

## Editorials

### Easter Story

We have run this editorial in the past at this time of the year. We reprint it with the thought it may be appropriate for Holy Week consideration.

**Editor:** Look, Steve, Jerry is sick today so you'd better cover that crucifixion.

**Steve:** Come on, boss, I don't know anything about that beat and besides it's Friday afternoon.

**Editor:** Yeah, I know. But Jerry says this guy's different. Got a lot of followers, too. I just feel that we'd better have someone there.

**Steve:** But I'm bushed. I just finished that in-depth piece on the protests over Roman rule. And besides it's Friday afternoon. I'm supposed to be off because I'm working Sunday.

**Editor:** Well, maybe you're right. After all, they're crucifying a couple of thieves with him so maybe he's not that important.

**Steve:** If it were that other guy, Barabbas, I'd say let's go. He's really a story. But this guy is just some kind of religious nut. They say he claims to be the son of God, or God Himself.

**Editor:** That might be just an act. He has a lot of

followers and if I were the Romans, I'd think twice, too.

**Steve:** Sure, he's got some fans, but watch what happens when he's gone. They'll scatter to the winds and never be heard of again.

**Editor:** Okay, you win. Go on home. Have a nice weekend. Say hello to Miriam and I'll see you Sunday.

The scene shifts to Sunday at the office.

**Editor:** Jerry, come in here. Do you know that they claim that guy Jesus is not in his tomb? That he has risen from the dead?

**Jerry:** I heard it but who knows?

**Editor:** What's that supposed to mean?

**Jerry:** The way I look at it, a couple of things could have happened. Some of his pals stole him from that tomb or else he wasn't dead in the first place.

**Editor:** I got to believe he was dead. They really gave it to him, those Romans. And they're good at that stuff.

**Jerry:** But we really didn't see it for ourselves. I take one day off and we blow one. I told you this one might be different.

**Editor:** Let's not cry over that now. Go interview that woman, what's her name, Mary Magdalene, and those others who found the tomb empty. Try to find

out if anyone was hanging around there over the weekend. I'll send Steve to talk to the Romans.

**Jerry:** Isn't that a bit much? I mean we know that he couldn't have risen from the dead. So who cares what they did?

**Editor:** You reporters are all alike, never worry about my problems. Today is Sunday and I need something to fill the local page.

Later that night. Steve and Jerry in editor's office.

**Jerry:** Well, I told you not much of a story. Either he wasn't dead in the first place or somebody stole the body. They had motive for that. But where in God's name would they keep it?

**Steve:** The soldiers swear they killed him. Said nobody could have lived through it. And they should know. One of them is a real veteran of crucifixions.

**Editor:** All I care about is that we're covered. We got the story and it's right out there on the front page.

**Jerry:** All right, so he's dead. But what about those guys who claim to have seen him since - Emmaus or some place that way?

**Editor:** For God's sake! We'll be getting a lot of those stories. We try to run every one of them down, we'll be doing nothing else. Forget it. He's dead and let's leave it at that.

Couldn't have happened? The greatest historical event of all time being given such short shrift? The story is true. It happens every day.

## and Opinions

### Articles Seen In Conflict

**Editor:**

Is it any wonder that Catholics are losing their Faith? I wonder just how thoroughly our diocesan hierarchy read the articles published in the Courier-Journal?

I refer to "The Open Window" by Father Louis J. Hohman, March 21 issue, and to "Sin Does More Than Break the Law" by Father Charles Curran as reported by John Dash.

I, for one, would like to have someone explain to me, an average Catholic, the controversy that exists between these articles, and in the language that a layman can understand.

Charles R. Roesch  
2307 East Lake Road  
Conesus, N.Y. 14435

### 2 Greatest Lies Cited

**Editor:**

People like the letter writer Sally Ward (Courier-Journal 3-21) use all their statistical trivia in order to rationalize the existence of the Planned Parenthood Sex Education curriculum in our secondary schools. Planned Parenthood takes a student beyond the biological aspects of a sexual relationship between a man and a woman - married to each other - to all the possible alternatives (the "realities"). It then encourages "personal responsibility for behavior" (translation: contraception, protection, abortion, if necessary, and immediate VD treatment). The greatest lie of our society is that our young people have so much sexuality that it can't be

controlled. To ask why there is currently an epidemic of teenage pregnancies is to be told there is not enough education (?) and yet, to ask why my generation had so few pregnancies although we had no education is to be told that, because the Church and its rules were so oppressive, we had no sexuality - the SECOND greatest lie of our society.

