

**Editorials**

**Veto and an Idea**

In what has become an annual event, Gov. Hugh Carey has vetoed for the fourth time a death penalty bill passed by the State Legislature.

And as we have done every year, we once again applaud the governor's action as we would any time someone chooses life and rejects death as a societal remedy.

Chances are that this year the legislature may have the votes to override the Carey veto. If it does, he has promised to commute to life imprisonment any death sentences imposed.

The governor, however, has done more than that. He also has urged the legislators to approve a proposal for life imprisonment without parole for those convicted of first degree murder. He would expand the definition of first degree murder which would include:

- Murder of a peace officer engaged in his official duties.
- Murder to prevent the intended victim from testifying in a criminal proceeding.
- Murder for payment.
- Murder in which a substantial risk to additional lives is created.
- Murder committed with intent to cause intense suffering.

suffering.

- Murder by a defendant who intended serious injury or death to additional persons and did cause additional deaths.

- Murder by a defendant previously convicted of murder.

"Life without parole," the governor said, "would accomplish the result intended by those who support the death penalty."

We think the governor's proposal worth considering. It provides a second chance for someone wrongfully convicted. Expensive, to be sure, but preferable to the cost to the collective soul of death meted out by the State.

**and Opinions**

**Former Priest: 'Love Life'**

Editor:

As a former priest of the Rochester diocese I maintain a genuine interest in the development of Catholic thought and practice, though my own spiritual growth is along a path that includes the insights and wisdom and grace of various traditions, eastern as well as western, psychological as well as religious.

I acknowledge that I was a psychologically inadequate candidate for the priesthood, and my resignation 10 years ago was an expression of that painfully reached awareness. Thanks to the love and generosity of my good parents I was given the opportunity for essential psychological growth through a period of intense psychotherapy. The Church showed no interest in helping at all. Because of this, it has taken me a long time to come to a clear understanding of where I feel I fit in the body of Christ which is the Church. I have never "renounced" my faith, nor do I accept that I have "lost" it because I do not "practice" it in traditionally expected ways. I have always felt that my commitment of Baptism-Confirmation-Holy Orders was to a Reality and a Principle much larger, broader, deeper and immensely more inclusive than rule or institution. And through my loyalty to that commitment has come the faith and trust and love and confidence to continue growing through much pain and anguish, rejection, heartache, hurtful mistakes and guilt. And I have come to a point of personal and spiritual identity that is more real and more catholic than ever before. I am married now, sharing life with a woman of spiritual depth, wisdom and beauty, who, with patience and love, has contributed much to my growth as a person.

At times I am bothered by the Church's apparent rejection and inattention to its former priests. However, this attitude has probably done more good for our growth than any amount of concerned ministry could have. I expect that the Church will someday come to recognize and accept the validity and healthiness of the theological diversity and dissent (I pray for the conversion of the ruling class of the Church as well as for that of Russia!); that it

will someday have the humility and maturity to listen quietly and attentively to the revelation of God coming now through the lived experiences of all of its members; that it will be less afraid of doctrinal explorations and more convinced that freedom and tolerance are essential parts of a compassionate Christianity.

If any of your readers are yearning for some refreshingly intelligent reading to gain a broader insight into the current crises in the Church, they could not do much better than to buy and read a copy of the current (Feb. 1) Commonweal. This lay-edited review has a long and widely respected history of thinking in depth, of not fearing to prove beyond established perimeters, of not being intimidated by the rattling of sabers by anti-intellectuals, and of trusting in the intelligence of the Church's lay membership.

The very fact that I felt the need to write this letter indicates how much I, too, need to continue to grow. I'm sure that there will come a time when humankind reaches a universally shared awareness that the real issue in religion is simply whether one joyously loves life itself because it is the Incarnate Word; or hates life and goes on miserably in search of God. Perhaps we can hasten that time, and best love one another, by ceasing to bicker and fight and defend, and by learning, above all, to know and understand and love and accept ourselves and our place in the extended body of Christ, which is human life.

