

# Editorials Communications Proposal

The National Catholic Reporter has accused the National Conference of Catholic Bishops of "audacity" for authorizing a communications collection for increased use of television, radio and other media (without recommending a specific (communications) program.)

The NCR recommended that the collection be boycotted and mentioned the "financial pinch" dioceses and parishes are feeling.

The Courier-Journal has opposed the collection since it was first proposed more than two years ago. The plan was defeated by the bishops when first considered but strong lobbying efforts kept it alive and it finally squeaked through in the Fall of 1978.

We are pleased to see that a national Catholic newspaper supports, in substance, our position. We do not go so far, however, as to call for a boycott or to name-calling, although we frankly feel that the bishops made a mistake in approving the collection.

In December of 1976, the Courier-Journal editorialized that the "addition of another national collection would carry an unintended message — lack of consideration for the grassroots contributor."

We have consistently warned that we do not feel the collection is fair to the family in the pew, or the equally hard-hit pastor, trying to make financial ends meet amid economic uncertainty.

We have declared that our opposition was not based on the fact that the lion's share of the collection is intended for the electronic media. We strongly believe that the potentialities of television and radio must be explored by the Church. We have also gone on record that this newspaper will not accept the portion of the collection which will be earmarked for diocesan newspapers.

If the U.S. Bishops want the collection, and apparently they do, then we will support it, with slight reservations. We ask that it be intended strictly for the electronic media and clearly labeled as such. And we would make it clear that this diocesan newspaper, for one, will not be using such funds.

But we have a further proposal.

The bishops Communications Committee has scheduled a series of regional hearings to solicit recommendations for the collection. May we suggest that it may not be too late to shift gears and drop the idea of socking parishes with the collection and use the hearings to solicit ideas on where else the money may be raised. We believe the bishops would be remiss not to use every means possible to spread the Good News.

But we also believe that putting the financial burden on the backs of already beleaguered pastors and parishioners could well make the venture an ill-fated one.

## and Opinions

### Suggestion On Attire

Editor:

Re: Courier-Journal, Jan. 24, On the Right Side by Father Paul L. Cuddy, attire for Eucharistic ministers.

Although I have been writing for publications for years, this is my very first letter to the editor.

I must agree with Father Cuddy's remarks concerning wearing proper attire when a layman distributes Holy Communion.

Because of the shortage of priests we were among the first of the parishes to receive permission from the bishop to use laymen as lectors and as Eucharistic ministers. At our first meeting, I fought to require laymen to wear a cassock, surplice and cross over stole when distributing Holy Communion. Up to a year or so ago that is the attire we used and I think it was proper inasmuch as we required our sons to wear cassocks and surplices when serving Mass and handling unconsecrated wine.

Now we have been instructed to forego robing in any manner. My partner and I still leave the altar to wash our hands before distributing the Eucharistic and will continue to do so.

I must agree with Father Cuddy that vestments should be worn by laymen when acting as Eucharistic ministers and I hope that I may live long enough to see a return to this practice. Is it any wonder that with the casual approach to the Blessed Sacrament we are having difficulty filling our Nocturnal Adoration hours?

Charles R.  
"Karl" Roesch  
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### Father Cuddy Called to Task

Editor:

In his two most recent

columns (Courier-Journal 1-24, 1-31), Father Paul Cuddy has presented some great misunderstandings about receiving Communion from the Cup that I cannot allow to remain unclarified.

First, Father Cuddy's alarm over the introduction of the option — a practice he judges will be repulsive to the American people — is a bit premature. For although the American bishops have approved this option for Sundays and holy days, it is up to each diocesan bishop to promulgate the practice in his own diocese. So for us in Rochester, the issue will not even be considered until we have a new bishop.

Second, IF the new bishop does approve the option, adequate catechetical material will be provided to pastors for the instruction of their people. If these priests clearly present the background and understanding of the practice, our congregations will not be "inflicted with more confusion," but will be able to knowledgeable and devoutly exercise their choice about drinking from the Cup.

