

Editorials

Lift Up Your Hearts!

Monday, Oct. 16, 1978. The day there were only two kinds of people in the world - those who are Polish and those who wished they were.

From Chicago to Krakow. From Rome to Warsaw. The world was joyful for the Polish people, who have always been among the most beloved of all national citizenries.

What vindication for the College of Cardinals whom many had seen as careful nationalists ever concerned with holding the Keys to the Kingdom in a few hands. What a blow to the cynics who foresaw the election as a purely political matter.

And how edifying to those who thought it was puffery when different cardinals announced they were looking for the man, not the age, not the nationality.

And probably all of us, in one sense or another, shared such thoughts before the cardinal-electors searched their minds, hearts and souls and found in those places Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, Pole, 58, from a captive nation, and practically unknown to the world at large.

What a promise of hope for the 30 million Catholics in Poland and for all the oppressed people in some two thirds of the nations in the world! One wonders how Warsaw, indeed how Moscow, will handle the situation of a man from behind the Iron Curtain becoming the leader of world Christendom.

Let's not be misleading. While perhaps the new pope has not been widely known among the average persons of the world, he has been a very important figure in Poland and other lands dominated by the Communists and has been widely respected in Rome.

Father Chester Klocek of this diocese, a friend of Pope John Paul II, pointed out to us that the new pope

was indeed highly respected in Vatican City and about six years ago conducted a retreat in Italian there for Pope Paul VI and cardinals.

Indeed Father Klocek had thought that Cardinal Wojtyla might be elected by the conclave that chose Cardinal Albino Luciani, Pope John Paul I.

• It is indeed mind-boggling and heartwarming to try and realize that we are the first Catholics in more than four centuries to live under a non-Italian pope. We and our progenitors have been blessed with a long line of excellent Italian popes, some of whom have even been raised to sainthood. Recent generations seemed to have been particularly blessed with the saintly John XXIII, the industrious and brilliant Paul VI, and the beloved John Paul I.

So now we look ahead under the spiritual leadership of John Paul II. It is as if the Holy Spirit through the College of Cardinals has told the world, particularly the people of captive nations, "Lift up your hearts."

The people of Poland can truly respond, "We have lifted them up to the Lord."

and Opinions

Thanks Mission Office, Donors

Editor:

I'd like to take the opportunity to publically thank Fr. Reinhart and Propagation of the Faith for the assistance they gave me this past Summer. I was able to do volunteer work as a lay missionary in a small Spanish village in New Mexico because of the financial assistance offered to me.

So often we think of missionaries as people in far away places, in different cultures preaching to a pagan nation. We fail to see our own country, city or neighborhood as fertile soil to be sown with the word and witness of God's love.

To all who generously give to Propagation of the Faith appeal, I'd like you to know that your generosity enlivens the spirit of a missionary and you touch the lives of children, families and the elderly with an unforgettable blessing.

We are our brother's keeper! As sure as we have done this to our brother, so has it been done to Christ Himself.

Kathleen Beikirch
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This election, moreover, is significant in many ways, not the least of which is what we believe to be the singular recognition by God of the many long years of suffering and steadfast loyalty on the part of the Polish people in the defense of their faith and the Church. Truly, if any people deserved such a reward, it is the Polish people. They, like the Irish, have suffered beyond endurance in order to preserve their ancient and holy beliefs. As one people, they have, through the years, undergone the most trying experiences and have emerged with the same pure Faith that was given to them hundreds of years ago.

It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we, their fellow Christians, rejoice with them during this, their moment of glory, and join with them as they look toward Rome, where one of their countrymen sits in the Chair of Peter for the first time, and as we do so, we reflect upon how wonderful are the ways of God, and how beautifully He has chosen to single out those who have shown such devotion to Him.

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them - and don't blame the networks. Broadcasting is a profit motivated venture dealing in what people want - be it morality, slander or smut. Competition dictates that it be extremely sensitive to public opinion.

