

Editorials

Pilgrim Pope

It was just a year ago that the man who has become known as the "Pilgrim Pope" died and was buried, thus beginning another chapter in the unending story of Christ's church.

At the Aug. 1 general audience, one of Paul VI's most ardent admirers, the present pontiff, devoted his entire talk to eulogizing the pope who served the Church through some of its most tumultuous and difficult periods in its existence,

Speaking emotionally, John Paul II exclaimed, "The pope of Vatican II. The pope of that profound transformation which was nothing other than the revelation of the face of the Church, awaited by man and by the world of today."

He listed some of the late pope's accomplishments but we were affected when he talked more of the man as a person who "became a teacher and pastor of the intellect and of human consciences, in questions which called for the decisions of his supreme authority. He served Christ and the Church with the admirable firmness and humility which allowed him to see, with the eye of faith and hope, the future of the work he was carrying out."

We know that Paul VI had his critics, and they

come in all sizes, shapes and persuasions, reflecting the fact that he made the hard decisions no matter which way they fell. To traditionalists, he was too progressive; to liberals, too conservative, etc., etc. But something to keep in mind, we feel, is that although he had to make the final decisions on many heated issues, that does not mean he did not act in concert with other great Church thinkers. Both his immediate successor, John Paul I, and the present Holy Father, made it clear by the choice of their papal names, that they are followers of the saintly John XXIII and the courageous Paul VI.

In no way can it be expected that we all agree with every thing each Pope does but it is important to recognize the admirable continuity displayed by the last four pontiffs, symbolic of the even longer line dating back to the Fisherman. Recognize the consistency, there is comfort in it.

Service

Along these lines we admire a comment once made by Cardinal Alfredo Ottaviani, who died Aug. 3. To classify Cardinal Ottaviani simply as a traditionalist would be somewhat akin to referring to Babe Ruth merely as a ballplayer. Each epitomized his particular role.

Cardinal Ottaviani was not just a conservative, he was, as characterized by Religious News Service, "one of the most intransigent supporters of doctrinal and ecclesiastical tradition during the Second Vatican Council."

His motto was *Semper Idem* - Always the Same and he saw himself as "an old policeman guarding a reserve of gold."

Though he fought many of the resolutions of Vatican II, he would not publicly oppose them once passed. It was in this connection that he made the remark we find endearing, "Once the new laws become part of the Church's treasure, there is only one principle to go by: serve the Church."

Well Done

Rarely do the five Southern Tier counties of the diocese collectively sponsor an event. But the success of the recent reception for Bishop Matthew H. Clark may change that.

Belonging to three diocesan regions and covering territory stretching 100 miles from east to west, the five counties seldom have acted as a joint entity.

In addition, Southern Tier residents often feel misunderstood, that they are cut off from the mainstream of the diocese. They wanted the opportunity to meet the new bishop. The reception gave them that. It also provided a chance for prayerful reflection and laughter - which the more than 1,000 attended enjoyed often. Bishop Clark best described the high spirits - "I had expected to have fun but not quite this much."

All involved in conducting the event deserve the congratulations of the whole diocese.

and Opinions

Fr. Hammond Commended

Editor:

As Father Robert Hammond retires from Youth Seminar I was wondering how many of our young people who had the opportunity to know and share his love of Jesus and love of one another would write and tell him what has happened to them since.

So few people take time today to affirm adults - we all need to be loved and since he (Father Bob) gave so much of himself to young people it would be nice if they would write a note and give him back five minutes.

It would be great if we all let our priests know what they mean to us. We all want to be praised but somehow we feel that our religious don't need anything. We are wrong. Everyone needs to know they are of value. Incidentally, we have a super pastor in Father Francis Vogt.

Mary Kay McGrath
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Our Lady Of Knock

Editor:

Our Lady of Knock praesidium of the Legion of Mary calls attention to the fact that Aug. 21 marks the centenary celebration of Our Lady's apparition at Knock, in the west of Ireland. Celebrations which began on the feast of the Annunciation March 25 will continue until Dec. 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Pope John Paul II, on his installation as bishop chose the motto, "All Yours," addressed to Mary, mother of God and of our Church. Legion of Mary members,

both active and auxiliary, also make this consecration yearly: "I am all thine, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is thine."

Last October our Holy Father began his Angelus message: "I wish to draw attention to the rosary; it is my favorite prayer." Since the main purpose of the legion worldwide is evangelization, with emphasis on Our Lady's rosary as a means, we would like to also bring to your attention the following quotes of Pope John Paul:

"It can be said that the rosary is, in a certain way, a prayer-commentary on the last chapter of the Constitution 'Lumen Gentium' of Vatican II, a chapter which deals with the wonderful presence of the mother of God in the mystery of Christ and the Church."

"In fact, against the background of the words 'Ave Maria' there pass before the eyes of the soul the main episodes in the life of Jesus Christ, and they put us in living communion with Jesus through, we would say, His Mother's heart."

"At the same time our heart can enclose in these decades of the rosary all the facts that make up the life of the individual, the family, the nation, the Church and mankind, particularly of those who are dearest to us. Thus, the simple prayer of the rosary beats the rhythm of human life."

