

## Editorials

### Common Thirst

Chicago. It was windy cold in the dawn hours. That remarkable and seemingly indefatigable man from the Vatican, Pope John Paul II, stood in the back of an open car to address crowds gathered at the Church of the Providence of God, a Spanish parish.

He spoke of the Campaign for Human Development. His words were loaded with praise.

"I commend the bishops of the United States for their wisdom and compassion in establishing the Campaign for Human Development," he said. Coming from him, such a statement is more than platitudinous, for it is evident that helping the downtrodden to their rightful dignity has lofty priority for this Polish pope.

Because the theme of his brief talk was known in advance, CHD workers were on hand and they heard their pope tell them: "I am happy to greet those who campaign for human development. The campaign has

been a witness to the Church's living presence in the world.

He commended the self-help aspect of the campaign which, he said, has "created a more human and just order."

High praise, indeed, coming from a man who has worked for human justice throughout his lifetime.

And his words were not meant simply for CHD workers, but also for all who have supported the campaign through their prayerful and financial support.

His warm tribute was meant for many right here in our own diocese who contributed more than \$115,000 last November in the annual collection. While 75 per cent of that went to the national office (over the years much of that portion has been returned to this diocese for local projects) some \$25,000 remained here for immediate help to self-help projects.

The local program is described elsewhere in this edition but how are the national dollars used? None is expended in the nature of handouts. All the money is used to propel self-help projects such as farmworkers'

housing cooperatives in California; an outreach program for sugar cane workers in Louisiana, a community organizing and leadership training program in the Bronx.

But there is more. The CHD, through its education wing, serves as a clearinghouse for information on poverty in the United States. And from this component, we learn the grisly fact that more than 25 million of our own countrymen are trapped by poverty, almost always through no fault of their own.

The CHD works to provide not temporary surcease but lasting solutions to such problems of poverty and injustice which drain our national morale and tap our national income.

So therefore, in a very real way, donations to the CHD return to contributors in a myriad of ways.

The theme this year is "Thirsting for Justice." It implies a common quest. The Campaign for Human Development provides impetus for us to make strides in that journey toward justice.

Let us make the most of the opportunity afforded us to take part on Nov. 17 and 18.

## and Opinions

### Ideas Contrasted

Editor:

On Page 4 of the Courier-Journal (Oct. 24), I was struck by the irony presented through the contrast of two articles: one a letter to the editor by Lawrence Ryan and the other an article by the editor himself.

Mr. Ryan's letter raised the point that there were no women at the Last Supper therefore, if I understand him correctly, women were not meant to be priests. His support being that Jesus knew what he was doing and if he made a mistake, he would have been quick to correct it.

Your editorial on the top of the page was dealing with the fact that Mother Teresa had received the Nobel Peace Prize and the witness this gave concerning the Church.

After reading Mr. Ryan's letter, I could not help but laugh (sadly) at the irony presented when I reached the part in the editorial that reads as follows: "Since she heard the 'call' in 1946 to serve 'the poorest of the poor,' she has selflessly EMULATED THE LIFE OF CHRIST. THE PARALLELS ARE MANY AND OBVIOUS, the most striking of which has been her choice to work among those stricken by leprosy, much as DID THE MASTER HIMSELF." (The capitals are mine.)

I wonder, if Mr. Ryan would refuse to receive communion from Mother Teresa: more importantly, if we follow Mr. Ryan's logic through to its ultimate conclusion, we would not allow women at the Eucharistic Celebrations on Sunday or any other time! I think we can see the absurdity of this last sentence. Is Mr. Ryan truly making such "A MODEST PROPOSAL"? I hope not!

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### Hell Well Documented

Editor:

I would like to bring to the attention of Mr. Bodensteiner the various descriptions of Hell which are found in the Bible. Hell is: A place where they are tormented with flames (Luke 16:24). A place where they are buried (Luke 16:22). A horrible tempest (Ps. 10: 7). A pool of fire (Rev. 20: 15). A bottomless pit (Rev. 20: 1). Everlasting burnings (Isa. 33:14). A furnace of fire (Matt. 13: 41,42). A place of torments (Luke 16:23). A place of filthiness (Rev. 22: 10, 11). A place of weeping (Matt. 8: 10). A place where we send ourselves .. a place of sorrows (Ps. 17: 6). A place of everlasting punishments (Matt. 25: 46). A place where they beg for mercy (Luke 16: 27). A place where they can never repent (Matt. 12: 32). A place of outer darkness where there is gnashing of teeth (Matt. 8: 12). A place where they have no rest (Rev. 14:11). A place where they gnaw their tongues (Rev. 16:10). A place of darkness (Jude 7). A place where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched (Mark 9: 47). A place where they are tormented with brimstone and fire (Rev. 14: 1). A place where they will drink the wine of the wrath of God (Rev. 14: 10). A place of everlasting sin (Mark 3: 29). A place where they do not think of God or confess to Him (Ps. 6: 6). A place where they do not want their loved ones (Luke 16: 28). A place prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt. 25: 41). A place of burning coals of fire (Ps. 11: 7). A place where their breath is as everlasting flame (Isa. 33: 11). A place where there are dogs, sorcerers and fornicators (Rev. 22: 15). A place where there are unbelieving, cowardly, murderers, fornicators, abominable, sorcerers, idolators and liars (Rev. 21: 8). A lake of fire into which they are cast alive (Rev. 19: 20). A place from which the smoke of their torments goes up forever and ever (Rev. 14: 11). A place separated by a great gulf from heaven (Luke 16: 25).

