

## Editorials

### July 4 Thought

Strictly happenstance but nonetheless befitting is the statement written by Father Louis J. Hohman, our episcopal advisor, which appears elsewhere in this July 4 issue.

Two weeks ago, a group of dedicated members of our Catholic community, the Rochester Catholic Action Group, wrote a letter to our new bishop protesting the use of the War Memorial for his installation. The group termed the War Memorial "a building dedicated to the fact that men and women, in the past, have taken up arms against one another."

They see the structure as an affront to the poor who have suffered "the oppression that has resulted from the interests symbolized by the War Memorial."

We stress that those who signed the letter should not be maligned for their view; but we strongly feel that they have missed the point. The building is not dedicated to imperialism or to oppression nor even to

the horrible wars many have suffered through, but to the memory of other human beings, also dedicated to principles, who were snatched from their own pursuits, often never to return, to offer their all so that such editorials as this may be published in a free society. If that sounds like chauvinism, so be it in the name of our honored dead and disabled.

As Father Hohman says so well, going to war back in the 1940s was necessary. Those who looked the other way at the atrocities being perpetrated or who misjudged the evil rampant in the world in those days are today condemned by history.

And although the statement rightfully expressed concern for the impoverished, it unwittingly may have wounded others - those who lost fathers, brothers and uncles in war. It is to such memory that the Exchange Street structure is dedicated.

Father Hohman, who always has a deep commitment to helping the poor, performed what we think was another necessary chore in rebutting the letter. And another American also shared such concern when back in 1863 he expressed his wish for our "honored dead" when he asked his countrymen to so dedicate themselves that those lost in war "shall not have died in vain."

Poverty, like most miseries, does not always come in simplified, pre-packaged, disposable, easy-to-recognize sizes and shapes. Not to shirk our duty of trying to alleviate any of its varieties, we should like to point out in this context that particular brand known as impoverishment of spirit. Anyone who attended last week's installation, we feel, sensed the antidote to that kind of poverty - a surge of hope that if tended carefully by us all will obliterate debilitating despair enabling us to proceed more freely and forcefully against society's physical aberrations as well.

## Installation

The Church joyful. The Bishop Matthew H. Clark installation was just that. It also was the Church hopeful.

All concerned with the planning and production, if you will, of the magnificent ceremony deserve the gratitude of all diocesans. It would be foolhardy to try to list individuals, or even offices, deserving plaudits. We want to let all concerned know, however, that the rest of us are intensely proud of the job done.

## and Opinions

### Viewer Rates Coverage

Editor:

I was privileged to watch on TV the installation of Bishop Clark. The ceremony was beautiful and I enjoyed it very much. Whoever did the decorations is to be commended for turning the drab, barn of a War Memorial into what it looked like for the Bishop's installation.

One sour note, if I may be permitted a pun, I couldn't enjoy the fine singing of the choirs because everytime they sang, Andrea Nissen and David Nolan had to start gabbing - drowning out all that good music. To say the least their timing was terrible. When they should have made comments, they said nothing and we had to guess what was going on, the minute the choir started singing, then they had to interject with some remarks.

The camera work was fine and TV-10 is to be commended for that. As for the reporting they get an F.

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### Sarah Child Right On

Editor:

I must comment on the "All In The Family" column which appeared in the June 13 issue of the CJ. The column was entitled, "Grim News: Abortion to be Sold". Sarah Child has long been one of my favorite columnists. She often touches my life, but now she has also touched my heart.

I too am an adoptive parent. Almost six years ago someone made a "choice". Her choice allowed my husband and me to become parents of a beautiful child. I am sure her choice wasn't an easy one to make, but it has been a special gift to us.

Our child was but 5 days old when he came to live with us. Along with him came a small gift, wrapped very simply, with a card that

said, "To baby and his family, with love" another "choice" that couldn't have been easy. I saved that gift and it will be his when he is older and better able to understand its significance.

We pray for his natural mother often, especially on his birthday and adoption day. I hope she prays for us too; somehow, I think she does. Her right to a choice was my child's right to life and has been our privilege to love. Perhaps we should all pray for those women who feel they have a right to a choice; that their choice may be someone else's privilege to love.

Pat Albrecht  
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### Human Life Collection

Editor:

I am writing this letter concerning your article "Human Life Unit Gives \$5,700 to Birthright" (Jan. 17, 1979). In it you stated that Birthright of Rochester has been granted \$5,711 from the special collection taken in many churches on Respect Life Sunday. And that \$2,000 was distributed for regions outside of Monroe County for distribution to similar agencies.

First, let me state that I support and respect the work and people from Birthright. As a former high school teacher, I know that young pregnant girls need all the support they can receive from family, friends and community. These unwed mothers are to be admired and commended for CHOOSING LIFE for their babies and not death through abortion.

As I first read the article and later thought about it, I had a few questions that I felt were not answered in your paper. I will list them.

1. What was the total amount collected in the Respect Life Sunday 1978 collection?

2. Was any money given

to New York State Right to Life or its local chapter here in Rochester? If not, why not?

3. On the diocesan level, what is being done in regards to educating our young people in our Catholic schools about the evils of our society's pro-abortion mentality?

