Editorials Supply and Demand

God helps those who help themselves.

How many times have we heard that axiom. And how few times have we stopped to think about it.

It came to mind recently in connection with a piece in U.S. Catholic, written by its executive editor, Robert E. Burns, discussing the role of women in the Church.

Now we all know that the Vatican has turned down the possibility of women priests. But that doesn't negate the idea of expanding the role of women within the Church.

Burns writes: "Somehow a way must be found to bring the life experience of women to bear on all levels of the Church. In a world stuffed with problems that no people has ever faced, so sophisticated that they threaten to burst the very seams of our existence, a church that is more than half female cannot afford to limp when it must walk boldly."

We agree, so far as the U.S. Catholic article goes. But the thought should be stretched to not only include women but the many other groups who are not even a part of the Church. Those, both male and female, who feel estranged from the Church for one reason or another, such as the divorced and separated, those who object to the changes, those who from habit no longer come to Mass — all should be targets for gentle evangelization. They need the Church — but let us not forget, the Church needs them

Then there are whole groups of people, the blacks, for instance, who historically have not been part of the Catholic Church. We must reach out to them and not with the self-righteous idea of bettering their lot but because we frankly need them and their gifts.

As Burns implied, the problems we face have possibly never been so numerous or complicated. Couple this with the diminishing numbers of clergy and religious and the situation has become even more agitated.

There are those who will let's leave it in the hands of the Holy Spirit, after the Church shall survive.

True. But maybe in all of this, if we study the situation carefully, we may already see the Holy Spirit at work. Maybe the machinery of supply and demand has already been set up to regenerate and

replenish the Church, if only we would go to work and make it operate.

Yes, God helps those who help themselves. If it weren't true, it wouldn't have become axiomatic.

Inching Along

Talk about differences!

For the first time, readers in China had the opportunity this month to see what Pope John Paul II looks like and to learn something about him.

World Awareness, a Peking magazine, contained a picture of the first Polish pope in its latest issue - the first such photo of him to appear in China. A brief biography accompanied it.

Here we are, most of us perusing two or more newspapers a day, one or two news magazines weekly (not to mention those only loosely related to current events) and hooked on the 6 and the 11 o'clock news.

And we compalin about news management! As well we should when it occurs.

A tale of two countries, free vs. controlled. Thank God there are signs that China is finally being led into the 20th Century. We hope they make it by 1999.

and Opinions

Let's Support Canal Treaty

Editor:

We have written the following letter to our congressman, Barber B. Conable Jr.

"We urge you to work in favor of legislation for implementing our contract with Panama (Panama Canal Treaty) as it was approved by the Senate.

"It would be a disgrace to permit the Birch types to meddle with what we have agreed to do by injecting all sorts of childishly obstructive amendments."

"If the House does not permit our contract with Panama to go into effect as written it will have further damaged our failing trustworthiness in the eyes of the world.

"Some say this treaty threatens our security and our sovereignity. How secure and sovereign can we be in a world that distrusts us, that feels that our word is not our bond?"

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

Courier Issues Lauded

Editor:

I want to thank you for the excellent issues of the Courier-Journal, especially those covering the ordination of Bishop Clark plus the "double-header" memorializing the installation. For me, it has been next best to being an eyewitness. And it takes a lot of expertise and good humor to get the stories and the special moments which convey the true feeling of the exciting events.

Already I feel I know Bishop Clark personally, thanks to the splendid work you have done to make Bishop Clark at home in Rochester and in the rest of the diocese. Keep up the wonderful drive you have.

Sister Jane Clary, OSU 39 Willow Drive New Rochelle, N.Y. 10805

Let's Protect Taiwan

Editor:

Captive Nations Week, the third week in July reminds me . . .

