COURIER-JOURNAL

# **Editorials** From King To Shah

Editorials in brief ... Disappointment: Congress again fails to establish Jan. 15 as a national holiday to honor Dr. Martin Luther<sup>\*</sup>King, whose championing of non-violent protest of unacceptable norms is sorely in need these days, or any time. The proposal for the Jan. 15 holiday has been before Congress for 10 years but to no avail. Congratulations to the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia who already observe the holiday.

Change for the Better: Bernard H. Nathanson, former head of the world's largest abortion clinic where 75,000 abortions were performed, 1,500 by him personally, has seen the light. He recognized that signals picked up by monitors were the same for fetus and infant. The fetus is demonstrably an independent human entity, Dr. Nathanson says. He now professes that the destruction of the fetus cannot be justified unless, on clear medical grounds, the mother's life is at stake.

## and Opinions

### Church Needs Theologians

#### Editor:

In the splendid address he gave to educators at the Catholic University of America during his visit to the United States, Pope John Paul II said, "The Church needs her theologians, particularly in this time and age so profoundly marked by deep. changes in all areas of life and society." Quite so. It is a pity then that the Church treats her theologians so: shabbily and refuses to listen to the fruits of their reflection.

The Roman "trial" of Edward Schillebeeckx is a travesty of freedom and justice. One of his three Jean Galot. "inquisitors," has written a book condemning Schillebeeckx' Christology. Can there be even the semblance of a fair trial, when one of the judges, before hearing the case, has already pronounced the defendant as guilty? Or doesn't the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith believe in "due process?

The one bright spot in this The DSC (which does not attack against Truth conhis next move might be to go otherwise somber picture is **Rock Singers** speak for all diocesan sisters) tributes to the crisis of truth The Sisters of St. Joseph of to church to ask forgiveness, the courageous defense of then attend a political and list of severe casualties. is an example of severe **Rochester in Brazil** Schillebeeckx by a high-**False Gods** casualties of the gathering at his favorite pub Irmas de Sao Jose, CP 542, These examples and other placed Churchman, Carunrestrained Crises of Truth Uberlandia, Minas Gervais, rejections of clear Church to divide "the spoils." In nine Jan . Willebrands, dinal which has polluted the teachings do not require months, it starts all over. Brazil primate of Holland and Editor: chancellor of the Catholic University of Nijmegen It is a sad day for America COURIER-JOURNAL Guidelines where Schillebeeckx is when so many of her youth professor. Cardinal Willebrands said, "I am (who worship rock singers as **Bishop Matthew Clark** Letters intended for their god, rather than Christ publication must be ad-President convinced th,at the true God) and who'll dressed to Opinion, Courier Journal, 67 Schillebeeckx does not teach gladly stand for three hours in the freezing cold (but will Anthony J. Costello heretical doctrines or Chestnut St., Rochester, doctrines that deviate from not attend their Church liturgy for less than an hour Publisher & N.Y. 14604. orthodoxy. Those who make General Manager Expressions of opinions such accusations have no on Sunday), and who will should be brief, no longer right to attack a theologian shove, push and this case in Carmen J. Viglucci than 11/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names Cincinnati kill 11 of their of such caliber ... His Editor teaching is the fruit of his peers ... and when greedy and addresses. Christian faith and his adults who are manipulating We reserve the right to dedication to the Church. these same youths by not Rev. Louis J. Hohman There are few theologians inedit as to length, offensive, putting a stop to the rock Episcopal Advisor words, libelous statements, the Church who are on his concert when they level. He is dear to me because of his faith and his discovered that 11 youths or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, were dead, but went on as if Vol. 96 No. 36 January 2, 1980 however, only limited grammatical corrections service to the Church." nothing had happened (no matter what their Obviously all theology will be made and letters rationalization to the news Courier-Journal (USPS 135-580) must be rooted in the Sackedmedia, was," money being will reflect the writer's own Pub ished weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Sub-Scriptures and responsive to their god), one can only style. We encourage readers to the presence of God in the assume that these opscription rates: Single copy 25.: 1 year community of the Church. subscription in U.S. \$10. Canada and-Foreign \$15.00, Offices:- Richford submit opinions but since portunists had more than The conflict in the Church rock singers on their hands we try to print letters from Building. 67 Chestnut St., Rochester. today is not between the but rocks in their heads to as many different con-N.Y. 14604, (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. Magisterium of the Church tributors as possible we will behave in such an inhuman and certain theologians. At a and unfeeling manner. False publish no more than one 12-28 deeper level it is a conflict gods today as in the days letter a month from the Courier-Journal SUNDAY COLLECTIONS BEEN? YOUR same individual.

between two differing approaches to theology: the one a scholastic theology that is a historical and therefore refuses in its theologizing to consider "the deep changes in all areas of life and society" that the Pope spoke of in his Catholic University address; the other, a theology that is biblically based and historically oriented and therefore willing to wrestle with these changes.

The "trial" of Edward Schillebeeckx' and the "censure" of Hans Kung bring to mind the statement:

"Every manifestation in the Church of lack of freedom, however harmless, however, much under cover, whatever religious trimmings it may have, contributes toward making the Church less believable in the eyes of the world and of men in general; and that is a miserable disaster.

The statement is as true today as it was in 1966 when it was written - by Roman Catholic theologian, Hans Kung.

