

Editorials

On the Un-Level

We have heard of the person who has an even temperament, always mad. Now three political science researchers from the Midwest have come up with a parallel finding, people of various religions are equal in one respect — their intolerance of each other.

"People are intolerant of widely disparate targets," said James Piereson, one of the researchers. "So many people are prepared to be intolerant," bias could easily be "mobilized against some target."

Other of their conclusions: People with more education are only slightly more tolerant than less-educated people.

Men are no more tolerant than women.

Liberals are very nearly as intolerant as conservatives.

Young people are as intolerant as old people.

Blacks and whites are about equally intolerant.

People in the South are no more intolerant than people in any other section of the country.

We can't vouch for the accuracy of the research but if it's true some big, self-righteous balloons should be deflated. Should be deflated that is, but it won't happen. We all have the uncanny knack of being extremely tolerant of our own biases while giving narrow passage to the next person's.

Fr. Robinson

It is with a keen sense of loss that we reflect on the decision of Father Jerome Robinson to leave this

diocese to take a new assignment with his Dominican order in Nigeria.

This diocese only rarely has been blessed with a black priest working in our midst. Thus Father Robinson in his brief three years here has provided us with a breath of fresh air not only because of his personal intellect and charisma but also because he has been a kind of conduit channeling to us the beautiful gifts of his black culture — the latter representing input sadly lacking in our American Catholic Church.

We do not think it will be easy for this diocese or the U.S. Church in general to find a replacement for Father Robinson, not only because he leaves difficult tracks to follow but also because we have not been very catholic about our duties as Christ's followers.

We have a bittersweet consolation in realizing that Nigeria's gain will be Rochester's loss.

and Opinions

Glad Plan Unaccepted

Editor:

Thank you for the fine coverage of the FLHSA meeting in Canandaigua. God was with us and many prayers were answered.

Here are two lesson plans from the controversial Planned Parenthood "Human Sexuality Curriculum" that the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency had been solely examining as a "possible model to be promoted throughout the state." (FLHSA Health Systems Plan; Draft, Page 83).

Slang Language Exercise
... Procedure: Place large sheets of newsprint around the room. On each sheet write a term for an anatomical part or sexual activity. Distribute markers to students, and ask them to list all the slang terms they have heard for each of the words. Some words that usually elicit good discussion: male, female, vagina, scrotum, anus, VD, penis, breast, intercourse, masturbation, oral sex ... (Session 2, Page 13).

One can just imagine how fast such a lesson could degenerate into a complete "gross-out."

Who's in control here? — Role Playing Exercise ... To foster the idea that the individual is in control of personal decision-making, even if drugs or alcohol are involved. Procedure: Mary and Mark are 16, have been dating for about two years. Both are virgins. They're at Mary's house, alone, her parents will be home about midnight. They're sitting on the couch, getting into some heavy kissing. Ask two students to role play the situation, to discuss the possibility of having intercourse. Keep role play short, about 3 to 5 minutes. (Session 6, Page 8).

A letter from Judith Echaniz to the FLHSA stated, "It must also be realized that role-playing, a favorite technique of values clarification, reinforces all the behavior in the role play. Practicing preliminary love-making, slang and abusive language, regardless of what discussion is included, reinforces those behaviors and endangers chastity."

Premarital sex robs love of its chance to grow. It means picking blossoms of

love in Spring and never reaping many of the fruits of love in the later seasons of life.

Also, it cannot be denied that Planned Parenthood is having a major part in the massacre of unborn babies that has now reached the proportion of the Holocaust in this country alone. It hurts deeply even to think of the consequences. Nevertheless, the truth must be brought to light lest more uninformed people be lured into the snare of the devil.

Please seek God in prayer. Listen, and do what He tells you all the while praising God who "comforts us in all of our afflictions and thus enables us to comfort those who are in trouble, with the same consolation we have received from him." (II Cor. 1:4).

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Sex Education Scrutinized

Editor:

It used to be said regarding advocacy of artificial birth control that the end result would be no births and no control. It is now said that the more sex education prevails, the fewer the unwanted or extramarital births, but here again the opposite has come about — the more sex education, the looser the morals and the more illegitimacy.

Common sense and faith should prevail. The solution lies not in sex education but in sound moral training, including a wholesome respect for God and His directives to us. We need to return to a study and implementation of the splendid document, The Christian Education of Youth, which embodies the wisdom and experience of centuries. We need a return to the love of modesty (which protects chastity) and a moderation of the excessive concern with "self-fulfillment." It does not take any profound effort or extensive research to conclude that in the days when modesty prevailed and there was a sense of shame and guilt connected with sin, there were fewer problems with venereal disease and illegitimacy and abortions.

It is quite apparent (except to the deceived) that there is enormous need among many people of good will today who are obsessed with the need as they seek it for sex education which all too often means rather an exposure to pornography. They cannot see the connection between constant exposure to sexuality and the increasing sex encounters.

