

Editorials

Death

The continuing bloodbath in Iran ought to speak volumes to those who advocate the right of the state to inflict death on its citizens. Of course, the taking of even one life, deliberately and in cold blood, is wrong, whether done by street assassins or by legalized fiat.

But the situation in Iran makes another point graphically and tragically. And that is to what extent a government can go in using, or abusing, its so-called

right to capital punishment.

Two regimes in Africa, of late, also have offered sickening evidence of what can happen when the regard for life is allowed to erode. The butchery of Uganda's Idi Amin and the incredible events in the Central African Empire, where school children were gunned down by police for protesting wearing uniforms, boggles the imagination. We have seen death as solution to even the most routine of protests.

We realize that some will blame Iran's plight on Islamic traditions, thus implying that it could never happen here.

We realize that some will blame the African enormities on Third World primitivism, thus implying that it could never happen here.

But such argument goes out the window when we admit that our own society uses abortion as a solution to problems. A nation that approves aborting babies in the womb as societal practice cannot very well gaze condescendingly at those who practice other forms of genocide.

Nor can a society that supports capital punishment as the right of the state exorcise governments who put that belief into bloody practice.

and Opinions

Bloodbath Must End

Editor:

It is with horror and revulsion that we have been learning about the continued executions in Iran. The summary executions defy all standards of respect for the human person and for proper legal process and for the decent opinions of humanity. This bloodbath is soiling the respect that people of goodwill might have had for the Iranian Revolution.

As a Jew, I was particularly appalled by the execution of Habib Elghanian, the former president of the Jewish community in Iran. He was a pious man, well-known and respected the world over for his charity and good works. Those of us who were acquainted with this good man know that it was not he who was on trial, but rather the Iranian Revolution itself.

There are now at least a hundred more Jews in Iran who have been imprisoned, among them Ruhollah Ray, who was the former Jewish representative in the lower house of the former Parliament, and his two sons. The threat does not stop with Jews alone - but also extends to other minorities in Iran including the Bahai, Parsies, (Zoroastrians), Christians and Moslem minority sects. There lives must not be added to this outrageous bloodbath that is being committed in the name of Revolution and Iranian "freedom."

Rabbi Judea B. Miller
Temple B'rith Kodsh
2131 Elmwood Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Magisterium Supported

Editor:

In response to a reader's letter in Father Cuddy's column on the "problem" of sisters in parishes being "under-foot" (C-J, 3-14-79), support for the presence of nuns in parishes was given in "Try Following a Sister" and "Sisters Not Even People" (C-J 4-25 and 3-28, respectively). Both responses give nuns unqualified support. Additionally, the 3-28 letter sees priests and nuns needing to depend on each other for support, gives the nuns blanket adornment as "dedicated servants of God" and like the well-intentioned CTA women's lib falsely accuses the

Church: "First the Church implies that women are not created in the image of God

In view of the confusion and dissension which many priests and Religious have sown and continue to nurture and impose on the Church, the kinds of indiscriminate (St. Matt.) support for nuns given in the letters, and false beliefs on the teachings and nature of Catholic Faith are to be expected. An understanding of Catholic Faith and the roots of the present chaos leads to compassion for the existence of non-Catholic, Christian denominations.

Catholics believe that the Will of God is made known to us through the Word of God - through Christ who manifests His Will in His Church Magisterium and through His Vicar. The Word of God clearly tells us that obedience to Him (to His Magisterium and the Holy Father) is His criterion of love for Him, and prerequisite for the Holy Spirit of Truth.

Our Lord was blunt with His disciples who esteemed themselves as holy children of Abraham, but gave Him lip-service faith rather than Abraham's obedience of faith in the Word of God "The father you spring from is the devil and willingly you carry out his will. Whoever is of God hears every word God speaks (St. John: 8:31 ff). Today, the Word of God speaks through His Vicar and His Magisterium.

God does not will that priests and nuns should need to depend on themselves. They are blessed who mourn with Christ - not for themselves. The children of God hear and respond to the Word of God: "Come to Me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest." (St. Matt. 11:28).

Joseph J. Murray
38 Wyndover Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

Put Defense Before Welfare

Editor:

In their letter, Programs Imperiled," Father William Spilly, Sister Anne Urquhart, Father Neil Miller and Sister Mary Kruckow of the regional staff of the Office of Human Development criticized President Carter for proposed cutbacks in social services.