Msgr. William H. Shannon Nazareth College of Rochester

when the god of Baal was worshipped, can never fill the need that these poor souls are hungering for.

**Anne B. Christoff** 154 Crittenden Way, No. 3 Rochester, N.Y.

### **DSC Seen** Irreverent

#### Editor:

Public news commentators described Sister Theresa Kane's platform as a "demand" and a "protest" against the Church Magisterium. The Church declaration and theological teaching against the possibility of ordaining women to the priesthood was promulgated in 1977. (Catholic Almanac 1978, pp. 139-145).

By "unanimously" voting for a letter of commendation to Sister Kane (C-J 10-17-79), the Diocesan Sisters Council unanimously rejected Christ's authority to empower Pope John Paul II to reaffirm His Magisterium teachings. More recently (CJ 11-7-79), the DSC proposed "Sister Kane's greeting for dialogue in openness and reverence, in response to Christ's call to speak in truth and love.

Church during the past 15 years. The DSC has repeatedly shown its infor, openness, capacity reverence, truth and love for the (unenlightened) Catholic faith and its faithful whom they scourge.

Can the DSC give witness to openness that Jesus is the acting Head of His Church rather than putting their trust in the primacy of their contemplations? Can the DSC dialogue in truth while rejecting the Truth of Our Lord, "He who hears you" hears Me?" As casualties in the war against Truth, the DSC entertains the absurdity that it can make primacy of faith in itself and Catholic Faith compatible.

"Pope Quoted on Dress' by Sister St. Bernard, SSJ, which immediately follows the DSC's 11-7-79 letter is but one example that the DSC is a source of division, confusion of truth and torment in the Church.

While in the U.S.A., Pope John Paul II asked the bishops to authenticate their apostolate by giving leadership in witnessing faithfulness to their commission in unity with Him. Authentic leadership by the bishops means teaching, sanctifying and leading the people in the Truth through the Holy Spirit of Truth. To permit the unrestrained champagne sent by "a friend" to a recovering alcoholic.

Honest Question Department: A priest "nominated" by a computer has become the third Episcopal bishop to be so chosen. Does anyone worry who is programing the computer? di la

Not to forget: Back in 1977, Ardeshir Zahedi, the Iranian ambassador to the United States, entered a building in Washington, D.C where members of a Muslim sect were holding hostages, and personally secured their release. He said he did so because he felt responsible as president of the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C., and also because he loved the American people.

Along the same lines: Iranians invented chess and "checkmate" comes from "shah-mat — the shah is helpless."

## Time to Pray

The type of tragedy that has struck the family of Mrs. Gertrude McFarland defies understanding and tests Christian patience. Our only response can be prayer. Prayer for Mrs. McFarland; God rest her soul. And prayer for strength and guidance for her family.

further study. Quick, active leadership for Our Lord in His Church is charitable to Our Lord and to those who withhold their trust in Him as Head of His Church.

> Joseph J. Murray 38 Wyndover Road Rochester, N.Y. 14616

## Politicians Won't Act

Editor:

Referring to the letter on inflation by Edward A. Veith (11-28-79), I remember, the late Father Coughliff telling the American people these same facts back in the 30s. The escalation of the income tax. by Franklin Roosevelt expanded the inflation to hurt many more people. Only the less fortunate plus the churches and private schools suffer from inflation. No legislator will risk his livelihood to change it. Like the abortion issue, our lawmakers be they Democrat, Republican, Catholic or Protestant, will do nothing to correct these wrongs. They will not risk their political future. Jim Bishop put it this way, "The first seven things a politician does is for himself and his family, he will then salute the flag.'

I would add to this that

The letter by Phil Langan, same issue, was very good. He made the mistake of calling the wicked Communist animals. Animals are the only living friends we humans have. The most beautiful of all' God's creation. We abuse them, we use them, we're cruel to them. We even kill them inhumanely. Yet they love us and trust us. Why?

> George Aiken 5 Mary St. Auburn, N.Y. 13021

## **Brazil Sisters** Send Thanks

Editor:

The Feast of the Incarnation is an opportunity to remember the Lord's continual presence among persons today, especially among the "least of our brothers and sisters."

We thank all of you in the Rochester diocese who have reached out in love and compassion to the needs of "the least" in mission lands, and especially in behalf of our Mission here in Brazil.

May this Christmas season bring peace and blessings to each of you.

### Wednesday, January 2, 1980

Leadership: Mother Teresa of Calcutta used the

occasion of her receiving the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize to denounce abortion, calling it "the greatest destroyer of peace." An audience of royalty and diplomats left with her message that the diminished human spirit is the "worst poverty" and that "nations that have legalized abortions are the poorest ones. They are afraid of the little ones. The child must die because they do not want to feed one more child, to educate one more child." Earlier in the week when an American telecaster asked her, on camera, if she had anything to say to an American audience, she held up an infant and asked, "Why are they afraid of this baby?" Lighter Side? Alternatives, an organization promoting an end to holiday commercialism, has made

its best and worst awards for Christmas gifts. "Tackiest" was a Mork doll "made up to look like a takeoff on the baby Jesus in the manger." "Best of gifts" was judged to be a homemade card sent by a nine-year-old Indian girl to a prisoner on death row. It said, "Merry Christmas. I love you." The prisoner reciprocated with a poem, "Children Are Flowers." Another in the best gift category was a kidney donated for surgical transplant. Most tasteless gift was a case of