

Editorials



Photo Editorial

If anyone should believe that years of totalitarian government has solved Communist China's woes, this

Religious News Service photo should erase the thought. The chanting peasants are shouting for more food, an end to oppression, new human rights and jobs during what is described as a "peaceful" Peking demonstration.

Make It Official

Our new and energetic pontiff is a difficult man to keep pace with indeed. In the short months since he has taken office he has spoken on everything from nun's habits to the danger of superpower nations meddling in the affairs of smaller countries.

We are pleased that he has taken public notice of one of our own countrymen. Recently, while making the point that the spirit does manifest itself among

mankind he used three men as examples to prove it — Mahatma Gandhi, Dag Hammarskjold and America's own Martin Luther King Jr.

That high tribute coupled with President Carter's endorsement of a national holiday commemorating King should help place in proper perspective the tremendous force for justice and good this black, non-violent leader was — particularly in times of tumult and near chaos.

For years we have advocated making his birthdate, Jan. 15, an official national holiday. We reiterate that proposition and urge all concerned to get busy right now so that the idea may reach fruition by 1980.

As President Carter said, "I hope that in this anniversary year (Dr. King would have been 50 years old if he had not been assassinated) I will be able to sign a bill proclaiming Jan. 15 as a national holiday in honor of Dr. King's principles and accomplishments."

and Opinions

We Must Help Boat People

Editor:

To those who watched Channel 10's The Boat People the question arises, "How can we ignore these people any longer?" What are our parish councils or human development committees doing to help? Can we reach out to sponsor just one family? Certainly every Christian community (parish) in this diocese can find three or four people who would care enough to become involved.

In Rochester help is available so sponsor a refugee family through Angie Boella at Catholic Family Services. We Americans take freedom for granted — from these refugees we learn what it really means.

Kitty Jensen
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Also Grateful For Parish Life

Editor:

Father Elmer Schmidt's letter in the Jan. 17 Courier prompted us to write. Yes, Father Elmer, our parish, Holy Name of Jesus, has also been "enjoying such graces and happiness." The Lord has been blessing us and blessing us.

Father Tom Reddington, our pastor, has a gift of openness to his people, whether they are conservative or liberal. Most important, he is open to the way the Holy Spirit is moving in our parish. Because of this we have experienced many marvelous works.

Father Dave Simon, assistant pastor, radiates the joy of Jesus in everything he does. When he talks about the Lord, you know he is talking about a very personal friend.

Working side by side with the beautiful staff, who really lived, the Message, and so many Christ-filled parishioners, has helped us and our four children to grow in our knowledge and love of the Lord Jesus.

Jesus has used Holy Name of Jesus Parish to give us the strength and support we need so much in our Christian walk.

Thank you, Father Elmer, for reminding us to publicly praise the Lord for what is He doing in our parish.

"Thank you, Jesus."

Gail and Dave
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Why Silence On China?

Editor:

The late Cardinal Yu Pin stated in an article last year that "the visible administration of the Catholic Church has been completely destroyed in Communist China and all other Christian churches have met the same fate. Communist regimes everywhere have caused considerable suffering."

His Eminence Paul Cardinal Yu Pin who was also archbishop of Nanking, in exile on Taiwan pointed out that "communism finds in religion today invaluable allies in its quest for world domination."

Judging from the rather silent reaction to President Carter's decision to "normalize" relations with Communist China while breaking a mutual defense treaty with our ally Taiwan, it would seem that Cardinal Yu Pin's comments were right on target.

In dealing with Red China it should not be forgotten that since coming to power in 1949 between 32 million and 61 million people were killed in various purges.

It should also not be forgotten that the present Communist government supports the near defeated regime in Cambodia. This regime by the way has been without peer in the area of murder and brutality.

Consequently our relationship with Red China should include the number one priority of alleviating human suffering.

Unless our basic commitment is a human one, very little will be accomplished and mankind will move closer to an era of tyranny.

Robert Bart
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Rebuttal To Greeley

Editor:

It is demeaning to have to respond to the kind of charges Andrew Greeley made in a Courier column (Jan. 3) about an essay of mine. Even so, I want to assure your readers that in reviewing his writings, especially The American Catholic, I was not animated by stored up "animosity, resentment, a desire to hurt and destroy." I do not "hate" Greeley, and my essay was not "designed to be devastating, to inflict pain" on him. It was simply an effort to state the strengths and weaknesses of Greeley's work as I see them.

I do not consider it a betrayal of friendship to criticize the published writings of a scholar if such criticism seems to me justified. I do, however, consider it a violation of the ethics of scholarly controversy to do what Greeley has done — i.e., to respond to criticism in a scholarly journal by launching a personal attack on the critic in a

syndicated column only a small proportion of whose readers can reasonably be expected to have seen the original article or to have easy access to it.

Since the article that appeared in the October 1978 issue of The Review of Politics is the sole basis of Greeley's charges, I urge your readers to take a look at it and decide for themselves whether it is a betrayal of friendship or a piece of responsible criticism.

I will be glad to furnish a copy of the article to anyone who writes to me at the Department of History, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind. 46556.

Philip Gleason
Professor of History
Notre Dame
University

Questions Teachings

Editor:

Surrounded as we are by the humanistic approach to human sexuality and a general breakdown of morality across the nation, it was particularly painful to read of the difficulties at St. Bernard's Seminary. In retrospect, the recent workshop on human sexuality held at the seminary should perhaps serve as a warning, but most of us thought that a mere discussion of justifiable premarital intercourse, contraception,

masturbation, bestiality and homosexuality did not necessarily indicate that the seminarians were actually being taught the liberal approach to these moral problems. However, the abrupt dismissal of Father Francesco Turvasi and the subsequent resignations of Fathers Joseph Van Torre and John Healy prompted some of us to investigate exactly what is taught at St. Bernard's.

We urge all Catholics to do the same.

In Sex, The Radical View of a Catholic Theologian, by Michael Valenti, Ph.D., a graduate of Notre Dame University, the author comes dangerously close to a justification of bestiality and/or homosexuality when he states his personal view on Page 135:

"It may be necessary for an individual on account of his own personal circumstances to adjust to a sexual mode of existence quite different from that of others. Shepherds have customarily sought sexual release with their sheep. Prisoners have traditionally resorted to homosexuality for the same reasons. These circumstances are extrinsic (from outside the control of the man) but there might be intrinsic circumstances (from within the man) which will demand a similar adjustment."

This book is required

reading for the seminarians at St. Bernard's. In addition, the seminarians are taught the personal views of Father John Dedek who justifies premarital intercourse (which he prefers to as pre-ceremonial intercourse) on the same grounds — an adjustment to circumstances.

Catholics must choose which interpretation of Christ we want taught to our youth, that of the personal-opinion theologians such as Curran, Oriason, Dedek, Imborski, Wilhelm and Haughton who are liberals; or that of the Vatican through the writings of Hardon, Lawler, Wuerl, Baker, Micelli and Stewart. A simple examination of textbook authors and bibliographies provides the thinking parent with the answer to which approach is being taught in the Rochester area. The liberals quote each other, the orthodox writers quote the Church documents.

Mr. and Mrs.
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Editor's Note: It should be pointed out that although the Valenti book is indeed required reading at the seminary that does not mean that the seminary endorses its conclusions. It is one book in a series of required reading.

More Opinions
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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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I THINK STANDING AT THE BACK OF CHURCH DURING MASS HAS REACHED THE RIDICULOUS STAGE.