

Editorials

The Question Is Not Who, But Where Will He lead?

Vatican City — As of now the most important thing is not who the next pope will be but rather in what direction will he take the Church.

It is the opinion of many Vatican-watchers here that Paul's greatest contribution was that of caretaker of the Church, that he finished what John XXIII had started, that he held the Church together during tumultuous times.

But now we must have a builder, a forceful leader to guide the Church to its promised potential. The new

pope, whoever he will be, will obviously have his work cut out for him. Besides the ongoing problems of birth control, relations with Communist nations, abortion, the Third World, the new pope must also decide on his own personal goals for the Church and then mobilize his flock to fulfill them.

Though the cardinals are inclined to name older men who are Italian there is some feeling that things may be different this time. As Cardinal Cooke, for instance, has said, the cardinals are looking for the man, not his age or nation.

Speculation is rampant. Some even predict a black African, Cardinal Bernardin Gantin, will be elected. This is highly unlikely. We feel that the cardinals will stick to form and come up with a Cardinal Giovanni Benelli or Sergio Pignedoli. Undoubtedly among the 27 cardinals who are Italian there are others also capable of the job.

But, as we said, the choice of man is secondary. Whoever he is, he faces monumental tasks in a harried Church struggling in a tense world.

and Opinions

Takes Issue With Columnist

Editor:

I read Father Cuddy's article on "How Not to Use the Bible" (Courier-Journal Aug. 2) and I felt that he answered the question very well about a priest, smoking a pipe. Many people read the Bible and draw conclusions which are not in tune with what God wanted to pass on to us.

My concern was aroused when he presented such a negative attitude toward Holy Spirit baptism. I hear so many of our priests, with this same attitude, cordially reject what Jesus had to teach us. The main point comes down to the fact that I could listen to Father Cuddy teach me all that he believes about baptism in water and baptism in the Holy Spirit. He could listen to all that I had to say on the same subjects and neither of us would probably be inspired by the other. But the proof of a Holy Spirit baptism, which many Catholics are awakening to, concerns the effects of allowing Jesus into their lives.

Ask Spirit-filled people about the changes in their lives and thoughts. Ask them about their intense love for Jesus and their fellow man. Next Sunday morning, look into the yawning faces in your

pews. Then, go to a Mass where Spirit-filled people attend. Listen to their voices and look at their faces. There is a difference.

Please do not retort "emotionalism" to me. If Father would take the time to discover the personalities of the Spirit-filled people, he would find that they come from many social and economic backgrounds. The differences in these people stem from a deep commitment to Jesus and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Russell J. Sokac
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Let's Return To Basics

Editor:

I am writing in defense of Father Joseph Dailey's thought-provoking homily delivered at Mother of Sorrows Church on July 29.

In both religious and secular education the teaching of fundamentals is necessary, albeit tedious and boring. What we learn by pure rote memory we can later in life properly assess with our proportionate growth in knowledge and understanding.

Let's get back to the basics. The present novel and sometimes nebulous

trend in learning can coexist with the fundamental approach.

When and why did our educators decide to "throw out the baby with the bath water?"

Eileen Snyder
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TV Show In Poor Taste

Editor:

King Lear's new CBS comedy, "In the beginning/Amen," is dumb, dumb, dumb! And at times in poor taste.

The comedy involves the story of a young streetwise nun played by Priscilla Lopez and a pastor played by McLean Stevenson who works in an inner city parish. The nun wants to start a street mission against the wishes of the pastor.

It seemed to be an update version of the "Flying Nun" to me during a recent preview of the opening segment at the University of Notre Dame. However, if the next twelve segments are as unimaginative as this one was, then I predict the series is doomed. It is scheduled for thirteen Saturdays starting in September.

Brother Don
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Questions Reference

Editor:

I read with interest Fr. Paul Cuddy's article, "How Not to Use the Bible," (Courier-Journal, Aug. 2, 1978). I am deeply concerned however by Fr. Cuddy's reference to the "Born Again Christian Woman" whom he met at Midtown Mall. The woman was talking to him about being baptized in the Name of Jesus. Fr. Cuddy stated that this woman "evidently was referring to Acts 27:19."

If we read Acts 27:19, we can see this scripture has nothing to do with baptism in Jesus' name, but rather, Paul's shipwreck experience!

I hope Fr. Cuddy's scriptural reference was merely a typographical error and not just the "fatuousness of exchanging Bible quotes like pingpong balls with text tossers" as he states. I agree, this is "NOT HOW TO USE THE BIBLE!"

Anne Klein
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Planning For Christmas

Editor:

We've been evaluating our lifestyle and finances

and we've discovered that there is much in our lives that isn't particularly Gospel. We see our monthly payments, our middle-class lifestyle, and our American buying habits on one hand and see Jesus telling us to feed His sheep on the other. Too often His sheep just get our leftovers. We see the clothes in the closet, the money in the Christmas club, and our accumulated possessions and home one moment and simultaneously hear Jesus tell us, as He once told a rich young man, to give it all up to follow Him. In our mirror we see middle-class Americans more than we see Catholic Christians living as though we really believed the Good News.