If you like "In the Beginning," enjoy it by all means. I happen to see it as crass, blasphemous, and a calculated smear of all Christianity at a time when our nation needs God as never before; have advised CBS accordingly. Readers, be sure to see the show, and let your conscience be your guide.

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Lab Baby Seen as Gift

Editor:

Regarding Mr. Pasqua's letter (Courier-Journal, Oct. 11) concerning the "lab baby" I couldn't help but feel that although I agree with most of his letter there must be another side to the coin.

I can fully understand the dangers involved in test tube conception but I can also feel the great joy of two people very much in

love with no hope for creating an expression of that love through normal physical means suddenly discovering that now there is hope that they too may conceive a child. I feel this procedure is a gift but as usual the gift requires that man use it carefully and within very strict moral guidelines. I do not feel the gift itself is evil, only that man has the ability to make it so.

We can use this gift to help a few achieve a goal or this gift can be abused. It is our decision. We must not remain silent for our silence may be misunderstood as encouragement to "experiment." We must express our feelings that this most special gift must be controlled and used carefully. It must be understood that we will not tolerate anything less than a moralistically mature responsible attitude on the part of those involved.

I acknowledge I could be 100 per cent off base but I can't help but feel for those who now may have an opportunity to be parents. I know the joy of motherhood and the pain, laughter and tears. I couldn't deny that to anyone because in my heart I know I would not be willing to deny it to myself. I know that is a very selfish reason and right or wrong I will have

to face the consequences because I know it's true.

What a tremendous and difficult decision the Lord has given us. I pray we decide according to His will. There has never been a time in the history of the world when all of mankind has been faced with so many difficult issues. The world leaders need our prayers.

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Division Not Work of God

Editor:

Comments made in the Courier-Journal and elsewhere indicate that a division exists among lay people, between laity and clergy and among clergymen themselves concerning changes in the Roman Catholic Church over the last 10 to 15 years.

One important question stands out concerning these changes. Would the Holy Spirit inspire (as many claim He has) works leading to confusion, disagreement, division, and even a falling away from the Church?

According to the Catholic dictionary in my Bible: "We fitly attribute to Him (the Holy Spirit) the works of love. He is sent by the Father and the Son on a mission to renew the hearts of men. He is the source of holiness in the Church, communicating the grace of Christ to all members of the Church and making them adopted children of the Father. As the source of grace, the Holy Ghost is also the source of the spiritual unity in the Church, since by grace all men are united through faith and love."

Perhaps the enemy has cunningly infiltrated our ranks. Maybe we should examine the kinds of changes that have been made, for it is the hearts of men that must be changed into love for their neighbors; then everything else will fall into place. Changes in the way we receive Communion or confess our sins to a priest have little to do with changing the hearts of men.

In the last 10 to 15 years, the Roman Catholic Church has become a divided people. Let us pray that God will lead us along his path to unity as members of His Church, the Body of Christ.

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They Rejoice With the Poles

Editor:

It is out of a sense of great love and happiness that we feel compelled to express our feelings concerning the election of our new Pope, John Paul II. It is even more important to join in mind and spirit with our Polish friends as they celebrate during these truly wonderful days. We ourselves are not Polish, but we are certainly one, with the Poles in Christian life and spirit, and we feel it is only fitting that all of God's people give thanks as they do.

Deplores New TV Show

Editor:

For obvious reasons, I was recently attracted by the title of a new TV show, "In the Beginning" (Wednesday, 8:30 p.m., Channel 10). The setting was a Catholic rectory with crucifix prominently displayed. Though billed as a comedy, it was anything but funny. The cast, a priest and two nuns, were portrayed as three designing if not shoddy characters of questionable ethics.

Make no mistake, such shows are on the air either because people want them, or because they tolerate

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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Vol. 95 No. 26 October 25, 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



"I UNDERSTAND HE HAD A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE JUST BEFORE HE RETIRED!"