

Editorials

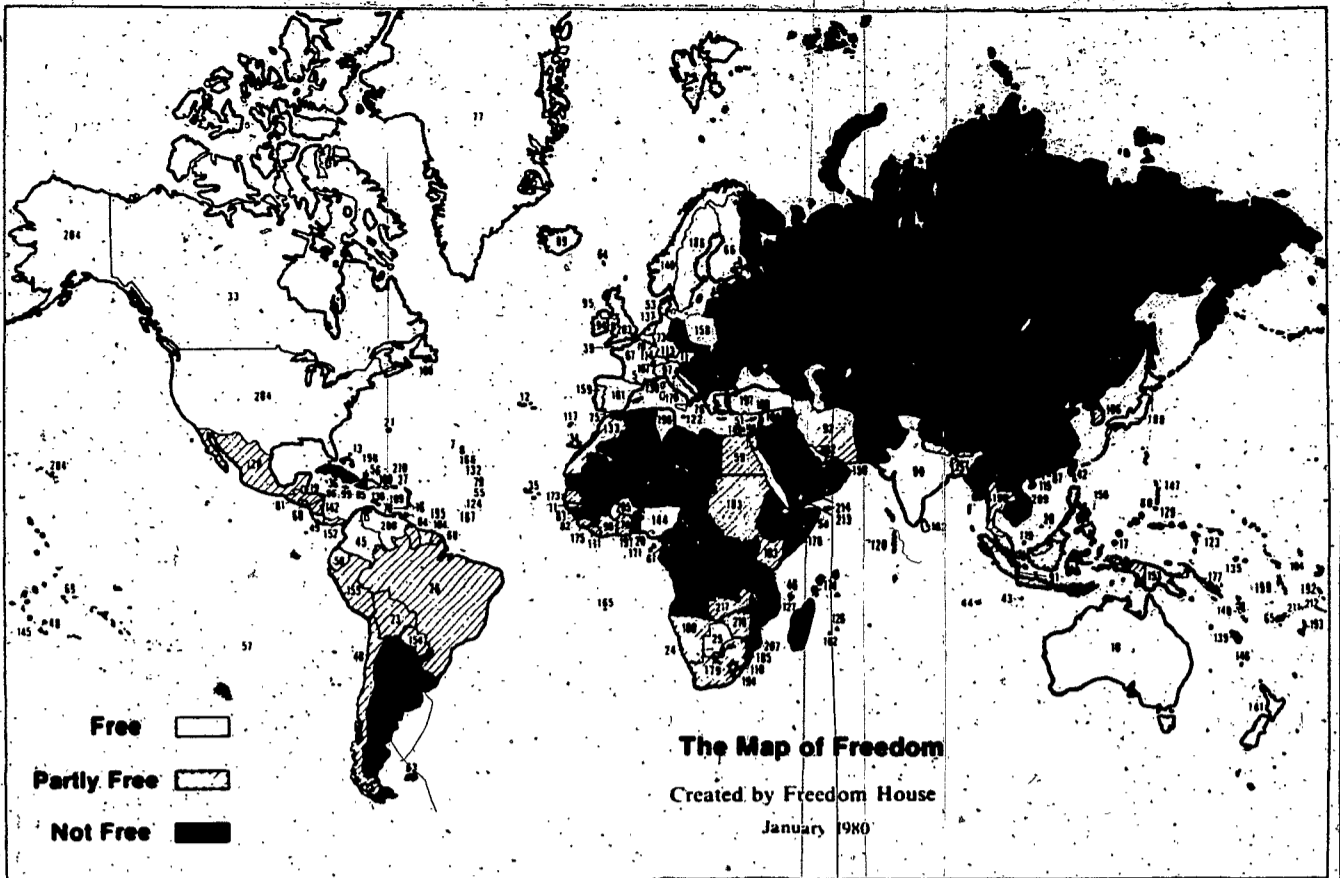
Hungry Bear

Just a casual glance at the accompanying map reveals a remarkably simple fact. The black areas are countries in which the people are not free. The Soviet Union and its satellites predominate.