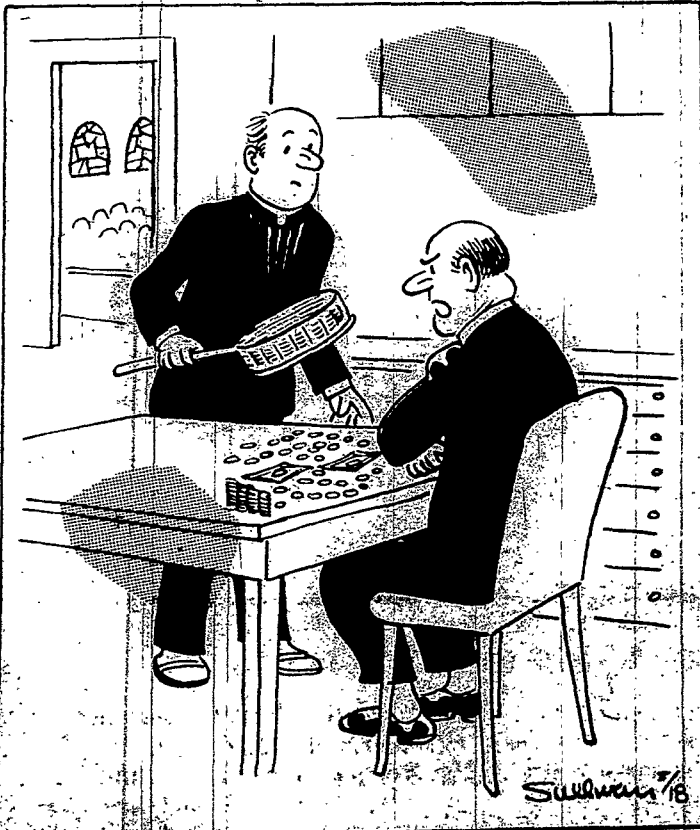
We also realized that we live and buy according to the world's plan more at Christmas than at any other. And it is during Advent that we become busiest with the world's expectations of holiday rather than His call to holy day. It is when we celebrate God's choosing to live in us that busyness and noise rushing and exhaustion tend to push us furthest from Him. This week we realized that we've been sucked into the world's celebration of Christmas as one more pagan holiday and we want out. And we fear that the way we live Christmas measures our entire lifestyle.

We want this Christmas (and the rest of our lives) to be marked by silence — enough silence to hear the angels call us to joy; by

peace — enough peace to feel His intimate touch in Eucharist; by love — real sharing of our deepest selves, our substance, our lives with all those around us who might hunger to hear His Good News. We want to celebrate in a way that will set us apart from the good people down the street who have not heard. We believe that to be Gospel we must be different. Our values must call us to live a life that proclaims His love. A stranger in town should be able to watch us for five minutes in the grocery store or at work and say there is the Good News. As Catholics we must be the best possible Catholics and you must be equally rooted in your faith community. We must be finished giving Him our leftovers.

There's only one hitch. We're afraid. We don't know if we dare to really live a new life, if we can incarnate His Word in our lives. We need you. Is there anyone out there who will work with us? We need someone to tell us, "I am willing to live His word with you even if the world will call us fools." If you have ever felt this tug to be Gospel in this way, call us this week at 587-8386. Alone we are nothing, with you we are the Body of Christ. And we have a hunch Christmas is just another beginning. What a life the Spirit leads us to!

We love you.
Barb and Rob Albrecht,
Father Eugene Emo
Hornell, N.Y.



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 1½ 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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FIREBIRDS DRUM AND BUGLE CORPS CLASSIC— Ten outfits from New York, Massachusetts and Ontario in competition Saturday, Aug. 19, St. John Fisher College, 3 p.m., after parade in Fairport. Tickets \$2.50 for adults; 50 cents for under-tweelves.

ANTON DOLIN— Renowned ballet dancer and choreographer in one-man theatrical event about

his famous predecessors in the field, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 17, at Enid Knapp Botsford School of Dance, 3646 East Ave. Tickets \$2 for school's scholarship fund.

IMMUNIZATION CLINICS— At 13 city and suburban sites, offered by Monroe County Health Department to prepare children for opening of school. Information: 442-4000.

GeVa THEATRE AUDITIONS— For local actors of some experience, today and tomorrow from 10 a.m. Appointments through 232-1366.

ROCHESTER COMMUNITY PLAYERS— Presenting *Once Upon a Mattress* in Xerox Square Auditorium, 8 p.m. Aug. 18-20, 24-27; also at 2 p.m. Aug. 19, 20, 26, 27.