Third, receiving Communion from the Cup will remain an option. Father Cuddy advocates letting the people decide the matter. They will! They can decide to take and drink, or they can pass the cup by, no questions asked. No one will "force it on those who do not want it."

Fourth, receiving from a common cup is more hygienic than the old practice of everyone receiving on the tongue. In an American Medical Association statement made when Communion Under Both Kinds was introduced nine years ago for 19 separate occasions, it was their conclusion that the combination of wiping the rim of the Cup, the alcoholic content of the wine, and the metal of the cup itself reduced the presence of germs and the danger of contagion to almost nothing.

Fifth, with regard to children receiving from the Cup, reverence can be assured by proper instruction and parental guidance. There is no reason why they should be deprived of the Cup, if they are well-prepared.

Finally, offering Communion from the Cup (or receiving Communion in the hand or having Eucharistic Ministers) is not an arbitrary attitude of some "Fancy Dan priests." It arises from the pastoral desire of the Church to provide the full impact of the sacramental signs for the nourishment of the faith of the people. I am saddened by Father Cuddy's lack of that vision and his irresponsibility to the People of God in foisting his own opinion and tastes as though they were the wish of the Church.

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Diocese of Rochester  
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### Child Abuse Hurts!

Editor:

It seems that everywhere we look there are problems, and whether

or not they affect us personally, we do sometimes wish there was something that we could do to help ease the pain.

There is something you can do about a long-standing problem that has only recently begun to gain public attention. Though the victims are small, the problem is big. Big enough to encompass the entire world. Child abuse hurts. It hurts children, and at the same time it hurts those performing the abuse. When the child's tears are dried, the abuser's tears begin. Tears of remorse and despair. And child abuse scars. The emotional scars last a lifetime.

But there is a way to prevent the tears and the pain. Parents Anonymous believes that child abuse can be stopped before it is too late. Through group meetings, potential abusers gain the support of each other, share their problems and realize they are not alone. The need to abuse lessens and lessens until it is no longer there. And Parents Anonymous needs volunteers. Caring, sensitive people who are willing to give time to the organization in roles such as sponsors for new chapters, child-care workers, publicity workers, transportation teams, telephone crisis intervention teams, and office workers. There is so much to do and so few to do it.

If you would like more information about P.A. volunteer work, please call Kathy Martin (volunteer coordinator) at 454-5060 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and she will be glad to talk to you about it. If you feel it's time that you did something really worthwhile, volunteer for Parents Anonymous and find out that you can make a difference.

Lynn Leuschner  
(volunteer)  
21 Linden St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

### Join Black Celebration

Editor:

Three years ago, on Feb. 2, I was installed as executive director for the Office of Black Ministries (OBM) during a festive celebration in Immaculate Conception Church on Plymouth Avenue South. The occasion culminated a year-long process initiated by our recently resigned ordinary with black Catholics who had volunteered to serve on an interim committee to design and organize this new diocesan-level department. In addition, the ceremony simultaneously marked an official recognition for the necessity of the genius rooted in black heritage

and experience being inclusively reflected in the Church's vitality.

Moreover these beginnings for my administration and the development of this organization have aided an important foundation for the present establishing of an original structure to determine the further indigenous enhancement of OBM programmatically.

To herald this major accomplishment whereby the re-constituted and expanded OBM board of directors evolves as an authorized governing body from a former advisory group, an installation ceremony will be held on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m. in Corpus Christi Church. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as apostolic administrator for the diocese will preach and officiate in commemoration of this being a vision he held for his episcopacy while shepherd of the see.

I welcome you with the OBM staff to share the joy of this day by your continued support, if not also your actual presence.

Father Jerome Robinson,  
OP,  
executive secretary  
Office of Black Ministries

### More Opinions 5

### 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'M PROTESTANT, BUT YOU'RE WELCOME TO USE SOME OF MY KITTY LITTER."