

Editorials

Observations

Happenings here and there and our viewpoints on them:

Three Soviet dissidents sentenced to hard labor. If the Soviet Union doesn't trust its own, how can we ever expect it to trust us? Let us be even more grateful for our right to dissent against our government.

The latest adventure into papal guessing, "The Inner Elite: Dossiers of Papal Candidates," says it is possible that the next pope could be black Cardinal Bernardin Gantin. We'll believe it when we see it.

The State Senate again passes the same capital punishment bill already vetoed. Could this be considered a death wish?

Jimmy Carter, the candidate: "The right of millions of Americans to choose a religious education for their children lies at the core of America's diversity and strength. It is a right we dare not lose." Jimmy Carter, the president, says he will veto the tuition tax credit bill despite its overwhelmingly support and acceptance in the Congress. Enough said.

A Community Chest study gives the diocesan Catholic Youth Organization laudatory grades. We knew it all along. The CYO and its director, Thomas Cotterill, have been quietly and effectively expanding the organization's community services.

Pro-life groups confused by Gov. Carey's absolute opposition to the death penalty while he takes pro-

abortion stands. This is a puzzling and unfortunate situation. We find it equally ambiguous when someone endorses the death penalty and then defends the right to life in abortion issues.

Neither Democratic candidate for governor gives pro-lifers much hope. We cannot get into the political arena but still wonder what would happen if someone entered a pro-life candidate in the primary. Wouldn't pro-abortion votes be split between Carey and Krupsak?

Crazy Club

To the Southern Cross, the diocesan newspaper of San Diego:

Welcome to the club, crazy as it is.

To clarify, bingo was made legal in California about a year ago but that does not mean that diocesan newspapers can let people know where they may go to find some. Thus the Southern Cross has been warned by the Post Office that if it continues to run announcements of bingo nights it would constitute "a possible violation" of the U.S. law.

We, too, have long been subject to and distressed by this law. In a society that permits abortion, legalized gambling, Off Track Betting, it seems insane that a listing of Bingo games is not permitted.

The reason, of course, is that the mails cannot be used to promote "lotteries." Yet we used to receive, until we made public note of the fact, news of State Lottery winners through the U.S. mails.

Yes, Southern Cross, welcome to the club. Strange, isn't it?



"THE PREMISE IS GOOD, BUT THEY WILL NEVER PASS THE SENATE IN THAT FORM."

and Opinions

Share Your Good News

Editor:

To your readers:

We always make the time in our busy lives to read the Courier-Journal and the Marriage Encounter newsletter and we feel renewed and full of joy by the love-filled letters. Then we pick up the two Rochester newspapers and see problems, controversy and trouble. We think of the many lonely, scared people in this city who read bad news and see and hear mostly disturbing news on their television sets. How we wish their days could be brightened and lightened by your letters and sharings. Please, the next time you sit down to write a letter of praise, make two extra copies and send them

to the two Rochester newspapers' editorial pages. God created one race, the human race, and He loves every single one of us. Regardless of the way we live or the color he made our skin, Businesses must pay hundreds of dollars for space in the newspapers, but we all have the editorial pages just waiting for letters from us. Be an apostle, write your own unique good news, share it with everyone in Rochester and surrounding areas and seal it with a prayer that it will get published. Then dream about the sunshine you've brought into other people's lives.

Gene and Mary Marron
357 Estall Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

P.S. We are part of the team on the Marriage Encounter weekend of

Aug. 11-13 and we have some open reservations just for you or someone you know whose marriage deserves this tremendous gift. Call 716-385-4762 to let us know you are coming. We'll even get very reliable and loving babysitters for you.

Puerto Rico, 80 Years Ago

Editor:

Dr. Angel Rivero Mendez, an industrial engineer and professor of physics and chemistry at the Institute of Higher Learning of Puerto Rico in 1898, described in 700 pages the 19-day campaign by which the U.S. Navy and Army took possession of Puerto Rico (Cronica de la Guerra Hispano Americana en Puerto Rico, 1921.)

Eighty years ago, on

July 25, St. James Day (Spain's patron saint) at 5:20 a.m., the Gloucester arrived at Guanica, P.R. Thirty men sent to the coast struck the Spanish colors and raised the American flag. Thousands of infantrymen disembarked. General Nelson A. Miles directed the whole operation, to the complete surprise of the Secretary of War. The Puerto Ricans received the invaders with open arms. "Here the American intervention was expected, in the assuredness to break the forged chains in enormous yoke for four centuries of heavy administration and stupid nepotism and painful moral slavery," reads a letter addressed to Miles on July 26, 1898.

By Aug. 13, all military operations were suspended by order of President McKinley. By the 18th, San Juan was officially under the Stars and Stripes. In Paris, representatives of Spain

and the U.S.A. negotiated conditions for peace. One condition was that Puerto Rico would be ceded to the U.S.A. This materialized Seward's statement of 1867, that the "U.S. has nourished constantly the belief that some day we can acquire these islands."

As a result of that conquest, Congress has been until today the highest political power, and has always developed a process of Americanization in all aspects of life. But the true regime has been the massive economic penetration.

Official policy under the New Deal promoted Puerto Rican emigration. Half of the population now lives in the big cities of the United States. Rochester has received about 30,000 of them. They have brought their history, their confusions, their socio-political and economic limitations. The larger community sees them as "foreigners," as second-class citizens, as poor, as welfare recipients, as "invaders," as dangerous.

Still, Rochesterians are unable to answer some fundamental questions:

With what international right did Nelson A. Miles attack and invade Guanica? What is the legal validity of the Treaty of Paris of 1898? What democratic law permits Congress to be sovereign on Puerto Rico? Why did President McKinley not keep the agreement he made with Henna and Todd to liberate Puerto Rico from Spain's dominion and leave its government to Puerto Ricans?

To put it simply, their home was invaded, taken; their family was submitted to the invader's traffic; they had to leave their house and go to the in-

vader's. Who gives them an answer?

Rev. William Loperena,
OP, Director,
Puerto Rican Arts &
Cultural Center
946 Clifford Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14621

Obey God, Not Men

Editor:

Of all the letters I have read on this page the selection by Walter O'Hagan (6-21-78) was certainly the most illogical.

In the first place, public issues become the proper concern of the Church when Caesar clashes with Christ's teaching and designs for His people. Jesus said, "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's." This presupposes that there will be conflicts between what a government chooses to promulgate and what the Church chooses. In such case, our answer is that of the Apostles, "Better for us to obey God than men." (Acts 5:29) In this regard, Jesus tells His Apostles (and their episcopal successors): "He who hears you hears me. He who rejects you rejects me. And he who rejects me rejects Him who sent me."

As far as being sheep is concerned—"I am the Good Shepherd. I know my sheep and mine know me." (John 10:14) Catholics are sheep—sheep of Christ the Good Shepherd, and Peter tells those whom he commissions: "God's flock is in your midst; give it a shepherd's care." (1 Pt. 5:2)

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"YOU LIGHT UP MY LIFE, MRS. RAFFERTY!"

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Courier-Journal

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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.