Also President Carter was criticized for an alleged increase of 10.5 per cent in

defense spending. The reason I use the word "alleged" is that, allowing for inflation, there is most likely no increase in defense spending at all.

Actually the department of HEW gets the lion's share of the federal budget. For example, in fiscal 1976, the department of HEW received almost \$129 billion. The defense department, on the other hand, received a little more than \$90 billion.

In the face of an expanding Soviet military arsenal, we can't afford to rely on a policy of social programs first and defense programs second.

We should however examine the waste and fraud in social programs which are considerable.

Columnist Victor Riesel stated that waste and fraud in the CETA program might reach \$25 billion in just one year.

Similarly in the welfare department, the fraud in New York City alone has been estimated at \$1 billion for one year.

Healthy looking, well dressed college students use food stamps, drive away in their late model cars while poor, elderly people at times go away hungry.

We could greatly improve the quantity and quality of these federal welfare programs by cracking down on those who cheat.

Let us not "pass the buck" by criticizing defense spending and at the same time ignoring the waste and fraud in our social programs.

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

St. Monica's Reunion

Editor:

These days, more and more people are looking back to their childhoods, their pasts, and their roots.

We at St. Monica's would like to take this opportunity to invite past parishioners of St. Monica's, graduates of St. Monica's School, and other friends of St. Monica's to our second annual Heritage Reunion on Sunday, June 10.

We will be celebrating Mass at 10 a.m. that day for the intentions of all present and past parishioners, graduates, and friends. We have also scheduled a brunch following Mass at the Mapledale House.

We'd love to have our many friends attend 10 a.m. Mass on June 10. If you'd like to attend the brunch that day, you can obtain tickets by phoning the office here at 235-3322.

St. Monica's would not be what it is today without the goodness of so many beautiful people, people who have given of their time, their treasure and their talent, over the past 80 years.

To all those who have made St. Monica's a part of their life - we want you to know we are remembering you.

Father Edward A. Zimmer
Pastor
St. Monica's Church
34 Monica St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14619

Folk Mass Defended

Editor:

I would like to comment on a letter to the editor that was in a recent issue of the Courier-Journal. It was called Guitars Are Secular. I am 16 and have recently joined Celebrate Life, a folk group that sings at a Mass on Sunday at St. Mary Our Mother Church, in Horseheads. The group and the folk Mass had made me want to go to Mass (and many other young people).

Before the folk Mass it seemed like a task to have to go to Mass. But now it makes me interested and I seem to get more out of it.

Without knowing, I would say that the gentleman who wrote the recent letter was an older gentleman who had been brought up in the Church with organ music. It seems that he could go to another Mass than the folk Mass.

The folk Mass has given me a reason, and possibly many other young people an incentive, to go to Mass on their own.

Phil Lombard
419 Robinson St.
Elmira, N.Y. 14904

Monk Urges The Rosary

Editor:

I am writing to encourage those who say the rosary or may consider this contemplative practice.

After long, careful reflection, I conclude that those who say the rosary and pentecostal souls need not feel divided. Each should follow his conscience, and it would also be gainful if each practiced the other's role in

Mini-Editorial

Bishop-elect Matthew H. Clark has said on different occasions that all signs lead him to believe that this is a strong and vigorous diocese. We can give him proof-positive by filling the War Memorial in downtown Rochester for the installation. Make your plans now to set aside the date -- 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, June 26.

the Church occasionally.

From experience, when we say the rosary daily, we sense that things have gotten better for us. Looking back at times, we may see this very clearly.

The offer of the rosary is God's expression of His love for Mary. This offer will remain until the end of the world.

Brother Paschal, OSCO
Genesee Abbey
Piffard, N.Y. 14533

Birthright Assistance

Editor:

I wish to join Father W. Enders' boycott of the Community Chest.

The Planned Parenthood group receives help from the Chest. Why not Birthright?

I am sending my check to them.

Mrs. H. Pikuet
460 Chestnut Ridge Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624



"WANNA HEAR A LITTLE GREGORIAN CHANT?"

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.

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
Publisher &
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 96 No. 4 May 23, 1979

Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580)
Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 25c; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$10. Canada and Foreign \$15.00. Offices: Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal