO THANKS... I COULDN'T DOUBLE-CROSS MY DAD AS A GOOD EXAMPLE TO ME, HE GAVE UP SMOKING FOREVER!"

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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