

Editorials

Team Chaplaincy

Dioceses from around the state, and possibly from around the nation, as well as other official agencies, are keeping watch on the effectiveness of the diocesan chaplaincy team at work at the Elmira Correctional Facility and Reception Center.

The team is establishing precedents for work in state prisons. Not only is it the first group ministry but it includes what is probably the only woman working fulltime as a chaplain in such an institution, Sister Josepha Toomey.

Father Daniel Tormey heads the ministerial team and Michael Stanley, a layman, is the other member. Besides the two Elmira facilities, the team also serves Camp Monterey in Schuyler County.

In a story in the March 7 Courier-Journal, Father Tormey said he felt the new arrangement is working. Obvious problems exist, such as a woman working "inside." But Sister Josepha says the inmates have shown her nothing but respect.

And Stanley feels that he has been accepted as "chaplain" although he is not ordained. The fact that he is married may help him relate with married prisoners, he feels.

Officials at the Elmira facilities are to be congratulated for going along with the idea probably despite some understandable misgivings.

And while others may now be thinking of instituting such chaplaincy teams elsewhere, that consideration of ministry is only one facet of a multitude of issues concerning prisons. For instance, is the whole system of incarceration in need of overhauling. Should persons convicted of certain crimes be required to perform public labor instead of being imprisoned? These are just a couple of the obvious questions that must be pondered at the Albany level.

And as with any governmental problem, a necessary ingredient for solution is informed public opinion. And before that public opinion is sound we must all do a better job of becoming involved.

Advice on that necessity has come from two sources recently. Father Tormey advises that we on the outside must become concerned in order to make the system work to the benefit of society. He suggests we can contribute by helping to provide jobs and housing for released inmates.

And his general position receives support from the eminent psychiatrist Karl Menninger who recently urged Christians to learn the facts about local jails and to do something to improve the system which he described as "chaotic." He blames the present system of imprisonment for "manufacturing criminals constantly."

Many issues concerning imprisonment will be discussed at the current legislative session in Albany. It is the business of all of us to pay attention.

Spectrum

Their very differences tell a lot about the catholicity of their Church.

St. Patrick, the bishop, the traveler, the administrator, the courageous, the man who inspired a nation of people.

St. Joseph, the stay-at-home except for one monumental journey, the humble, the laborer, and yet also a man of immeasurable destiny.

On March 17, again lacking peace in the land he embraced, we remember St. Patrick and we celebrate, often flamboyantly, his stay on this earth.

And on March 19, we will pay heed to the memory of the quiet man who was the foster father of the Messiah Himself. And despite the centuries the celebrations befit the character of the great saint -- at-home with the family.

It wouldn't hurt to ask St. Patrick to intercede in behalf of that long-torn island people that they may enjoy the peace of the Lord even here on earth. And, of course, St. Joseph should always be in our prayers for the protection of home and family.

and Opinions

Where Are Cassocks?

Editor:

Ever since the nuns discarded their religious dress and started to wear modern clothes, the priests started to follow suit.

Nowadays, it's common to see priests, while preparing the altar for mass, wearing sweaters and even parkas while working in the sanctuary.

What ever became of the old fashioned cassock the priests used to wear? What happened to the biretta the priests wore when they entered the sanctuary? It's things like this that turn older Catholics sour on secularism.

I hope that when some of the priests read this they will return to tradition of wearing a cassock while they are in the sanctuary. It befits their vocation. Secularism is all right for the laity but not for the clergy.

Charles Mikeltish
205 Chestnut Ridge Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

A Prayer To Ponder

Editor:

A few years ago I clipped part of a column on an article about St. Patrick in another Catholic publication. It was supposedly a quote from the "Breastplate of St. Patrick." I've kept the clipping in my billfold and use it from time to time in my meditations. I'm sure your readers also will benefit from reading it.

"Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every person who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of every person who speaks of me, Christ in the eye that sees me, Christ in the ear that hears me."

May I also suggest to your readers that the next time they see pictures of greenclover and leprechauns on St. Patrick's Day, either in advertising or greeting cards, they stop and think why those symbols have become associated with the feast day and the saint is nearly forgotten about.

J. K. Kavanaugh
52 Harold Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14623

Weakness Invites War

Editor:

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret in their letter of 2-28 ridiculed our generals and admirals for squandering billions of dollars on "wicked toys."

I strongly suspect that the d'Audiffrets are ignorant of the fact that the Soviet Union outspends us in this area by 40 per cent.

Their charge that the defense budget is up 10 per cent also deserves comment. If they mean last year's budget they are wrong. The increase from last year's budget was only 3.5 per cent. And allowing for inflation that's probably a decrease.

In the past 12 years we have cut back 520 strategic bombers, 131 combat surface ships, frozen our missile strength at the 1967 level, scrapped our antiballistic missile system, the B1 bomber and the neutron bomb.

That's an arms race? It's apparent the d'Audiffrets know little regarding our military capability.

Another charge being laid to rest is the one called "overkill." The Soviet Union with its antiballistic missile system (remember we scrapped ours) and an expenditure of two billion a year on civil defense reveal the unthinkable: That a nuclear war can be won without destroying all nations involved.

Hopefully we will remove our heads from the sand and at least keep pace with the Russians.