"Why Must a Cardinal Go Begging?" In November 1977, my letter to the Courier-Journal told the story of the great Chinese Cardinal Paul Yupin, accompanied by Protestant, Buddhist and other religious leaders of Asiatic countries touring the United States. These far-seeing leaders could read the signs of impending appearement of Red China and all the ominous consequences which would result including persecution of

They wanted the American people to know Taiwan is dedicated to the inalienable rights of man in the framework of Free Enterprise. They wanted our country to realize the tragedy of abandoning this island to the merciless bondage of Communist China. They hoped that the clergy would spark a flood of letters to the Congress. It did not happen. Like the passersby in the Gospel of the Good Samaritan they crossed the road and averted their eyes.

This third week in July is proclaimed Captive Nations Week under mandate from Congress since the Eisenhower administration. This is a good time to resolve that Taiwan, the Asjan enclave of religious freedom, will not be forced by our inaction to join the dismal host of Captive Nations, or spark another tragic fleet of "boat people." It is not a great deal to ask to take five minutes from our pursuit of happiness to send a note to our congressman and senators asking them to insure the safety of Taiwan.

Red China needs modern technology; it needs food. We hold all the trump cards. We exact no concessions for the benefits we are about to bestow.

The ultimate in Christianity is not giving your castoff clothing to the church rummage sale. Please write legislators.

Cardinal Mindszenty
Foundation has published a
timely report titled
"Diplomatic Relations but
No Human Rights." A free
copy will be sent to those
who request a copy and
enclose a No. 10 envelope
stamped and addressed.
Cardinal Mindszenty
Foundation, PO Box 11321,
St. Louis, Missouri 63105.

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

Captive Nations

Editor:

During this month when Americans celebrate our national independence, let us also join the liberty-loving people who commemorate "Captive Nations Week" beginning July 15.

We are joined by the bond of faith to the 71 million Catholics who live in 15 Communist nations where they are persecuted for their beliefs.

Let us never forget to include these people in our prayers, and let us, too, rededicate ourselves to the message of Mary at Fatima
— sacrifice and the rosary for the conversion of Russia.

Margaret Finucane 284 Canterbury Road Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Obedience Lost Virtue?

Editor:

In the identity-seeking, selffulfillment philosophy of the 1970s, it is understandable that some women might desire to become priests. What is difficult to understand is how they, or a sympathetic group called Priests for, can openly and ofttimes disrespectfully wage a kind of war against that same institution which they profess to be the one, true, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. Do we really believe these words we repeat so often, or Christ's promise to be with His

Church? Perhaps with our superior knowledge, understanding and sophistication we have outgrown the need for a Shepherd to guide us. Obedience and humility are virtues only of past generations.

Granting that obedience is generally a not too highly regarded commodity today, there seems to be an inverse proportion between it and proximity to Rochester. (One wonders how much difficulty God might encounter in finding Abraham's 40, 30, 20 or 10 righteous men). What a dubious distinction we enjoy in being the national headquarters of the Women's Ordination Conference. Perhaps if their members were required to read "Something Beautiful for God", and then read it again prayerfully, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, something of totally dedicated love would shine through. What a joyous example of complete selflessness.

How can the WOC and others campaigning for the ordination of women promote a "Canon of Equality" (used last November at their meeting

in Baltimore) that so blatantly changes the prayers and very meaning of the Canon of the Mass. altering even the words of Consecration and the Lord's Prayer? How can a few presume now the right to celebrate Mass or hear confession, and then seek the support of American Bishops who have solemnly pledged faithful, loyal unity with our Holy Father. Their strident denunciation of the Church as oppressive and sexist is just not historically accurate. Rather, the Church has (with the possible exception of St. Paul whose Galatian 3:28 they are fond of quoting, while disregarding his other words of wisdom concerning women) not only extraordinarily honored women, but accorded them the greatest dignity and respect.

The virtue of obedience, like a delicate flower, must be tenderly cared for so that its beauty may give joy and pleasure. May the virtue of prudence prompt us all to practice it more diligently, in small matters as well as large.

Dorothy H. Polzinetti 108 Troy St. Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148

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 1½ 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

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'NOW, THEN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US IN SAYING GRACE?"