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### Let's Pledge Our Loyalty

Editor:

S. Thomas Greenburg, chairman of the Communications Committee of the Institute on Religious Life, has challenged the Leadership Conference of Women Religious to publicly spell out the LCWR position on the ordination of women to the priesthood (Courier-Journal, Oct. 24).

Roman Catholics by the millions will be awaiting a response to this challenge since the whole issue raises many questions including, but not limited to, continued disunity within the American Roman Catholic Church, loyalty to the vicar of Christ, deeper reasons for the decline in vocations to the Religious life than are ordinarily recognized or discussed, etc.

Why should Sisters be championing the cause for ordination of women to the priesthood? Have the Sisters not already responded to the call of Christ to the active ministry of the Sisterhood? Shall we conclude that vocations to the Sisterhood and convent life offer only partial fulfillment and limited service for some? If this is so, should these individuals examine their original vocation and commitment to service in the religious life?

The hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church has long recognized the unique contribution that women — and, especially dedicated Sisters — can make. I know of no other organized religion in recent history that has so completely accepted and utilized the talents and generosity of good women to bring Christ to the world through service to others.

It is time for us to unite behind our great leader, Pope John Paul II, who came to our land on a mission of peace and as a Defender of the Doctrine. It is time also for us — not with "loyal (?) dissent" but with "enthusiastic affirmation" — to pledge our undivided loyalty to the Vicar of Christ's local representative Bishop Matthew H. Clark. ALL FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD!

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### Open House For Choir

Editor:

This year, the Diocesan Festival Choir is beginning its season with an open house so that we can acquaint singers and interested musicians with our goals and ideals. The open house will take place at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18, at St. Thomas More Church, 3617 East Ave.

It will be the thrust of the choir this year to concern itself with the role of the cantor in church music and we hope that many of our trained members will go back and be active in this role in their own parishes. Our season will again culminate with our annual concert of sacred music on Palm Sunday at St. Thomas More Church. The specialized training in vocal techniques, music literature and liturgical awareness make DFC members invaluable members of their home choirs. In fact, more than 75 per cent of the members of the DFC are already active parish choir members.

Many of the choir directors within the DFC have found the training, materials and new ideas especially beneficial in their parish situations. We encourage as many as possible interested persons to attend this special music program. We also wish to welcome, once again, any non-Catholic singers who would like to join our group.

Anyone interested but who cannot attend the open house, should contact me for registration forms. The deadline for registration is Nov. 26.

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### Kelly, Novak Commended

Editor:

I have attended many meetings, workshops and seminars but never a session of the nature and continuity as conducted by Joe Kelly and David Novak at a Lectors Evening of Recollection at St. Mary's in Canandaigua, Nov. 1.

As a practicing lector, I expected, and so did others who attended, to be shown some approved textbook methods in elocution, diction, breath control and projection — some essentials in public speaking or public reading.

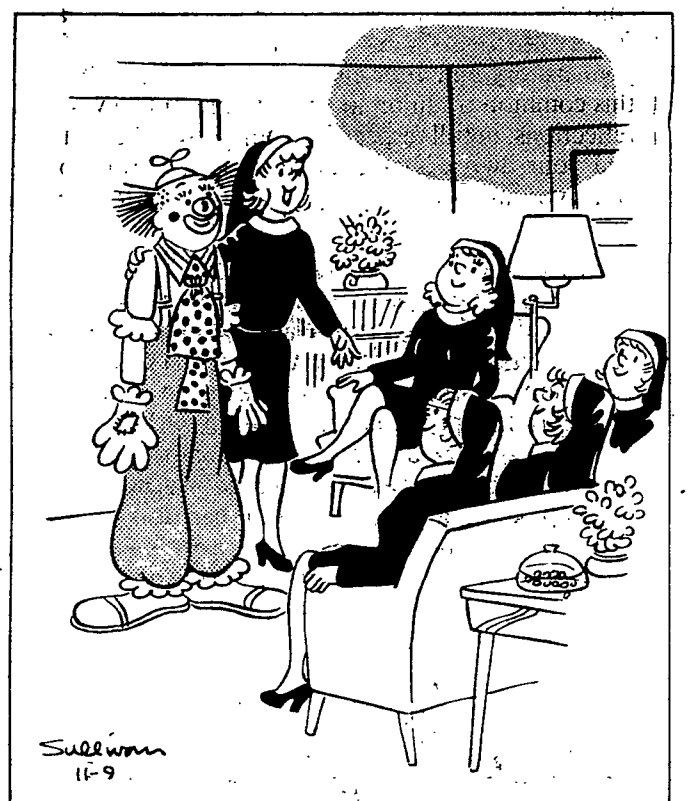
Instead, we were slowly introduced, and invited to participate in a unique 2 1/2 hours of liturgical beauty in prayer, meditation and song. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Novak in their inimitable fashions

have, I believe, raised our level of awareness of what a lector should attempt to be or represent as he reads the Word of Our Lord.

I urge my fellow lectors to attend future sessions.

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### More Letters On Page 5



"AS SISTER MARIETTA BEGINS HER CLOWN MINISTRY, SHE'S ASKED US ALL TO PRAY HARD FOR SOME REALLY BOFFO SIGHT GAGS."

### 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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