

Editorials

Not Newsy

With all the adverse publicity the Church gets concerning finances it would be well to reflect on its many charities. Like good deeds, the many and varied efforts of the Church to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the world's cast aside peoples gain little attention and are seldom considered news.

Right here in Rochester, we have our diocesan Missions Office of which we all can be proud. This office works not only to aid the sick, the abandoned, the poor around the world but devotes specific at-

tention to our diocesan missions in such places as Selma, Ala., and South America. And while the devotion of life work to such causes is undoubtedly the most commendable aspect of the operation, it also must be remembered that it takes money to make the machine go.

Another "for instance" is provided by the current work of Catholic Relief Services concerning the Cambodian refugees. CRS has just committed an additional \$150,000 in response to the worsening situation in that Indonesian nation, raising its total aid to a quarter of a million dollars there. You probably won't see much about this in the newspapers or in the electronic media.

It would be impossible to even attempt to list all the

work done by the Church through its Missions Office, through Catholic Charities and its various agencies, through the Campaign for Human Development, through its parishes. And, as we said, this kind of commitment is just not "newsy" and escapes the attention given to the rare instances involving mismanagement or scandal.

The official Church devotes itself to implementing the guidelines included in Christ's statement "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Yet, all these agencies would be helpless if it weren't for the real heroes and heroines of the effort — the members of the family of God, the people of the Church.

Well done!

and Opinions

Should Use Name of Jesus

Editor:

Re: Sarah Child "On Using the Name of Jesus!"

I'm a regular reader of her column and though there is a lot of cornball, I enjoy it. BUT what happened this week?

I enjoy the TV evangelists — Catholic and non-Catholic. I have to hear anyone ask for reduce God to a coupon-redeeming manufacturer, ask for box tops for Jesus, and in return offer "an absolute guarantee of life everlasting." Rubbish. Maybe she has, I haven't.

The evangelists I've watched and listened to always ask for prayers for their work. If money is mentioned for TV time, materials, etc., why is it so "bothersome"? They need to pay for TV time — they tell you if you can't pay for materials, they will send them free and they do.

I think hearing the name of Jesus on TV is beautiful — far superior to anything on the tube.

Sarah Child should feel very comfortable not nervous when the name of Jesus pops up in conversation. Is Jesus not our brother? How else do you refer to your brother? The problem today is that Jesus has only been heard or mentioned where she prefers — church, religious education class, prayers of little ones, hospitals or when the life of some dear one is at stake. AND definitely Jesus should be part of every facet of life — bar none.

As far as the huge fortunes made with only a fraction going to ministry was she including the recent headlines concerning a Catholic order?

May the peace of Jesus be with us all!

Marion Scowcroft
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Visit The Elderly

Editor:

I decided to write you a letter about elderly people who are neglected in hospitals and nursing homes. As an inmate at Attica State Prison I know what it means to receive a visit, see a loved

one and just to hug them reassuringly.

If you know someone who is old and lonely do not neglect them. Someday you may be in the same situation.

The one thing elderly people need is kindness, love and a lot of attention from the heart.

It does not take much to make an elderly person happy and can be accomplished by just reminiscing about old times.

I know that they want to look their best and wear their nicest clothes just for their visit.

You can almost visualize the face of an elderly person brighten up when someone goes to see them.

Every son or daughter who has the care of an aged parent, should search their hearts to see if they are really doing all they can.

Bear in mind that the elderly never forget their loved ones even though children may sometimes forget them.

Always remember the way we treat an elderly person, can be the way we may be treated when we grow old.

Often times people live the rest of their lives with guilt feelings because they did not do enough for their aged parents.

There is a verse in the Bible that I would like to share with you:

"Honor thy Father and thy Mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee, that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." (Deut. 5:16)

I do hope that you will visit someone who is old, lonely and waiting patiently just for you, what an honor!

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Fr. Feeney . . . A Tribute

Editor:

We would like to share with all our feelings about a beautiful and dedicated priest, our own Father Francis Feeney. Through word of mouth we were told that our Father Feeney

came to St. James parish with nothing, so he would leave with nothing. No fanfare, no parties and no testimony. Well, we are here to shout, he came with something so special for us and left us with everything.

He has been our Father for 30 loving years. He has touched us all in so many ways. We are just one family who would like to share with our community about our shepherd.

One of his greatest gifts is his humility, even now as we write this we hope we are not offending him by telling everyone how much we love him publicly. He taught so much about the love of Lord has for us, he taught how to be more in our church and how to love our Mother Mary.

One thing we can proclaim, Father Feeney was always there for anyone who needed him, you never had to cry out for help, he was just always there. Our children shared with us that they learned so much about God from Father Feeney. Our youngest son told us Father Feeney always made him laugh. Our daughter told us how gentle and kind he was to her. As far as Bob and I are concerned, we are so aware of our sacrament of marriage, our responsibility of being parents and never least our relationship to God because of his guidance. All we can say is "thank you, God, for Father Feeney."

Then six years ago, a little bit of heaven came to us also. This special priest, Father Thomas O'Keefe, to have two priests so caring is such a gift! His sensitive understanding, laughter and joy is also such a gift to his people.

Robert Baumann Family
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Seek Presence Of Jesus

Editor:

I feel compelled to vent my feelings about an ad that was carried in the Sept. 12 Courier-Journal. It began: "An invitation to Catholic readers DISCOVER PADRE PIO and share in the blessings that thousands are receiving through his intercession . . . share the peace of mind, personal problems . . . find the joy, presence of Padre Pio in your life."