The legion is grateful that Bishop Clark has also publicly stated his personal devotion to the rosary. This final quote is from the March issue of "Friends of Fatima," Monastery Pius XII, Fatima, Portugal. "This year Fatima looks toward Knock with warm and sisterly interest uniting in the centenary celebration."

Theresa Cameron
Our Lady of Knock
Praesidium
St. Patrick's
Elmira, N.Y.

With the political season upon us, the Courier-Journal reminds Opinion Page contributors that we do not publish letters of endorsement of candidates.

Fr. Greeley Castigated

Editor:

Some time ago after one of my letters appeared in the Democrat and Chronicle, in which I castigated the doctors and nurses of the abortion clinics and the members of Planned Parenthood as "respectable people," whereas in reality they are far from respectable for they are responsible for the wanton destruction of thousands of lives right in our own city of Rochester. I received the following letter:

"Dear Father Hogan: I am assuming that you are a Catholic priest. Perhaps I am wrong, but the letter sounded that way.

"Anyway, thank you and God bless you for speaking out so forcefully against abortion... I am heartbroken and discouraged about the lack of moral leaders from the Catholic pulpit. Today was the Feast of Corpus Christi and Father's Day, yet the sermon from a priest in whom I had high hopes, was entitled "Freedom" and gave the nod to the "new morality." The new morality is a pagan notion, a Christian concept and yet this priest gave it recognition. No sermon on the Eucharist, not even a word to the fathers. I gave way to tears after Mass and dragged myself home with a heavy heart. God bless you. (Signed)."

This a very beautiful letter. I am asking you to publish it because I think it speaks to the Church of our times.

I also would like to add a few comments on the Father Greeley column of July 11 in which it is suggested that "service to the priesthood be

limited to five years." This man is a crackpot. I can find no other word to describe him. His writings have no value at all. They are not worth the paper they are printed on. On the other hand, Father Greeley must of necessity be responsible for considerable confusion in the minds of his readers. How long will the management and readers of the Courier tolerate this pseudo-scientist.

Father G. Stuart Hogan
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Grateful To Legislators

Editor:

Gov. Carey has signed into law legislation which will guarantee that City of Rochester students who wish to attend Mercy, McQuaid, Bishop Kearney, St. Agnes, Cardinal Mooney and a few of our elementary schools will be provided transportation by the City School District.

We want to acknowledge publicly our indebtedness to Assemblyman Gary Proud and Sen. Fred Eckert for their untiring work to have the legislation passed. We urge all supporters of freedom of choice in education to contact both legislators to express their gratitude.

Mrs. Gina Ouweloen
President
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of Catholic
School Parents
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Xavier Offers Braille, Tapes

Editor:

Your kindness in publishing our announcements has brought many letters of inquiry and requests for information and material for the visually impaired. Once again, we offer our simple thanks.

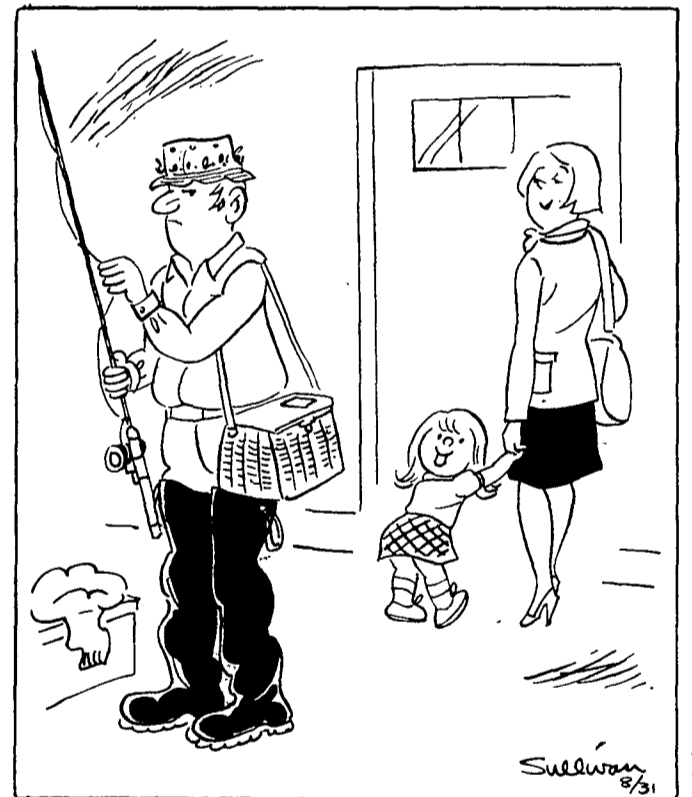
Free services available

include, in Braille, large print and tape; a lending library, periodicals, Sunday Mass Readings, the rite of the Mass, manual of prayers, Holy Scripture and CCD religion texts. Queries should be addressed to the Xavier Society, 154 East

23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

(Miss) Betty J. Dodt
Public Relations

More Letters On Page 14



"MAYBE WHEN MOMMY AND I GET TO CHURCH WE'LL HEAR THE STORY 'BOU HOW JESUS MULTIPLIED THE LOAFERS AND THE FISHERMEN.'"

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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