History reminds us that weakness invites war.

Robert Bart
PO Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

No Support For SALT

Editor:

"SALT II pacts are immoral... this mutual threat system is not the answer." So says Father J. Bryan Hehir, executive secretary of the Office of International Justice and Peace for the USCC continues to the point where he decides that alternatives would be worse, and then he endorses SALT II which he termed the "mutual threat." (Courier-Journal, 2/21/79)

It would seem that the Office of Justice and Peace has neglected to make a distinction. For more than 60 years, the leaders of world Communism have reiterated their manifesto of world conquest. It would therefore seem that the "threat" is unilateral because the United States is forced into a defensive and survival position which logically cannot be described as a "threat."

Justice and Peace to the contrary, the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World of Vatican II supports the right of self-defense as Catholic doctrine. "War has decidedly not been eradicated from human affairs. So long as the danger of it persists, it will not be possible to deny governments the right of legitimate self-defense. Rulers and others sharing the responsibility have the duty of looking to the safety of those in their charge."

Pope Paul at the United Nations: "As long as man remains as he is, defensive arms unfortunately will be necessary." The United States Constitution mandates the "common defense."

Father Hehir urges that we write to Senator Moynihan to support SALT II. Before I follow an "uncertain trumpet" I will look to the massive evidence assembled by the

Washington-based Coalition for Peace and Strength which is supported by 54 member organizations. Their warning is that SALT II would legalize Soviet military superiority. They document that there are at least eight instances in which such superiority would be perpetuated.

One example: The Soviet Backfire, Badger and Blinder bombers (which can reach the U.S.) are not counted in the ceiling, while all U.S. strategic bombers are counted.

There are other examples equally disquieting particularly because there is no provision for on-site inspection. The Communists cheated on SALT I and there is no reason to believe they have reformed because their morality indicates "the ends justify the means."

G.F. Newberry
160 Azalea Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

A Lenten Abecedary

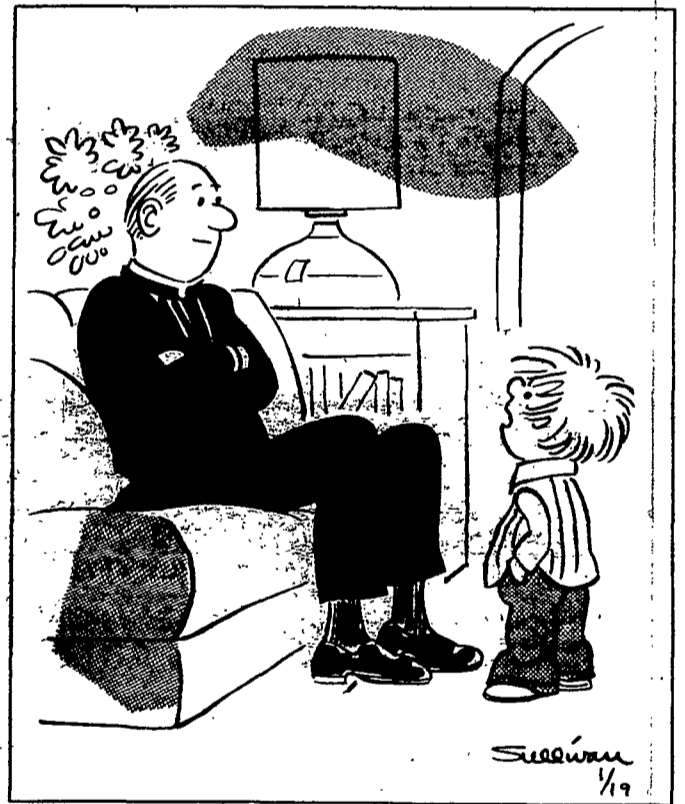
Editor:

- A is for ALL as Lent starts another year;
B is for our BIBLE which is ever so near.
C is for CHARITY, a virtue sublime;
D, all the DONTS we'll leave far behind.
E for EUCHARIST received in combating sin;
F for FRIENDSHIP we'll all surely win.
G stands for GRACE to be gathered galore;
H is for HEAVEN awaiting in store.
I not for idleness, but for IDENTITY, for sure;
J is for JESUS, a Divine Person, so poor.
K all the KNOWLEDGE of our faith that we live;
L for the LOVE we are striving to give.
M stands for MOTHER, Mother Mary so dear;
N is for NOBLE as there's no other peer.
O for OPENNESS, as our hearts open wide;
P is for PEACE in our actions we'll strive.
Q means QUALITY, QUICKNESS and QUOTE;
R for good READING, as

our spirits will float.
S stands for SELFLESSNESS as the stations we say;
T for our TIME the dear Lord will repay.
U is for US, the proud and the weak;
V for VITALITY as in Penance we seek.
W means WORK in Lenten striving we'll show;

X for the 24th letter, with two more to go.
Y is for YOUTH, YAWEH, YOU and for YEARN; then as we come to
Z a new life we'll have earned.

Mrs. Clara (Saxe) Pastro
17 Caton Rd
Corning, N.Y. 14830



"WHEN YOU'RE BORN AGAIN, CAN YOU SKIP BROCCOLI THE SECOND TIME AROUND?"

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 95 No. 45 March 7, 1979

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)
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.

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.