

Editorials Priorities

The Church's top priority is evangelization.

That from Pope John Paul I himself.

The new "supreme pastor," as he has been called in some official correspondence from the Vatican, didn't take too long in giving an idea of the tone of his administration.

After noting that evangelization is the primary duty of the Church, Pope John Paul also pledged to continue ecumenism "without doctrinal yieldings but also without hesitation" and to carry forward "with patience and firmness" the dialogue with non-Christians, and help peace initiatives in the world.

If he didn't get the point across by the choice of the names of his predecessors as his own, he made the message clearer when he reappointed all the top officials of the Roman Curia to their former posts. The directorships, under reforms initiated by Pope Paul VI, became vacant with his death.

"We intend to continue to develop the heritage of the Second Vatican Council whose wise norms must still be led to completion, taking care that a drive that may be generous but unwise should not alter its contents and meaning, and at the same time (taking care) that timid and foot-dragging forces may not delay its magnificent impulse of renovation and life," Pope John Paul said.

He intends to give strong support to Vatican II's doctrine of collegiality — the sharing of power with the bishops.

Undoubtedly there will be some different interpretations of particulars by the new pontiff. But, by and large, it is apparent that at least for some time the world will see much the same direction as set by Popes John and Paul.

Will such continuity be able to solve the problems of divisiveness already plaguing the Church? It would seem unlikely. For instance the recalcitrant Archbishop Lefebvre has already leveled criticism at the new pontiff. And those Catholics upset by the Church's birth control, celibacy, and women's or-

dination policies are not apt to be pleased by the tenor suggested.

Although no concrete hints exist of ways to mollify the various factions within the Church in order to bring the family together, there is no denying there is something about the new pope, something charismatic, that has engendered immediate hope in many hearts of various persuasions.

Pertinent

Although a person with as many years in officialdom as the new pope says many things open to study, dissection and analysis, we think a certain statement by the former Cardinal Albino Luciani was recent enough and important enough to give insight into his priorities.

In a message on the 1977 World Day of Peace, the future pontiff said, "The first class enemy of peace is war, which destroys the lives of thousands, even millions, of persons. The second enemy of peace is abortion. Many people use a double standard; at the same time they are saying 'no' to war, they are saying 'yes' to abortion, which on a world scale is suppressing millions of lives more than war."

and Opinions

Thank You To Fr. O'Malley

Editor:

We have just finished reading Father O'Malley's letter in the Aug. 9 Courier-Journal and we're experiencing more than a small twinge of conscience.

Over the past few years his articles and letters have been a source of enlightenment, enjoyment, inspiration and instruction which we welcomed and enthusiastically shared with friends. Unfortunately, we succumbed to the human fault of taking people for granted and neglected to express our gratitude to Father O'Malley for his contributions toward our renewal as mature Christians.

We eagerly look forward to more articles by him and hope that even this one letter of support strengthens his tired arms to continue waving the banner of common sense for those of us who really do care.

Philip and Eileen Callan
214 Hager Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

use the regular texts when baptizing not the optional one. Catholic columnists would put a stop to a lot of confusion on the part of our Catholic people if they would tell us just what the official Catholic Church teaches. It seems that is asking too much. I recommend to your readers "The Teaching of Christ." Trant's has copies and can get more very easily. No one should let its size scare one. It is a volume to be cherished, full of wisdom, up-to-date, highly recommended. It has a Nihil Obstat and an Imprimatur — very important these days.

Father Leo Vanston, CP
Care of
St. Mark's Parish
54 Kuhn Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14612

Wonders At Treatment

Editor:

Why are people turned off by religion? There are at least a dozen here at the Plaza who won't have much to do with me because I am a Religious. They used to come to my apartment to talk, play pinochle and have lunch.

When it became apparent to them that I go to church every day for the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross and Mass and that I would not stand for swearing and vulgar stories they drifted away. And they are Catholics.

One man used to come in the afternoon on occasion and when I talked about our own faith and the welfare of his soul, he politely excused himself and hasn't come back.

When I leave the complex at 4:40 to go to church for my daily devotions and go through the parking lot to the church which is in plain sight, I know they are discussing me with such remarks as, "There goes the church bug" and other like remarks.

If I talked religion all the time like a fanatic I could understand it but I never

do that except when it seems necessary which is rarely.

What I have wished to do is lead them by example and awaken them to the realization that the world seems eager to plunge into ruin and carry them all with it. Can they not see that Satan seems to be winning now but that the final victory will belong to Christ? I said to a group of people once, "Would you like to stand on the sidelines in the last great battle and have to say to yourself, 'I could have stood with Christ in this, the greatest hour of his triumph but I could not because I didn't know how to love and I have been unwilling to serve him.'"

In Revelations, Jesus says, "Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the reward that will be given to each as his conduct deserves." Do people think that these words are just colorful rhetoric? I hope not.

Brother Francis
125 St. Paul St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

How to Help Trappists

Editor:

I would like to make you aware of the far-reaching

results for good when you choose a loaf of Monk's Bread, even if only a single loaf. First, there are 40 men — cloistered, contemplative Trappist monks — in our midst in Piffard just outside Geneseo who only ask the laity for financial support through the purchase of premium, wholesome bread they themselves bake from a recipe which Brother Sylvester Porter brought with him from the Navy over 40 years ago.

By selecting Monk's Bread we keep alive a body of religious men constantly "pleading and making intercession" for us and atoning for the world's transgressions by lives of near-silence, a very frugal diet, stability in one place for life, and by rising for the day at 2 a.m. to begin the Liturgy of the Hours by which the Bride of Christ, His Church, renders its universal song of praise to God.

Down the road from their self-built, fieldstone abbey is a retreat house for men who seek spiritual care, this again made possible through our purchase of Monk's Bread, plus whatever donation the retreatant can offer.

The monks' charities are widespread from the monks in Nigeria to their

daughter-foundation in Brazil and, in between, the women who live out of shopping bags and find their way to Maryhouse in New York City, the rural poor in the monks' surrounding area and the St. Joseph House of Hospitality at 402 South Ave. in Rochester.

Mrs. Frederick W. Locke
1009 Park Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

'Lab Baby' Welcomed

Editor:

A little baby was born today. She wasn't conceived in the usual way.

Not in the darkness of a marital bed; Her life began in a lab instead.

They call her a test-tube baby now, All because of a doctor's know-how.

The parents had tried to have children before, But their disappointments grew more and more.

To want a child with all of your heart, And not to be able, tears you apart.

Some babies are born as the result of lust, Or other reasons equally unjust.

But this little girl was the result of love, And like every birth, it was a miracle from above.

The doctor may have been the guide, But I believe God was at his side.

Some are afraid of where this may lead, But with restraint, couples may find the help they need.

Now if the public will only leave them alone, To love their daughter and bring her up on their own.

M. A. Kocher
102 Village Hill Drive
Spencerport, N.Y. 14559

Other Letters on Page 5

Recommends

Book

Editor:

I read Msgr. W. H. Shannon's column very carefully (Courier-Journal, Aug. 23). I re-read it and studied it. I pulled out the up-to-date books and clerical magazines. This time of year I can do that sort of thing.

I think someone should inform the monsignor that many, a great many, of our Catholic people are not interested in what "many theologians are saying." Thank God they are very interested in what the official Roman Catholic Church teaches. The monsignor did not say much about that. I might mention here that any priest who is aware of his teaching responsibility will



COOL IT WITH THE DISCO SOUND MRS. GRADY

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.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 95 No. 19 September 6, 1978

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 20¢; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$7.50; Canada and Foreign \$12.00. Offices: Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal