

Editorials

Join the Sharing

As has been the case for nearly everybody, this has been a rough and hectic year for people here at the diocesan paragraph factory. Two popes have died and been replaced and a good man has resigned as bishop because of poor health.

We have lived through another year of the jagged-edged news from Ireland, the Mideast, Guyana, Africa and other hot spots around the globe. In addition to the eruptions of violent news, we have been constantly aware of the other pains - the gnawing problems of hunger, disease and poverty afflicting so much of the world.

To paraphrase a cliché, it has been a year like any year of recent vintage. And that realization is not without its measure of joy because it means that at this season we can look forward to the tender arms of Christmas.

For those who have been on the receiving end all year, whether for good or bad, it is now a time to rejoice in the essential Good News and also a time to offer balm to the hurt-around us.

This opportunity is particularly keen here at the Courier-Journal because our annual Christmas Appeal gives us a sense of participating, of sharing in the wonder of Christmas.

As do our readers, we, too, find the 100 neediest cases in our very own diocese disturbing. The hurt is magnified at this time of anticipation. It would indeed be frustrating to ponder such plights and not know what to do or where to turn in order to help. Thus, the Courier-Journal Christmas Appeal, run in conjunction with the kind and efficient people of Catholic Charities, fulfills a meaningful need for us all.

Ah, the joy of caring. Of providing some depth to one's own celebration. To give Christmas to someone who was not going to have one.

There is still time to share.

Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas . . .

From the publisher, Anthony Costello.
And from Gary Ayers, a most happy fellow.
From Lynn Root, ever-smilin'
And from Angela Weiland.

"Here's lookin' at you, kid" from Pete Fraver,
And Tom Decker joins in the flavor.
From Father Lou, who gives us advice,
And from Peg Connolly who thinks you are nice.

From Jim Michaelsen a hearty "skoal,"
To make you happy is Tom Finan's goal.
From Scott Schuman who never gets snowed in,
And from our capable Mike Groden.

Martin Toombs in the Southern Tier,
And Winnie Fox wish you good cheer.
Also a McKinney named Sue,
And Mary Ann Ginnerty, too.

Joy from our Smiths, Joan and Lorrie,
And also from Bonnie Migliore.
From Karen McConnell, a smash,
And from dashing John Dash.

Joe LoGiudice, with which nothing rhymes,
And Veronica Pinkerton wish you good times.
The very best from Nancy Hayes,
And Carm Vigiucci sends you his praise.

From a DeFrancisco named Holly,
And Terry Brennan, ever so jolly.
**WE ALL WISH YOU CHRISTMAS CHEER,
AND A HAPPY NEWS YEAR.**

and Opinions

Columnist Lauded

Editor:

A hearty thanks to Father Louis Hohman and his consistently solid, intelligent, provocative column, The Open Window. He reminds us, despite adverse criticism, that believing and thinking are not mutually exclusive.

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A Christmas Message

Editor:

Some Christmas reflections too often forgotten:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was present to God in the beginning. Through Him all things came into being, and apart from Him nothing came to be."

"He is the reflection of the Father's glory, the exact representation of the Father's Being."

"In Him everything in heaven and on earth was created, things visible and invisible. He is before all else that is, and in Him everything continues in being. It is He who is head of His Body, the Church."

"Though He was by Nature God, He did not consider being equal to God a thing to be clung to, but emptied Himself, taking on the nature of a slave and being like unto men."

"In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."

"And they name him

Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace."

"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us."

"Yet the world did not know who He was."

"He came, not to be served by others, but to serve, to give His own life as a ransom for the many."

"That they may have life and have it to the full."

"It was our infirmities that He bore, our suffering that He endured. He was pierced for offenses, crushed for our sins, by His stripes we were healed. We had all gone astray like sheep, each following his own way. But the Lord laid upon Him the guilt of us all."

"He pardoned all our sins. He cancelled the bond that stood against us with all its claims, snatching it up and nailing it to the Cross."

"You have been bought at a great price."

"He came into the world to divide it, to make the sightless see, and the seeing blind."

"To destroy the works of the Devil."

"Any who did accept Him He empowered to become children of God."

"I am going to prepare a place for you and then I shall come back to take you with me."

"And know that I am with you always, until the end of the world."

"My love shall never leave you."

"Remember, I am coming soon! I bring with me the reward that will be given each man as his conduct deserves."

"Yes, I am coming soon!"

"Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!"

(Jn. 1-3; Heb. 1,2&3; Col. 1, 16-18; Phil. 2,6; Vol. 2,9; Is. 9,5; Jn. 1,14; Jn. 1,10; Mt. 20,28; Jn. 10,10; Is. 53, 4&5; Col. 2, 13&14; I Cor. 6,20; Jn. 9,39; I Jn. 3,8; Jn. 1,12; Jn. 14,3; Mt. 28,20; Is. 54,10; Rev. 22,12; Rev. 22,20.)

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Too Angry For Silence

Editor:

It has taken weeks for me to decide to write this letter. I thought, at times, that writing it would be dignifying allegations made. But I am too filled up with anger and disillusionment to be silent any longer.

I was away from the Church for a long time, and I can tell you that since I've returned the very best Christian models have been the sisters with whom I've come in contact. I've seen only selflessness, pure charity, and have felt Christlike love extended.

I do not intend to launch into a diatribe. Nor will I explore the finer points of why certain persons feel that there should be no female priests. "Because it has never been done" is not a fine point. I won't pepper my statement with psychological boobytraps like, "Oh, yes, there were priestesses in certain pagan religions," because I have every hope that somewhere there is a thinking person who would deem it appropriate to vince Christ did not say, "Follow me because you are male." He said, "Follow me." Christ did not say, "Feed my lambs because you are 100 per cent male." He said "Feed my lambs." The attempt by some to limit this calling according to sexual status is arrogant and smacks of chins-up narrowmindedness.

I am tired of reading that the new pope is some sort of surrogate task master. He is the visible head of our Church, our spiritual leader. His function is not to slap hands. We are not a mindless people. We do not like to think of ourselves as a band of unruly children. We must grow toward God in freedom and dignity, and not bound by conformity and ritual.

There are those who would rob man of his essential dignity by the use of physical force. Others rely on cleverly concocted arguments. Of the two, I would say, the well placed word is strategically more effective. It leaves the unaware defenseless.

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Father Ehmman Demurs

Editor:

After Msgr. William Shannon's generous estimate of me in the Courier-Journal article of Nov. 22, the 75th anniversary of the Motu Proprio of Pope St. Pius X on Church Music, I hope I am not being ungracious or insensitive if I take exception to one point, important enough to be brought to your readers' attention.

I was not "singlehanded" or even almost so, in my early crusade for liturgy reform in our diocese. Several comrades-in-arms bore the "heat and the burden" in those halcyon days of the 30s, 40s and 50s. They deserve recognition: Msgr. John Duffy, and Father Leo Mooney; Sister Florian; Sister DePazzi and Sister Margaret; Father Leonard Kelly. These were all sturdy friends and valiant workers.

There was sterling work being done in our parochial schools of those days, with training in church music for all the children, and marvelous ensembles of school choirs for large

scale liturgies, most memorable the one in the then Red Wing Stadium in 1940 for the national meeting of the Catholic Students Mission Crusade.

In all my career, I never felt it was a lonely battle, and certainly never a losing one. They were great days to have been living in. I thank God for

them. May he bless all these hardy crusaders and good companions!

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More Opinions 5, 29



"THERE'S A HEALTHY RELIGIOUS CLIMATE IN THIS TOWN!"

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Vol. 95 No. 34 December 20, 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: Rochester Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal

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.