These words made me uncomfortable. Before five years ago, that ad would have offended me. But since that time I have "discovered" the loving

presence of Jesus Christ in my life. He is our only intercessor. That's why He lived and suffered and died and rose again, just for us. Why is it so hard for us Catholics to believe. Jesus tells us in Scripture, "Come to me all you who are heavy laden and I will give you rest." Either Jesus was a liar or what He said was true. He waits for us, He longs for us to come to Him with our needs.

Please, understand that I do not want to diminish Padre Pio. I believe he was an extremely good and holy man, but it was the loving presence of Jesus in his life that made him the beautiful person he was.

This letter is not intended to put anybody down, but only wishes to say discover in your life the loving presence of the living Jesus, who is joyously available to all who seek Him.

Gail Wakefield
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Not Church Teaching

Editor:

In reading the letter of Mr. Bodensteiner it struck me that his belief there is no hell as such only a "less fortunate situation that one might find himself in the next life if he insists on evil over good here in this life" is not the teaching of the Catholic Church but rather Mr. Bodensteiner's teaching.

The Dec. 4, 1968, Boston Evening Globe quoted Pope Paul VI: "Who speaks of hell? This is not liked and not discussed with everyone choosing the truths he likes

and in this way the faith disintegrates. It is no longer the faith of which St. Paul spoke."

The Baltimore Catechism teaches us that "those are punished in hell who die in mortal sin; they are deprived of the vision of God and suffer dreadful torments, especially that of fire for all eternity."

During the apparitions of Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, Our Blessed Mother opened her hands and a ray of light penetrated the earth which opened up in a vision of the eternal fires of hell. These apparitions have been investigated and approved by the Catholic Church. Pope Pius XII said, "The time for doubting Fatima has passed."

Who are we to believe has the greater wisdom and authority to interpret the meaning of Our Blessed Lord's words on hell — Mr. Bodensteiner or the Catholic Church? As a Catholic I will listen to and follow the teachings of the Church as taught by the successors of St. Peter.

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Must Spend For Defense

Editor:

Howard Easing in his Sept. 19 letter quoted from the May 1978 Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and the U.S. leads the Soviet Union in nuclear warheads.

Since warheads aren't missiles, this in no way disproves the statement in my Aug. 1 letter that the

USSR had 3,286 nuclear missiles and the U.S. had only 1,710 nuclear missiles in 1978.

Mr. Easing also quoted from the February 1978 Bulletin of Atomic Scientists that the "American arsenal is today larger, more versatile, more lethal and less vulnerable to a pre-emptive strike than that of the Russians."

Disputing that claim, a New York Daily News editorial states that Soviet ICBMs, outstripped ours in deliverable destructive weight as early as 1967.

The same editorial revealed a Soviet lead in land-based missile warheads by 1976 and a lead in the number of missiles launched by 1977.

In addition, columnist Michael Novak compared the strength of NATO with the Warsaw Pact nations and found the Warsaw Pact nations far superior in both nuclear and conventional forces.

Howard Easing notwithstanding, this should indicate the warlike nature of the Soviet Union.

To counter this threat we must therefore increase our defense spending and stop selling material (like computers) to the Soviet Union for us in their war machine. Food could also be a weapon in stopping "wars of liberation."

Unless we act soon and remain strong, the day might come when defectors will have nowhere to defect to.

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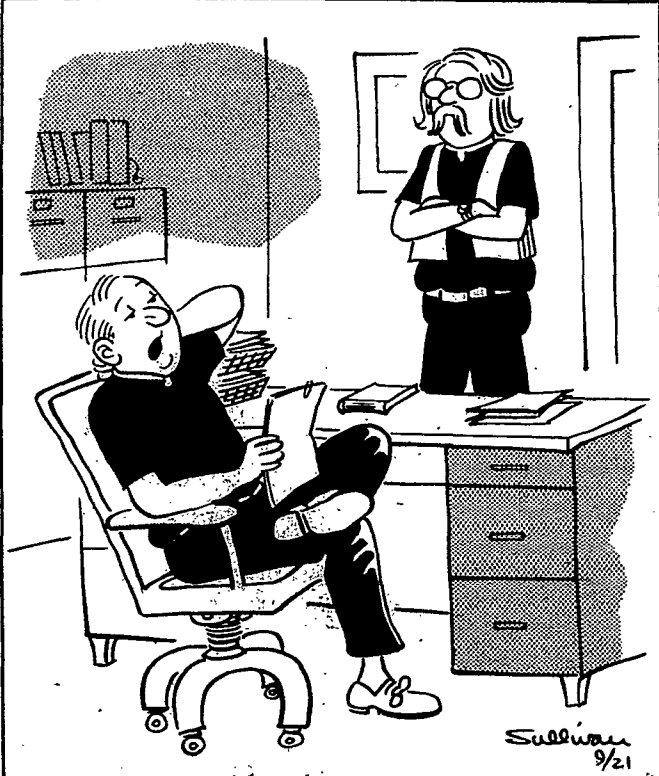
Guidelines

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 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.



"AS A YOUNG, PROGRESSIVE ASSISTANT YOU HAVE A LOT OF GOOD IDEAS, BUT GIVING UP THE SUNDAY COLLECTION ISN'T ONE OF THEM."