

# Editorials Thanksgiving

"Why do we have to go to church on Thanksgiving?" the young girl asked.

"Don't you want to give God thanks for all you've got?" she was questioned.

"Sure, but I can do that at home. It just seems that religion is getting into everything these days."

And let's thank God for that, too.

It does seem, in one form or other, in some cases good and in others not so good, that religion is permeating more and more aspects of our lives.

On television, not only does there seem to be a surplus of those typical evangelical shows but dramas,

or what passes for same on commercial television, more and more have religious themes.

Many of our social issues have strong theological overtones, such as abortion, capital punishment, gun laws, euthanasia, even unemployment. Now such subjects have always been a matter of morality but in recent years religions and individuals have rightly injected the fear, respect and love of the Almighty into the consideration of such topics, even on the public scene.

It was indeed edifying to see three world leaders of powerful factions pay simple and unabashed tribute to God following the Mideast peace talks at Camp David - a Moslem, Jew and Christian. These men gave public testimony that it is impossible to conduct the world's business without realizing the presence of God.

So we should welcome Thanksgiving with grateful

hearts. As for the young girl's question, we think the answer is that we can be thankful each and every

moment of our ordinary lives. Special days celebrate such joy in community, to show all our personal gratitude and to share in the oversoul of happiness.

Of course, on such holy days we must also be especially mindful that all have been invited to the feast. There are those so afflicted with society's sins that they have little to be celebrating or who even have little hope of ever getting to the banquet.

Most churches that are marking this great holiday are providing ways of sharing its bounty with the heretofore uninvited. Find out and join in. If for some reason your own church has no special program then do something on your own.

You'll be thankful that you did.

## and Opinions

### Right to Life Ad Assailed

Editor:

We are very much disturbed by the one-page political advertisement which appeared in your Nov. 1 issue from the New York State Right to Life Political Action Committee.

It is very narrow-minded for right-to-life people to suggest that candidates who do not support the Human Life Amendment or any related pro-life legislation should not receive our vote. There are many issues that should

fall under the "Right-to-Life" title. Where do right-to-life people stand on euthanasia, capital punishment and other life issues? No issue of itself is the issue. All of them are. We cannot become a one-issue people.

We urge the New York State Right-to-Life Political Action Committee to promote candidates who stand for all life issues.

Father William Spilly  
Sister Anne Urquhart  
Father Neil Miller  
Sister Mary Kruckow  
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### Church Is People

Editor:

An article in the Wed., Nov. 15, Courier-Journal, used the word Church 13 times. After reading the article, I wondered if the Biblical meaning Church had escaped the writer's mind. Church is not brick and mortar and a few chosen people to run it. Ephesians 1:22, "He has put all things under Christ's feet and has made Him, thus exalted, head of the Church, which is His Body: the fullness of Him who fills the universe in all its parts." Then, in I Corinthians 12:12-27, the Body is explained. Paul is writing to the Christian community at Corinth. He

plainly states that Church is people. "You, then, are the Body of Christ, everyone of you is a member of it." Christ is the head and we, all professing Christians are the Body. The Head and the Body are the Church.

In making this comment on the article, concerning the word Church, I am not in any way saying that I agree or disagree with the main content of the article.

Mrs. Mary Guinto  
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### 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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Courier-Journal



"MAYBE YOU COULD MAKE A LITTLE JOKE ABOUT ALL THE TROUBLE AN APPLE CAUSED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN!"

## Those Most in Need

### From I

health facilities. Her teenaged children are some help, but her monthly welfare check can only provide the necessities and leaves nothing for the "extras" that are part of Christmas.

6 M is in her late 20s and is physically handicapped. She has a parttime job, but no support from her family. Her medical bills are staggering, and because she has moved from one county to another, she is not receiving Medicaid.

7 The Bs are a family of four in a rural area. Although the father is employed, sickness has kept him from a regular job. And although they own their own home, the cost of utilities, taxes, medical bills and the like reduces their income painfully. They need food, financial help for the medical bills and other necessities.

8 Mrs. L and her disabled husband have five children. Their home is dilapidated and badly in need of repair. The winter season poses many problems in such a house.

9 Mrs. I is in her late 40s. She has both children and grandchildren who live with her. One daughter is mentally retarded as are her children. They have no income.

10 C's husband has divorced her. She has two children in foster care because she cannot afford to support them. She attempted

suicide to solve her never-ending problems. She struggles from month to month for survival.

11 The Ws are an elderly couple living on Social Security in a remote rural area. The house they own has no plumbing, and therefore they need to bring water to the house from a nearby well in buckets.

12 F has just filed for public assistance for herself and her two children. The family has been living in an apartment with no electricity for weeks. Her infants are becoming sick because of the inadequate housing.

13 The father of the seven-member D family has been laid-off from work and he has been trying to get a new job for some time. The food supply is very low, and on occasion there is nothing to eat. The family is on public assistance, but the size of the group makes it impossible to stretch the money to cover necessities.

14 The Cs and their seven children have recently dropped out of the "migrant stream" and are struggling to begin a new life in a rural area. They are having great employment troubles and have had to settle in a house which has neither central heating or insulation.

15 T is a young woman who is living in a car. She has been abandoned by her husband, is not able to pay her overdue bills, and can't

find the money to pay for a room or apartment.

16 Mr. and Mrs. D have five children ranging in age from one year to 13. C has heart trouble and is in and out of the hospital. His wife is physically unable to work. Once the rent is paid, the family has practically no money for food. Frequently there is no food in the house.

17 B is a 60-year-old woman who was forced to flee her home in the middle of the night. She needs both financial help and professional care. She has no family other than her abusing husband.

18 H, a mother of four, had to resettle after a fire gutted her apartment. The house she finally rented is badly in need of repair. Her check barely pays the rent and buys groceries. Her husband deserted her three years ago.

19 Mrs. J, with her six children, ages 4 through 15, live in an economically deprived area. She is on public assistance and is desperately trying to make it on her own since her husband walked out on her. Even though she is a good manager, she finds it an impossibility to make ends meet, especially toward the end of the month. Frequently the family is without food.

20 Since his open-heart surgery three years ago, E, a widower, has been unable to work. His partial disability payments are barely enough to support the family of three children.

## The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

### Every Day Should Be Thanksgiving

Dear Father Hohman,

Because Thanksgiving is such an important holiday, why isn't it a Holy Day of Obligation, or at least a Feast of the Church?

(Signed) J.R.

Dear J.R.,

It is sometimes easy to forget that for the Christian every day is a day of thanksgiving and a very central act of our worship is called Eucharist, which means Thanksgiving.

It acknowledges not only that God has given us every gift - everything we have and are - but also that God has given the incomparable gift, the gift of Himself. When we recognize that His love for us simply has no boundaries, then we have to be filled with gratitude. Hopefully we will be able to get across to our young

people in action as well as word that going to church is not a chore but is a way of celebrating the marvelous gifts we have - in particular, the gift of God Himself. In a highly materialistic society, children can very easily get the idea that this or that is owed to them, that it is their right. We need to remember that even our rights are God given. When we get back to that basic concept then we learn to live in humility and awe at all the things we have received freely from the hand of our God. Along with that goes an appreciation and reverence in for all that is. And a corollary to that is that we don't throw away the gifts of God. Thanksgiving is not simply saying I'm glad I have this or that. It is a way of standing in awe and reverence in the face of gifts which there can be no real deserving. It is a way of standing in the presence of God's love and reaching out to embrace Him and our fellow human beings, in devoted response.

One of the ways in which we best express thanksgiving is in sharing gifts. By doing so, we become partners with God in the generous love that distributes gifts.

