

## Editorials

# Nature's Balm

The Fourth of July. Summer. Long days.

Time to watch the corn grow. And time for editorialists to try to paint in words nature's splendor. And even we must admit there is a similarity of purpose in those two sentences.

And so while it would serve to talk of baseball and hot dogs, a news item from the Vatican has caused us to pull up a bit and think twice.

In a front page editorial last week, the Roman Observer decried what it sees as a lack of interest in the

current United Nations session on disarmament. The paper was editorially bitter about the fact that the World Soccer Cup games in Argentina were receiving more attention in the press than the disarmament conference.

Well, let's see. We, too, have urged greater interest in and support for the aims of the disarmament conference. We have done this editorially. We have printed the Pope's strong support. We have carried reports of its progress. We will continue to do so.

But at the same time can't people also be diverted? Indeed perhaps we must be diverted in order to keep a clear perspective on such super-important issues as disarmament. Cannot entertainment and crucial developments co-exist?

We can understand the Observer's worry and

concern about public apathy. It can be seen in any number of grave concerns needing attention.

And we might be prone to say that such is the human condition. But we won't because, after all, human nature is not that bad. Indeed there is balm for mortal wounds and ailments at the quiet trout stream or a fog-shrouded lake early in the morning. Or in a stroll in the Bristol Hills or your community park. Indeed we should remember that these particular summer days will never come our way again. There is gravity in that also.

Work for disarmament? Emphatically, yes! We owe it to ourselves and those who will follow our trail in the future. But we also owe our progeny the realization that while we were willing to cope with the results of some of our destructive inventions we also knew enough to enjoy the gift of God's natural bounty and also knew the value of recreation.

## and Opinions

### Questions Column

Editor:

I would like to add some further questions to those reported by your columnist in this week's issue (OTRS). He says that for a non-Catholic to receive Holy Communion at a Mass, such as a Marriage, he or she must (1) be baptized, (2) believe in the Real Presence, (3) find it impossible to receive in his or her own denomination, (4) request the sacrament.

I would ask further: (1) How does he determine when anyone comes forward to receive that he or she is baptized or believes in the Real Presence? It would be difficult (not to say time-consuming) to stop and ask each one. (2) Can we not assume that, since the person is in fact in this church at this time that it would be somewhat inconvenient to run out to his own church to receive? Assuming, of course, that they were in fact holding a service at this precise time. (3) Can we not also assume that, by the mere fact of coming forward and holding out their hands or opening their mouths in front of a priest with a ciborium that they are indeed requesting Holy Communion? (4) How do people who do fulfill these four requirements know that they are welcome to receive at this wedding unless the priest invites them?

It is sad to see that the Body of Christ, which is composed of all baptized Christians, cannot be shared at the table of the Lord which was meant to unite us. It is also sad to see an article in a Catholic paper which, whether intended or not, encourages guilt in those who honestly want to share fully in the celebration of a couple's new life together and in the celebration of the Redeemer we all serve.

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### Stevens Story 'No Surprise'

Editor:

The Martin Toombs story using extensive quotes from Father Patrick J. Sullivan's talk to a union

group on the subject of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union boycott of products made by Stevens' employees comes as no surprise.

Father Sullivan and a Protestant minister were among the first official boycotters placed on the union payroll two years ago and they have criss-crossed the nation making charges against Stevens most of which cannot stand the light of day.

The union has resorted to the desperate tactics of the boycott because the employees of Stevens have rejected the union 11 times in 12 elections.

The union is proving to all who go beyond quotes from union spokesmen that it is not interested in any more elections. As a matter of fact, the union is trying to become representative of the employees at one of the company's New England plants despite the fact that two-thirds of the employees of the plant have petitioned the National Labor Relations Board to refuse recognition of the union asking instead that an election be held to make that determination by secret ballot.

Father Sullivan said the title of the Stevens Company movie is "Whose Side Are You On?" He's as wrong there as he is in most everything else he says. The real title and bottom line of this entire matter is "The Issue ... Freedom of Choice." Given the union's win-loss record you can tell why spokesmen and organizers for the union don't like that title or the freedom to choose.

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### Thanks to Father Heisel

Editor:

To you, Father Heisel, I am grateful;  
High-minded priest, and pastor faithful,  
An angler for souls like Peter of old,  
Needing no net but love, a high-souled  
Kind man, so eager to do good  
Sure you'd save the Devil if you could!

I offer these acrostic verses to my pastor, Father Raymond Heisel, who is leaving St. Margaret Mary's Church, West Irondequoit to become an associate pastor in Dansville.

John J. Overlander  
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### Let 'Son Shine In'

Editor:

Over the weekend of May 20, I and a group of 82 other women had the privilege to participate in a retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, N.Y. The theme of the retreat was Christ the Light of the world. During our last conference we were encouraged to bring Christ's light into our families, our parishes, our neighborhoods and renew the hope that the world can be enlightened. One of the remarks made by Father Schmidt was that we will not read about Christ in our newspapers, or hear about such things as retreats, because instead we read about accidents, deaths, taxes, political issues, etc. This is true for the most part, but upon pondering this it stirred my soul to search. The papers are products of each and every citizen by the very fact that we do have the freedom of the press in America. If we read not of Christ it is because we Americans write not of Christ.

