

## Editorials

### Resolution

We wonder what Janus, the two-headed Roman god of the doorway, might see if he were here this Jan. 1 to peer into the future at the start of a new decade.

We all should know what his backward gazing eyes would behold because we all have seen the past. Though we might all agree on what we saw, our perception of the events — how we interpret them — would come in varying shades.

Likewise our visions of events yet to come differ. Some are optimistic, others pessimistic. Some positive, others negative.

One person looks at a stream and sees clear, running water. Another looks at the same stream and sees the rocks, mud and holes in the bed.

And how each individual perceives events,

surroundings and things becomes actuality to that person although to someone else they might be entirely different.

If this is true about the past and present, it also applies to our view of the future. Very often how we anticipate upcoming events actually affects their outcome. For instance, every time someone predicts that the price of gasoline will go up to \$1 or \$2 or \$3, the very prediction affects the price situation.

Contrary to the popular belief that we are what we eat, we are much more what we think. How we view ourselves and our surroundings has a direct relation to how we act, look and perceive. Thus it is important that to the extent possible we take a positive attitude about life, especially about the future.

Now only a Pollyanna could look at the present day world and not notice its sins, shortcomings, injustices and cruelties. And we must first recognize them in order to change them for the better. Yet, too often we take a defeatist posture. What to do, we shrug. And this kind of attitude only adds to the problems.

While we must attempt to work for changes for the

better, we must not so concentrate on the anomalies of life that we miss its beauties.

Many prognosticators are in print saying that the next decade will be a dismal 10 years of wars among nations, economic problems, shortages of resources, famine, etc. If we were to say they're wrong we'd be as foolhardy as they in guessing at things yet to happen.

Nevertheless it is entirely possible that such predictions will influence our attitudes enough so that we will cause such dire trends merely by assuming that they are bound to happen.

Therefore we offer a small suggestion. Let's all of us make a resolution for the new year, for the new decade, to try to find the bright side — in the present, but especially in the future.

It is the Christian thing to do. After all we are the bearers of the Good News. We know that a happy ending lies in store. Our demeanor and actions should proclaim this to the world. It is the source of our freedom.

"Ask," Christ said, "and it shall be given you."

## and Opinions

### Thank You From Needy

Editor:

Thanks to the leadership and staff of the Courier-Journal for sponsoring the 11th Courier-Journal and Catholic Charities annual Christmas Appeal. The "100 Neediest Cases" aptly describe the conditions that many families and individuals confront every day of their lives.

Thanks to the staffs of the Catholic Family Center, Charles Settlement House and Genesee Settlement House for processing and clearing 2,202 cases needing temporary emergency help in the first three weeks of December. The number of cases is up from 1,700 last year.

Thanks to the staff of the Office of Human Development — Rural and the Office of Urban Ministries for their effort in helping the poor of rural and urban areas in distributing services, in their areas.

Thanks to Star Markets and its many cashiers for processing in excess of 2,000 food vouchers during this busy season.

Thanks to the hundreds of contributors, who have shared their wealth in a rather bleak economic year, with other families and individuals struggling to survive in desperate circumstances.

The appeal has not yet achieved its goal of \$50,000, so we ask people who have not yet given to mail their gift to Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal at 50 Chestnut Plaza, Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

The "100 Neediest Cases" thank everybody for enabling them to have some daylight in their lives at Christmas time . . . and during the year.

Maurice J. Tierney  
Director, Catholic Charities

### Disturbed By Rumor

Editor:

Rumor has it that the self-proclaimed liberals in the Church, who have been

everything but liberal, have got themselves in a tizzy over the Holy Father's reaffirmation of the Catholic Faith while passing through the United States.

What, may I ask, did they expect him to say anyway? Did they actually expect to change the unchangeable? Was the Holy Father supposed to divert from the direction set by the Divine Director? Assuredly not.

It is absurd to assume these illiberals have come to loose; they have come to bind. They have fettered a man when they have convinced him to deny his Cross each day and follow his own footsteps. There is no freedom or liberality in self, but only freedom and liberality from self. It is only with a servile submission to the Vicar of Christ in all things that one can truly be free and wander throughout this whole wondrous world while being inescapably anchored to the Rock that is held firmly in the hands of Christ.

At this Christmas season, "Let us proclaim the Rock of salvation (Ps 95:1). And remember Christ's words to Peter that "you are the Rock and on this rock I will build My Church." (Mt. 16:18).

Reflect also on the message of Christ's Vicar while in the United States.

Richard V. Hussar  
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Rochester, N.Y. 14606

### 'Ebony Jesus' Good Reading

Editor:

This is to thank the Courier-Journal and Father Paul Cuddy for sharing his deeply moving and humorous account of "The Ebony Jesus" (12-12-179).

I write as a frequent dissenter through the years against "On the Right Side," as one who, with little hesitation, supports the views of its many critics.