John Gormley  
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**Valentine Day's Poem**

Editor:

I'd like to send this valentine through you to all God's people.

Feb. 14, 1980

Are you feeling sad today.  
Because you received no mail?  
Did you hope for a valentine,  
As you silently exhale?

Do you think you're all alone  
With no one really caring?  
Do you think there is no one  
Who gladly would be sharing?

There is good news alive today  
In a book that tops all sold.  
It is full of joyful promises  
In a love that's gladly told.

The Bible is packed with valentines  
Relating God's great love for you.  
Don't just look for winsome cards  
But check His Word anew.

Chronicles 16: 10  
"Let the hearts of those  
Who seek the Lord, rejoice!"  
I hope you're feeling His great love  
While you give yourself by choice.

Barbara A. Fischer  
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**No Room For Kung**

Editor:

Reading of the support for ex-Catholic theologian Hans Kung makes me wonder how his followers can consider themselves Catholic.

Malachi B. Martin in his article Exit Sign, which appears in the Feb. 8 National Review, writes:

"Kung does not teach Jesus was and is true God and true man. Jesus, he says, is associated with God not by being a person of the Trinity, but because he was chosen and destined by God to be his son.

"Kung further holds that

Jesus was conceived by normal procreation. The doctrine of Jesus' birth from a virgin, Mary, is merely a symbol. All of the events of Jesus' life which have been recounted and which Christians normally call miracles have a perfectly natural explanation. Jesus did not exercise only supernatural powers."

The article continues but enough of Kung's opinions have been presented that would definitely disqualify him from teaching Catholic doctrine.

Professor Kung and his followers would help all concerned if they would cease to call themselves Catholics.

Robert Bart  
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**Will Miss Father Collins**

Editor:

Father Vincent Collins shared his strength and intelligence in the ongoing battle against secular humanism which is corroding the foundations of our society and institutions.

He shared his compassion, psychological insights and Christian sensitivity with those who find it difficult to cope with the stresses of our time.

He has returned to the Master Whom he served faithfully and courageously.

His presence will be sadly missed.

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**TV Show Commended**

Editor:

Most will agree that for better or worse television has gone far to make us what we are today -- something for which many of us are less than proud. Furthermore it is destined to form and dictate the world of tomorrow.

Twenty-six years ago a small group recognized that good as well as evil could spring from this medium. So, with funds solicited from 700 donors they set out to establish the Christian Broadcasting Network -- one of the largest and most modern broadcasting facilities. It spans the free world; overlaps into the unfree where more often than not it has been welcomed.

CBN is non-denominational, with Catholics, mostly charismatic, playing an ever increasing role; at times dominating it. You may not agree in detail with other denominations any more than they agree with you, but as long as all are privileged or encouraged to persevere in their own faith, what's the problem? Do we have an alternative if Christianity is to survive?

Hopefully, Christian denominations working in harmony will find time for a general examination of conscience; discover that none are lily white; that, in one way or another, all share guilt in the economic and moral disasters which confront us.

The 700 Club is on the air daily from 6 to 7 a.m. over Channel 8. I recommend it.

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**Pray More For Hostages**

Editor:

As I write this, American citizens are being held in Iran. We all say how terrible, those people should be punished. But what are we doing to change the situation? Ring some bells, some wear yellow ribbons and some just wring their hands. Why is it that we have not had one day of prayer in any of our churches? Oh yes, every day at Mass we pray for them, but why don't we make a bigger effort such as a Holy Hour or a special rosary or a novena or a sermon suggesting special prayers.

Those people pray five times a day. You see them on TV with their foreheads on the ground, every last man and woman. Can we afford to do less?

Mrs. H. Pikuot  
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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.

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WE GAVE IT TO THE BISHOP FOR CHRISTMAS AS SORT OF A JOKE, BUT NOW HE WON'T PART WITH IT.