There were only twelve apostles. The Good News is here! God is in America. He is our Light, He shines in if we but lift up the blinds. There are many kinds of blinds — a culture rooted in materialism, a society whose laws are geared to selfishness, many children searching for responsible adults to love them, talented men who become their own god.

During retreat you enter into closer union with God, pull up the shades of the soul and let the Son shine in! He breathes His Spirit into our weary souls and renews our Faith, increases our Hope in spite of a sorry world, and through this renewal life with our neighbors becomes less selfish and the sails of Charity do grow in spite of our smallness. Refreshed by God's love, we know that He is ever present in spite of what happens to us. We learn to re-tune

ourselves to God's Will through acceptance, we know that He will support us through life's battles. The road to Eternity becomes more visible, the beat goes on, but we have new strength — Christ.

In writing about my retreat experience I feel very inadequate. Words do not do justice to what a retreat can do for a weary soul. I guess I just hope that this article may just inspire at least one more person to taste and see that the Lord is sweet.

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### NFP Group Needs Help

Editor:

The first six months of 1978 have seen much growth in our local Natural Family Planning organization. On Jan. 3, we opened our first office, in the Kearney Building at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester. We were incorporated as an independent, non-profit organization serving 12 counties. Our 15-member NFP Committee officially became our Board of Directors. In February at an Awards Reception, trained couples were certified to teach in our organization. These 13 couples who had used NFP at least one year prior to the Instructor Training Program promised a two year active commitment to the organization. Since January, through volunteer efforts, we have been able to provide 19 classes for engaged and married couples (as well as many private instructions) and 14 information sessions open to the public at no charge.

NFP presentations have been given by our staff at the Priests' and Sisters' Councils, the staff at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira, obstetricians-gynecologists at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, the Spring Workshop on Human Sexuality for Pre-Cana teams, several Pre-Cana conferences, etc. We have been called upon for advice by physicians, clinics and hospitals outside our 12 counties and even outside New York State. We have been invited and have taught fertility awareness and have introduced the concept of Natural Family Planning to 19 junior high, high school and college classes.

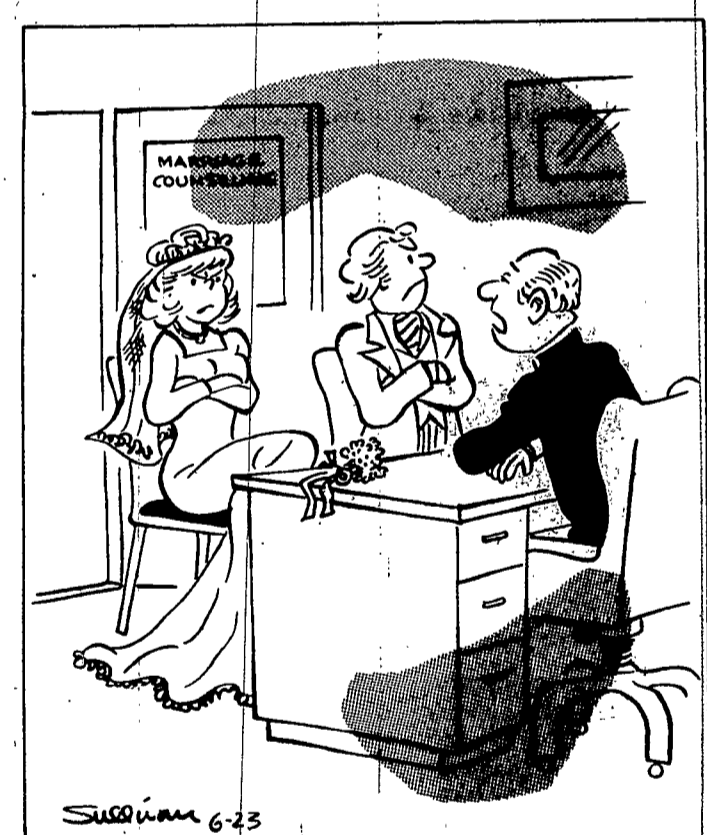
At this time, we are

appealing to our friends and supporters for help. We are in need of volunteers willing to work in our office, type, file, run errands, distribute brochures, and make phone calls. Once each month, we are in need of babysitters during staff meetings in East Rochester and Canandaigua. As we are soon approaching fall, we are looking for dedicated couples who have used NFP at least one year who may be interested in teaching. The number of couples instructed since January numbers 108. This figure for the past six months can be compared to a total of about 100 in all of 1977. This greater interest has increased our need for qualified instructors.

Bilingual NFP users and others who speak Spanish are needed to help us with a new program for Spanish speaking couples wishing to learn about natural family planning.

We are sustained by fees and donations. We will be happy to mail a contribution card to those wishing to help financially. Any contribution, whether great or small, is needed, is helpful and is greatly appreciated. Please help us continue our work. We need your help.

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\*LOOK, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A CHANCE?\*

### 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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