Yet I find profound respect and admiration for this priest-apostle to the poor and lonely wayfarer there by the roadside, this hit-

chhiker's priest, who shares the Good News by word and deed down every mile of the open road and finally, with brother priests or the ill at every destination.

What joy and enthusiasm must be his in the sharing! How fitting that Father Cuddy at his best appeared in the issue of the Courier-Journal which memorialized his beloved Fulton Sheen.

Surely, the hitchhiker's priest must have a most wonderful greeting awaiting himself some day, "Come to me, My Good Samaritan."

Francis Carver  
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### NBC Show Offensive

Editor:

On Sunday, Dec. 9, I was prepared to enjoy a lovely, inspirational program based on the greatest life ever lived — Jesus Christ. With all the strife in the world, how we need His story to be told over and over again.

The great Hollywood producer Cecil DeMille did a thorough research before he made the production, "Sign of the Cross." Though

he was Jewish he knew many Christians would see his movie and he did not want to offend anyone and be as truthful as possible.

But writer Culver's show, "Mary, Joseph, Story of Faith," was the most offensive, erroneous, false and disparaging writing pertaining to Christ, His Mother and foster father, Joseph.

If writer Culver had done proper research, before writing it, it would not be necessary to start the film . . . as it might have happened."

It is too bad that the TV program director didn't notice the offensiveness of this film to us Christians, especially us Catholics who hold high esteem for Mary and Joseph.

What this production emphasized was the persecution of the Jews by the Romans.

I am angered, offended and sad that our holy parents, including St. Anne, were portrayed in such a lowly manner.

Is this the trend in our society? Tarnish what is good and sacred?

Mary L. Panetti  
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### Wrong Pew For Liturgy?

Editor:

In response to your report on the Special Ministries Division of the Pastoral Center, I have some questions:

What is the common element that ties together the various departments in your division? Are these departments addressing temporary needs? Or special interest groups? What special interest group or temporary need does the Liturgy Department address? Is the temporary need "learning how best to pray in community?" That is as much a permanent need as Education or Human Development?

It appears to me that the Office of Liturgy does not belong in the Special Ministries Division. Liturgy is for all people. The Office of Liturgy is much more akin to the Office of Pastoral Ministry, which is directly accountable to the Bishop.

Can the Office of Liturgy be liberated from the Special Ministries Division?

Thomas J. Driscoll  
Chairperson  
Diocesan Liturgical  
Commission

### Help For Co-Alcoholics

Editor:

Between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 6, approximately 800 people arranged their lives in order to see and hear Dr. Joseph Pursch talk about alcoholism and how families, doctors, lawyers, employers help the alcoholic stay sick.

Monroe County has more than 45,000 alcoholics. Most of us help them to stay sick by covering up, lying, making excuses for them and picking up the pieces. In the process we get sick too. We do this because we are ashamed of a loved one. We do this because we don't understand alcoholism. Change comes with understanding. If someone drinks too much, call us, we understand.

Anna Thomas  
Program Director  
National Council on  
Alcoholism  
Rochester Area

(Editor's Note: An account of Dr. Pursch's major address, written by John Dash, news editor, appeared in the Courier-Journal on Dec. 12. The phone number for the Rochester chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism is (716) 271-3540.)

### 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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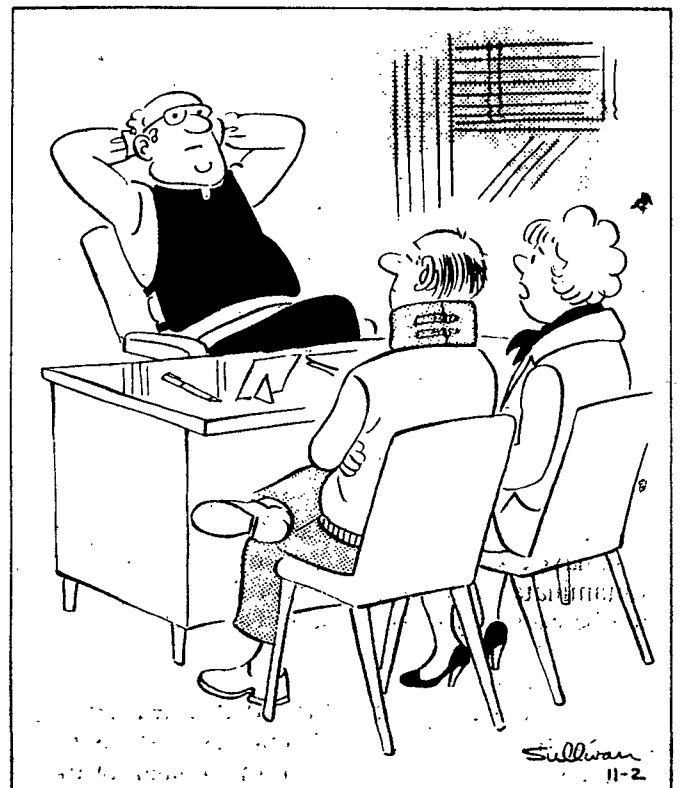
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