Sometimes I feel that we Catholics are guilty of being like those who watched in silence while the emperor showed off his "new clothes." We are afraid to admit that what we are seeing because the intelligentsia is blinding us what it is thinking. Actually ALL Catholic sex education should be based on the unchangeable fact that premarital and extramarital sex are ALWAYS wrong. How futile it is to have our teens participate in daily classroom discussions with the idea that our moral code is as flexible as the various teachings of the many "intellectuals" who are polluting our educational institutions. How sad that the Holy Spirit is no longer thought to be capable of helping our teens through experiences which, at times seem to need no less than a small miracle! We Catholics would do well to paraphrase the marvelous Hebrew National TV commercial: "The government says we can teach sex education to our teens without moral values - we don't. It says we can supply our teenagers with contraceptives - we won't. It says that we can counsel our girls to have an abortion without the permission of their parents - we CANT. We're Catholic and have to answer to an even Higher Authority.

Mary L. Greisen  
6283 Pittsford-Palmyra Road  
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

### We Foster Inflation

**Editor:**

Please do not construe this letter as critical of the concern which all true followers of Christ have for the poor. The tragedy of the world's starving millions is beyond normal comprehension; yet, the present deluge of appeals in their behalf rings hollow in a country which wastes enough to feed them.

Christians and Jews comprise a majority of our people, and more than 90 per cent of our federal government. Both have a strict mandate from Above to support the poor which we will always have with us - our unfortunate neighbors who are poor through no fault of their own. Without inflation - and without the greed it fosters - this could be accomplished with heart, and without the tremendous tax burden imposed by government intervention.

Inflating the currency is nothing short of legalized theft. It systematically robs the poor of our nation, and most of the poor nations as well. It exists by virtue of a small influential minority whom it profits; and by a naive majority which would follow their example.

In summary: Blind men are leading a blind nation in a frantic drive to keep abreast of inflation instead of joining hands to stop it. In this process, we plunder each other; we incur the obligation of supporting the hindmost in idleness; then reap the consequences of our folly in a tide of drug addiction, immorality and crime. Substantially, this was the conclusion of the world's wisest man. Compare it with Ecclesiastes 2:21.

Edward A. Veith  
2952 Atlantic Ave.  
Penfield, N.Y. 14526

### Arms Race Fruitless

**Editor:**

A few more thoughts on the arms race:

We do not think it makes much difference at this point how many missiles or nuclear warheads or other lethal contraptions either the United States or the Soviet Union has; it should be enough to know that together we have the potential of destroying one another many times over. We do think it makes a difference that this arms race, at around 125 billion a year for us, is depleting our substance, distorting our priorities, producing nothing constructive, firing inflation, weakening our dollar, and us strapped enough so we cannot take care of, for instance, finding a cure for cancer or a viable substitute for oil or a way of keeping rats out of places where people must live. It does not seem to go very well with Chapter 25 of Matthew.

Unless enough of us try to stop it, we will go on like this - we trying to outdo the Russians and they trying to outdo us and both of us thinking we are defending ourselves - making ourselves safe. But there is no defense against nuclear warfare, and if we continue this madman's race it is inevitable that it will end in disaster. Either someone will push the button and we will destroy the Russians and they will destroy us, or we will come to fiscal, emotional and moral bankruptcy and the Russians will walk in unopposed, unless, of course, they are bankrupt, too, in which case someone else might walk in. In either case millions will be killed by nuclear fission and its products or, on the other hand, by starvation, disease and the other products of

poverty. Is this how we love one another?

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret  
RR2, Naples, N.Y. 14512



"CHARLIE, HERE, JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING FROM HIS MISSIONARY DAYS."

### 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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