

# Editorials

## Challenges

While Pope John Paul's visit to Poland in June was obviously more dramatic, his recent overture to the Catholics in China, and by implication to the Peking government, may prove to be equally as bold.

The pontiff, who seems determined not to forget, overlook or ignore any people on the face of the earth, recently called for resumption of ties between the Holy See and the Chinese Catholics, many of whom form part of a government-sponsored breakaway church. That church was formed by the Association of Patriotic Catholics, which itself was set up by the government in 1957 and rejected by the Vatican.

This national church recently announced the election of Bishop Michael Fu Tieshan as bishop of Peking and the Vatican turned it down because it did not have the prior approval of the Vatican.

Right on top of that development, John Paul, who has become a constant source of pressure on the Communists, offered the olive branch.

Bishop Fu, interviewed after the Pope's offer, says he feels that the Peking government would like

to normalize relations with the Vatican, although he emphasized that he is "simply a bishop," a station in life which Rome has not confirmed.

The problems are clearly numerous and complex. They seem to defy solution. Yet it is a Chinese proverb that states: "The longest journey begins with a single step." The energetic, imaginative and sharply alert bishop of Rome has taken that first stride.

And we can rest assured that it will be followed up with more initiatives that will keep a tired world from succumbing into a debilitating status quo instead of seeking fresh and just solutions to its woes.

So now this Polish pontiff has clearly challenged Communists both in Eastern Europe and in the Far East. Shortly he will be visiting our own shores. We already know that he has thoughts on the motives of the industrialized nations of the world, on disarmament, on the distribution of goods. It therefore follows that he will probably have something to say on those subjects.

We probably can expect something of a challenge to re-think our own position in the family of nations; to re-assess our responsibilities in a hurting world; to re-tool our own motives so that justice and peace may be served instead of power.

How shall we answer this great man from across the sea? Our response may very well reveal our desires.



## Lest We Forget

JOHN PAUL I

Installed: Sept. 3, 1978.

Died: Sept. 28, 1978.

## and Opinions

### Devil Exists

Editor:

There is an idea afloat that appears to be continually growing out of perspective and proportion. It is the idea that there is no Devil, which is often followed by the idea that therefore there is no Hell.

I do not know for certain who started these rumors but I'll wager it was the Father of Lies himself, for it is a whopper of a lie if I every heard one. The Devil is strongest when he is least believed to exist. And it is our inexpressible sorrow to live in the absurd age in which he is denied, and denied as never before.

Opinion polls may one day say that the majority deny his existence. But all the polls say is what people believe, not whether he exists or not. People once believed, and believed passionately, that the Sun revolved around the earth because they watched it do so. But it did not. People once believed that the earth was flat as a pancake. But it was not. People have believed many things but it does not make it fact. But Christ made it very clear that both the Devil and Hell exist and now modern and muddled men say that they do not. For me that is all the proof I need: you can always be certain you are following Christ, and therefore the truth, when these modern men preach otherwise. They are not so much modern men as they are modern minions going about their father's business. They are going about their father's business of dragging more souls to Hell than ever before simply because they refuse to be unmodern and follow the Church, which is Christ.

It is when they end in Hell themselves that they will invariably find that their independence is very independent; the doors of Hell are locked from the inside.

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### Sarah Child Just Great

Editor:

Sara Child's column is just great. I thumb through until I find her, read and most often nod in agreement. She has the ability to cover all ages and situations. Believe me that's a tall order but she does it so beautifully. Many thanks for her observations in the Courier-Journal.

We must weigh and concern ourselves with issues beyond hearth and home, but having a balance in news coverage is essential to that end.

Margaret Story Benoit  
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### Thanks Again Fr. Hammond!

Editor:

The Duffys of Palmyra expressed our sentiments regarding Father Robert Hammond very well: We of the Buffalo Diocese would like to thank him publicly for being a guiding light to our three oldest children, who, as teenagers, experienced Jesus and their Catholic Faith in a way we could not have done. His love of Jesus reinforced our

beliefs to our children, and encouraged them to share their love for the Church with more than 40 teens from our parish. "Father Bob" is more than a household word in our family; he is a reminder of the day they fell in love for the first time. Our prayers and love go with him wherever he goes. We have one regret, our seven year old who won't know Father Bob in the same way on her Teen Seminar.

Bob and  
Gloria Brennan  
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### Inflation... Who Profits?

Editor:

Inflation — legalized counterfeiting — has so far destroyed every government that espoused it. Pertinent questions are in order: who

are its perpetrators, its beneficiaries, its victims?

Its perpetrators and its beneficiaries are the arch-lisurers who control the independent money systems of the free world — the international bankers, the banking systems themselves, and their fellow-traveling speculators. They are hardly godless Marxists; they are by and large our very own.

The victims are the middle and lower income brackets, the unemployed, and the aged who are virtually robbed as their life savings are devalued; but — saddest of all — the hungry world around us. Complaining about inflation won't help. It must be exposed and condemned.

Inflation defies every concept of morality and justice. The first article of the Constitution of the United States precludes it; the precepts and example of Christ preclude it. What has

to be the paradox of all time is a congress comprising 94 per cent Christians and Jews has no solution whatever for it. Can the Church remain silent?

Edward A. Veith  
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### Fr. Greeley Criticized

Editor:

A week or two ago, Father Stuart Hogan had a letter in the Courier-Journal regarding Father Andrew Greeley.

I have written to Father Hogan under separate cover, but I should like to say that he expressed some valid points.

Having seen Father Greeley on the Donahue television show this summer.

I realize he is a rather anti-establishment priest where the Church is concerned.

His views regarding women as priests and opposing some of the decrees of the National Council of Catholic Bishops are cases in point.

Learned that he is, he does the Church no favor to publicly air his dissenting opinions. He encourages, in this fashion, our young people to take issue with their Church, which is scandalous.

A bit of discretion seems to be in order here. Everyone has too much to say these days — probably including myself.

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### 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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