The latest naked grab for power and territory in Afghanistan should once and for all time serve to remind us and the rest of the world just what kind of animal the Russian bear is. It is a greedy, inconsiderate, vicious and crafty breed. It takes first and depends on time to heal the wounds it afflicts. Remember Hungary. And now let's not forget Afghanistan. And worry about Iran, Pakistan and any other nation which might appeal to the bear.

International politics is a messy business at best. Now we find ourselves courting China, Yugoslavia, Pakistan and even Iran, none of which is a paragon of freedom, in order to overbalance Russia's position in the world.

We think President Carter showed remarkable honesty in admitting he had misjudged the intentions of the Soviet Union. We also think all Americans should rally behind the President in these days of crisis. But we still must wonder how anyone could be surprised by the latest in a long line of atrocities committed by Moscow. What else could be expected from a state which denies the existence of God and forbids



freedom of religion among other repressions of rights.

We hope that the Soviet Union recognizes the folly of its latest transgression. We hope that not only the free nations of the West but the Third World peoples

see the bear for what it plainly is. We hope the disapproval is so strong that the bear retreats.

But until that happens, if indeed it does, the Cold War has returned. And with it, the ominous prospect of nuclear war.

and Opinions

Questions On Mass

Editor:

After speaking to a friend of mine recently returned from Spain, I'm really confused. Said friend attended Mass at the Cathedral of Seville, Spain, and said the officiating priest said Mass with his back to the people - albeit, the Mass was in Spanish - plus the Kyrie, Gloria, Credo and Sanctus were sung by the choir in Latin.

After reading about the church of the Holy Name of Mary on Winton Road and the Franciscan chapel on Mt. Read Boulevard, I'm really a confused Catholic.

How come in Spain they say Mass that way, but here the priest faces the people? And how can one say that attending Mass in the above-mentioned churches in Rochester does not fulfill one's Sunday obligation. If the priests are ordained by a Catholic bishop, then why is the Mass they say "illegal"?

Can anyone clarify this?

Vincent L. Ross
29 John Jay Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Editor's Note: Father Robert Kennedy, director of the Office of Liturgy, explains the following points: First, Mass "facing the people" began with the 1965 preliminary revision of the Order of the Mass and was considered the normal way of celebrating when the final revision was promulgated in 1969. Why the Spanish priest celebrated with his back to the people remains a puzzle, unless the Spanish bishops as a body have voted to allow options for this style. Second, Latin Masses are always permitted as long as the 1969 Order of the Mass is used. In fact, the

preservation and use of Latin chants is encouraged as long as the congregation is able to participate in their proper parts and that these chants can truly be the prayer and response of the congregation. Third, fulfilling one's obligation for participation in Sunday Mass is a question of Church law. The present discipline of the Church requires participation at a Mass celebrated according to the 1969 Order of the Mass. Fourth, it is not just ordination by a Catholic bishop that enables a priest to celebrate Mass legally. The priest must be in good standing with his bishop or religious superior and have the canonical faculties to celebrate the sacraments and preach from him. If the priest does not have this canonical connection, the Mass is valid but not legal.

OBM Choir Available

Editor:

The choir of the Office of Black Ministries is available for programs, masses or special events that you may have. The choir has a wide repertoire, but we specialize in music that illuminates the Black cultural experience.

Our choir has been organized for some time and includes persons from a number of parishes who have sought to share with our many friends of the community black culture through music.

We are engaged from September through June of each year and in addition to parishes and other churches we have had engagements at prisons, community centers and a variety of community program events. Most recently we were one of many choirs from the city invited to participate in the Martin Luther King Musicale Jan. 13.

We sincerely hope that you would wish to invite us to a future service. If you would like our choir to be involved in a mass or program, please contact the OBM at least three weeks in advance. As the executive secretary of OBM, I invite you to call me at any time, should you be interested. Prof. William Crimm is the musical director of the choir.

