

Editorials

The Pope's Trip

We pray that by the time this editorial appears there will not have been any new blood shed by terrorists in Ireland to further mar the historic visit of Pope John Paul II to that troubled island.

Last week while the Marian shrine in the tiny village of Knock in County Mayo was being spruced up for its august visitor, officials were extremely anxious over the possibility that Protestant paramilitary groups — the thugs on the opposite end of the spectrum from the IRA variety — would try to retaliate for the Aug. 27 murder of Lord Mountbatten and three other innocent bystanders.

That execution forced the pontiff to cancel plans to stop over in Northern Ireland. Now, thousands of people are expected to stream across the border from the British province to greet the Pope at Knock. This, of course, adds to the security problem.

And while violence has already eroded some of the joy from the Pope's trip to Ireland, atheists here in the United States are trying to disrupt his stay on our shores. They are protesting the Mass planned in Washington, D.C., which will be said on public land. We appreciate the rejoinder offered by Msgr. John Foley of Philadelphia who is in Rome helping to arrange the Pope's tour. He wondered aloud about the effect if the religious ceremony were canceled in what

many regard as the world's freest land after Polish Communists allowed the same.

But we would be remiss if we closed on a dire note in connection with the Holy Father on the eve of his journey. So we turn to the words of Dr. Harry Smythe, director of the Anglican center in Rome. Dr. Smythe has great praise for Paul VI and describes a poignant scene at St. Peter's Basilica when Paul VI went forward to bless a party of Dutch Protestant children. "They were kneeling," the Religious News Service reported, "and as they raised their heads the Pope looked into their sightless eyes and realized they were blind." Dr. Smythe recounts, "There were tears streaming down his face as he gave each child the blessing... I shall never forget it."

The Anglican priest also praises John Paul II as "strong at every level. He promotes social justice, but within the framework of Christian orthodoxy, shows deep concern for the dignity of all human life, born and unborn, and has said that he is 'committed irreversibly' to the unity of all Christians."

Thank you, Dr. Smythe, for the warm words.

And may we all enjoy the auspicious occasion of the visit of the first Polish Pope to our country.

Common Cause

Occasionally over the years we have editorialized that the prime mission area for the Church in the United States ought to be the Times Square area of New York City. The rows of squalid movie houses, pornographic shops, massage parlors and "adult" (the king of misnomers) peep shows are not only a visual

disgrace but also form a cesspool for the breeding of crime.

Because of its location, it forms a particularly embarrassing introduction to America for visitors from other shores.

But organized crime, or whatever and whoever is behind such trafficking, has ignored such protests. And so has much of society, although the New York Times wagged a finger at the blight when it learned that the national Democratic convention was coming to Fun City some four years ago.

True, such areas exist in just about every city of some size, including Rochester. But no place else has so perfected blight as has Times Square.

And so we view with interest the plans of feminists to stage an afternoon March on Pornography, Saturday, Oct. 20, down 42nd Street. The Rochester Women Against Violence Against Women is planning to send some 100 marchers to join the estimated thousands of other East Coast Women in the demonstration.

While such areas as Times Square and their wares constitute a particular insult to women and because they may even be a breeding place for crimes against women, they constitute a danger to all of us, regardless of gender.

The RWAVAW, we feel, is championing a common cause and thus deserves the support of all of us who are sick to death of the parade of pornography and its attendant vices to which we are being subjected.

and Opinions

Recognition Denied

Editor:

In the Courier-Journal (Aug. 15), an article titled "Commission Asks Rome to Reappraise Stand on Anglican Ordination" stated, "The majority of Orthodox Churches recognize Anglican orders." This is untrue; no Orthodox Church recognizes the orders of the Anglican communion. Such an idea came into being in the 19th Century when Greece was fighting for independence from the Turks and turned to England for assistance. However, the price of recognition of Anglican orders was only a passing phenomenon in a vicious turmoil and was quickly disavowed by the Greeks and never accepted by the Orthodox Church.

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Time to Close Window?

Editor:

Where does liberalism end and heresy begin? I believe Andrew Greeley should seriously search his soul for a definitive answer to this question.

I recently watched a Phil Donahue television show with Greeley as Phil's guest and felt almost shame of my Catholicism as a result. As do all the guests on the show, this one was pushing a book he had written. The book is supposedly about the inner workings of selecting several of our recent popes, including the present one. I hasten to say that I have not

read the book, and after listening to the way-out ideas of the author, I also hasten to add that it is probably an admirable place to start if they ever make fashionable again the outmoded idea of book-burning. How he could ever become cognizant of what goes on at a conclave to select a pope is one of the small matters he did not clarify for Donahue. He is obviously and fortunately not a cardinal, and they who are are sworn to secrecy.