In conclusion, I will say that my husband and I will contribute during Respect Life collection 1979 but only if we are given an explanation of what happened to the money collected on Respect Life 1978.

Mrs. Joann B. May  
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**Editor's Note:** Just under \$16,000 was collected in the collection last October, according to Frank Staropoli of the Family Life Office. Half was kept in Monroe County, with \$5,711 going to Birthright; the other half was distributed to regional coordinators outside Monroe County to be used for similar programs as Birthright. Right to Life is not an official Church organization and officials were concerned about conducting collections on the advice of the State Catholic Committee. Other dioceses allowed Right to Life to take up collections provided they were taken outside the churches, that they not go through church accounts and that no accounting be made to the churches. Staropoli said that part of the Human Life focus now will be on preparing programs for the schools in the coming year and that a Human Sexuality Task Force is also at work on the situation.

### A Prayer For Unity

Editor:

These words of Psalm 133 are so adequate in describing our need: "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity!"

Our parishes have become divided; our whole outlook is now lopsided.

If we should visit another parish, their ways are not the ones we cherish.

Getting together with cousin or friend, variation is the upcoming trend.

In every gathering of Catholics today, this pain is expressed in an open way.

People are yearning for a return to unity with a sincere concern.

For their church. We can't stand still, but we must move forward in God's will.

The Holy Father clarifies unchanging truth, yet we push "your conscience" on our youth.

No one can form a conscientious thought if all the guide-lines are not taught.

The Body of Christ must be united once more. I bring this diocese to Our Father and implore:

God bless this new bishop of our flock. Let him stand firm and be the rock

That represents you. Open our ears, unveil our eyes, give us perception, dry our tears,

Bring us together, let us all be as one through the loving sacrifice of Your Son.

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### Curran Issue Raised

Editor:

The Rochester Chapter of Catholics United For The Faith would like to bring some extremely important information before the Catholic Community in the Rochester area involving a local Catholic priest, Father Charles Curran of Catholic University.

Recently, Bishop Joseph Sullivan, of Baton Rouge, La., refused to allow Father Curran to speak in his diocese because of his "questionable orthodoxy." Bishop Sullivan has since been barraged with abusive correspondence from supporters of Father Curran. However, Bishop Sullivan also has his share of support. In the June 10 National Catholic Register the associate editor, Patrick Riley, wrote that Bishop Sullivan has received the substantial support of some 100 bishops. Moreover, of what surely must be an unprecedented event in these Post-Vatican II times is the personal letter to Bishop Sullivan from none other than the Secretary of the Vatican's Congregation, Archbishop Jerome Hamer. Writing on April 24, he says: "Your recent pastoral

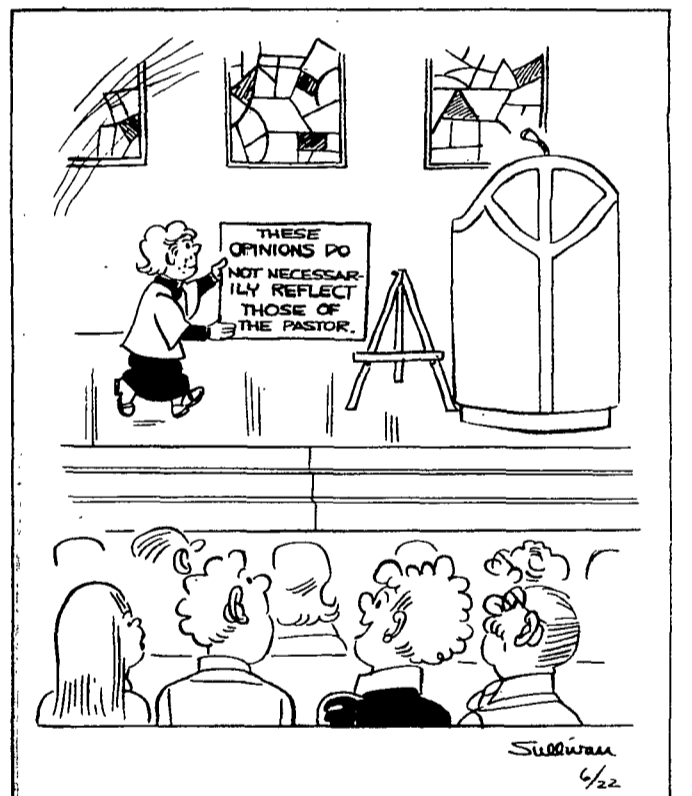
decision to refuse the use of diocesan facilities for a talk by Rev. Charles Curran at the University of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, together with your public statement explaining your reasons for this decision, have both been brought to the attention of this Congregation.

"Please accept my personal thanks for providing public clarification of some of the ambiguous and erroneous teachings of Father Curran."

Since Father Curran is from the Rochester Diocese, we feel that local Catholics should be informed of this vital issue, in view of the fact that the local media (Catholic as well as secular) has failed in printing any mention of it at all in their newspapers.

Thank you.

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"OH GOOD! WE'RE GOING TO GET TO HEAR THE NEW ASSISTANT."

### 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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