John S. Walker
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'Ad' Triggers Questions

Editor:

Your "ad" about radio station mandatory regulations (Page 3, Jan. 9) gave me a chuckle. Not only that, it showed that your policy is contradictory. Why

does the Courier advocate matters of faith and morals be left more to the individual discretion or self-regulation rather than by mandate for the individual or parish, then turn about saying that professional, free enterprise radio stations can't govern themselves?

The Courier pushed for "freedom of choice" and independence in letting the individual "observe" meatless Friday; they pushed changing the "options" for less formality for Mass; they advocated doing away with traditional observances and practices when these changes were least needed in a period of social upheaval. Whatever became of the efforts of the Legion of Decency for TV and film censorship? "Public confession," no communion rails, using the hands to receive Communion, de-emphasis of the main altars (the real center of attraction at Mass) and the use of tables to celebrate Mass - c'mon, who is kidding

whom? Improvement or folly? Hanging signs and banners all over our churches, they look like the circus or shopping malls. With readers, lectors, assistants, singers, plinking guitars, whole groups of people on the altar, it reminds me of a fire drill. All that "activity" detracts and distracts people from the central theme of the Mass. The "option" of people taking the wine and unconsecrated hosts (bread) up to the altar - not one in 100 made those "gifts" - where is the meaning?

Freedom of choice - tried to spot a Nun lately? Marriage for priests; female priests? What "direction" does the Courier advocate? Regulate or de-regulate? Strict adherence to mandates? More government regulation or freedom of choice? CONFUSION SUPREME!

What makes the Courier think our radio stations will

quit serving the public? As to limiting advertising on radio - you jest - the Courier couldn't even hit the street (or mails) without advertising - bet you never turn down ads in the Courier.

G. J. Messmer Jr.
West Ave, Box 62
Interlaken, N.Y. 14847

Editor's Note: Reader Messmer refers to a public service advertisement prepared by the U.S. Catholic Conference in behalf of the bishops of this country. They are concerned about an FCC proposal that would leave radio stations free to drop all public service advertising. Since the airwaves are owned by the public, the USCC feels that some air time must be set aside for public service advertising which includes many areas of assistance in addition to religious. As for reader Messmer's list of charges concerning this newspaper, some are accurate, some are not.

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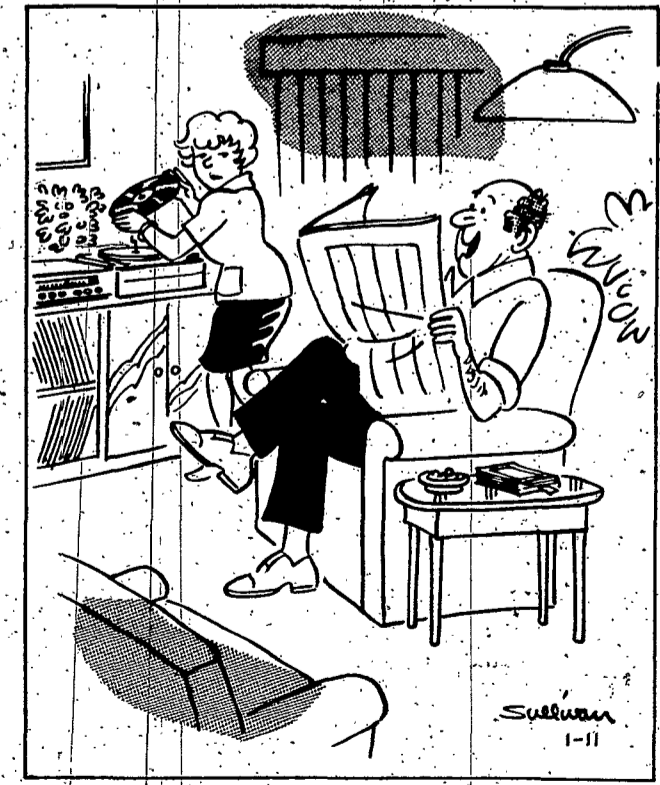
Guidelines

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 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.



EMILY, DIG OUT MY NEHRU JACKET! THE POPE IS ON A LIST OF THE WORLD'S TEN BEST-DRESSED MEN.