His book aside, however, he does make crystal clear that no pope, cardinal, bishop or archbishop is going to tell him how to interpret Catholic teaching. He has his own brand of "scattergun Catholicism" and when the host pulls him up by quoting a papal encyclical which is in direct opposition to what he is teaching and writing our hero says sweetly, "Oh, but Phil, encyclicals are not hard and fast rules, they are merely suggestions by the pope." Suggestions? Whatever happened to the dogma of papal infallibility? Has it gone the way of so many other of our treasured traditions and beliefs? If so, please let someone really in authority tell us so. If not, let's at least think about closing that window which was opened wide a few years ago in our Church to "let some sunshine in." I cannot help but think that along with the sunshine, there are entirely too many squirrels and gooney-birds coming while we sleep.

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All Atrocities Condemned

Editor:

Re your "Savagery" editorial of Sept. 12. Good

people everywhere deplored and rightly condemned the tragic death of Lord Mountbatten. But why blow it out of all proportion in the context of the Ulster civil war?

Why no screaming headlines about other incidents, e.g. the one in which 25 British combat troops were the casualties, 18 of them dead? Our diocesan paper — rushing into print dutifully copies from London releases, the prestigious voice of the establishment.

One honest New York paper, on the other hand, carried a release from Dublin in which the following item was no suppressed. After the two explosions in Warrenpoint on the occupied side of the Border of partitioned Ireland, surviving soldiers panicked, firing in all directions. They shot innocent non-combatants on the occupied side — one of them a fellow Englishman on vacation, William Hudson, son of a Buckingham Palace employe.

Though not of royal blood, the deceased left behind a grieving family and friends.

Have we ever read any Courier editorials on the undiminished brutality and internationally documented torture ongoing today in Long Kesh concentration camps? And how about the Orange bandits shooting in cold blood innocent non-combatants and burning churches as reprisals? (In one day during the present conflict 500 nationalist families had their homes burned to the ground while the Royal Ulster Constabulary looked on, ever aided!)

A future "Iris Holocaust" one day will ask about the cowardly silence of certain public voices in time of need! Honest outrage is not selective, is not puffed up, does not discriminate.

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Editor's Note: We share reader Kennedy's remorse about the victims of violence, no matter what their station in life. We have long editorialized on the futility of such. The Courier-Journal uses no London news service. The quotes in the editorial were from the Roman Catholic bishops of Ireland and were transmitted by Religious News Service.

No Place For Clowning

Editor:

In the Courier-Journal, Aug. 29, I was deeply disturbed by the comments made in answer to the first questions evoked by Father Hohman.

Dancing, clowning, etc., are very much show biz and have no place in the Mass. Granted these forms of praising God are marvelous at other times, in other places, for all that we do should praise Him, but our attention should be centered on the Holy Sacrifice of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ, Who is being offered to the Father. These forms of entertainment would be most distracting to those who came with a desire to draw near to the Lord.

David's dancing before the Ark cannot be compared to clowning before the Eucharist nor can the beautiful Easter sequence be compared to disrupting the quiet beauty of the Mass.

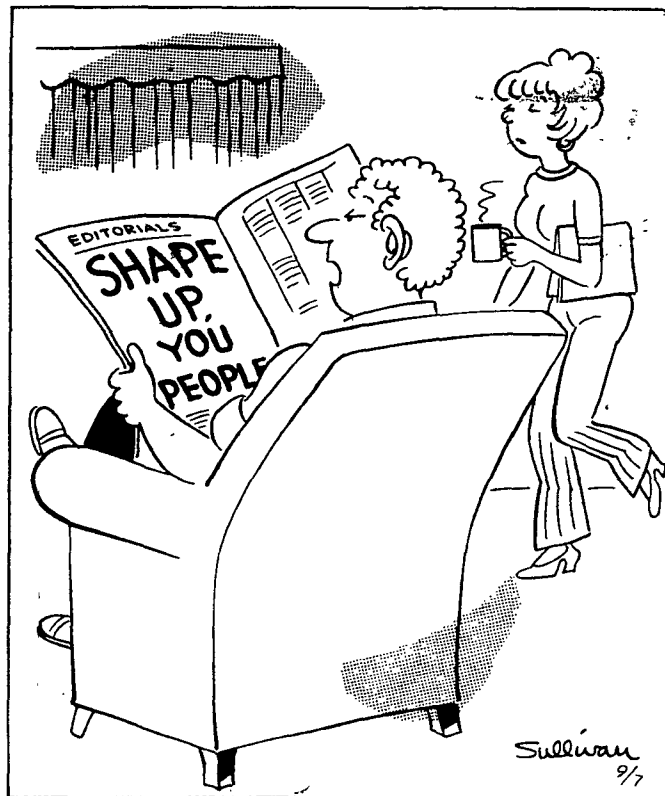
People will keep trying to instill their own excitement where the Lord is waiting from them to find it. The word Liturgy has become more abused as time goes on.

I wonder why it is in the quiet, simple and uncomplex daily Mass so many people have found peace, joy, love and even ecstasy?

No clowning around, there is one thing to seek —

that is to dwell in the House of the Lord every day, to become a fool for His sake, gladly, to lose oneself completely and finally to realize what is meant by the Triumph of the Cross.

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"I THINK OUR DIOCESAN PAPER IS STARTING TO TAKE A HARD LINE."

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.

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