In the days when boys and girls were allowed the comfort of and right to segregated study and play, boys and girls both could develop more truly in accordance with Christian norms. Now they mingle and date at astonishingly early ages with the encouragement and approval of parents who want their children to be "where it's at."

Let us turn for enlightenment to the teachings of the popes in the areas of faith and morals, where they are inspired and protected from error by the Holy Spirit. What spirit is enlightening and inspiring such organizations as Planned Parenthood? Perhaps Scripture can help to answer this question. By their fruits you shall know them."

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Grateful For Directory

Editor:

The recent publication of the National Catechetical Directory (NCD) by the U.S. Bishops is a very promising event for the future of catechetics or religious education in our country. For many years, Catholic parents have been concerned at the lack of sound doctrine characterizing various catechetical programs in schools and CCD classrooms.

The emphasis on the Creed (Apostles, Nicene and Credo of the People of God of Paul VI) found in the National Catechetical Directory will do much to counteract in a positive manner the permissiveness with which the articles have been treated by avant-garde religious educators this past decade.

On behalf of all the members of the Rochester St. Pius X Chapter, Catholics United for the Faith, I wish to thank our

American bishops for this most welcome document to assist all Catholics in the tasks of contemporary catechesis. I am also pleased to note the important contribution which was made by over 10 CUF chapters throughout the U.S., who participated in the preparatory work to finalize the NCD.

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No Wonder Confusion

Editor:

No wonder so many people are confused and frustrated by the Church's actions these days.

Regarding the Courier-Journal of March 7, on the front page we have Sarita Rios of the Farm Labor Organizing Committee urging us all to boycott Libby-McNeill-Libby and Campbell's products.

Meanwhile, on page 13, we have Sister Frances Raphael joyously clipping Campbell's soup labels to exchange for movie equipment for St. Ambrose School — obviously a boon for the school.

And, by the same token, is it not interesting to note the firm support the Church gives to so many labor unions, meanwhile denying their own Catholic school teachers their right to unionize? At least this is the

case in our area. Somehow that does reek of hypocrisy.

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Poll Process Criticized

Editor:

"The Selection of Bishops Committee" believes that 45 per cent return of 10,000 questionnaire is "a most gratifying response" (Courier-Journal, 3-14). However, the six major conclusions represent only a 16 per cent positive frequency response from the questionnaire recipients — or only a half per cent of the diocesan Catholic figure. What confidence can believers in polls place in any explanations of the fact that 84 per cent of the questionnaire recipients did not give support to the major conclusions of the report?

Some people, including myself, see the poll process and the 31-page report as another form of self-gratification that further widens the gulf between Catholic Faith and the faith witnessed by the Church of Rochester. While convinced that Catholic Faith does not exist in the Church of Rochester, some continue to endure the burden of a wavering, weak hope for the return of Catholic Faith.

As long as the Church of Rochester rejects the authority of the Church Magisterium and of the Pope as its Bishop who "by divine institution enjoys supreme, full, immediate

and universal authority over the care of souls" (Vat. II, Bishops), it is not bearing the fruit of the Catholic Faith.

Are there any priests who will rise and say, "For Christ's sake and the salvation of our own souls, we cannot allow children to assimilate acceptability of scandalous disobediences by lay image religious who place themselves above the authority of the Church; we cannot subject parishioners to their leadership on parish councils?" Is there a parish that follows Pope Paul VI in flatly rejecting an increase of lay ministries as a solution to the vocation crisis.

Are there any priests who will rise with Popes Paul VI and John Paul II to insist on the "exceptional character" of General Absolution (Courier-Journal 12-6-78) — and note that not even ordinaries are authorized to change the conditions, or determine grave necessity.

Priests no longer fear or hear God's advice to them "Obey your leaders and submit to them: for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who must render an account. So act that they may fulfill their task with joy, not with sorrow for that would be harmful to you." (Heb. 13:17).

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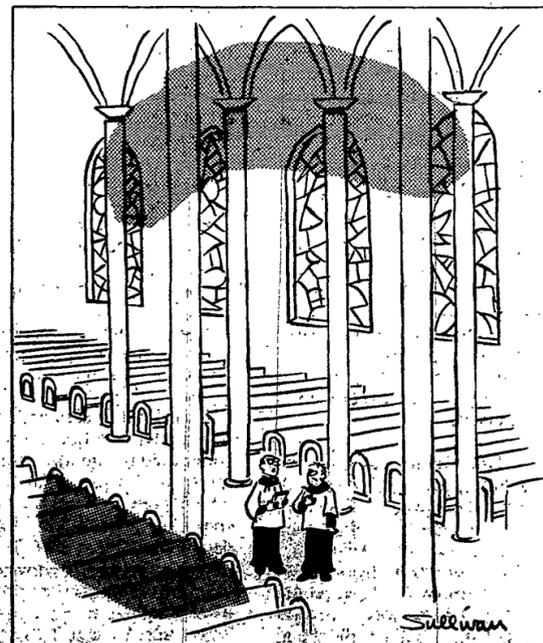
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"WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU THINK YOU HAVE CABIN FEVER?"