

Editorials

The Means

An inspiring truth is in danger of being lost amid long, tortuous series on one segment of Church activity, unfounded and at times malicious accounts of Vatican finances and the general malaise caused by inflationary prices which affect the Church from St. Peter's basilica dome right down to the parish level.

We may lose sight of the tremendous amount of good the Church does for the poor and the forgotten. From Selma to Cambodia, from Chile to drought-stricken Africa, and, yes, from Appalachia to Lake Ontario, the Church has been reaching out with not only spiritual solace but also with necessities for those lacking same.

Of course, "the Church" is you. The people in the pew are providing the means by which this can be done. But it should be kept in mind that that oft-maligned Church structure streamlines the methods by which your contributions can reach many far corners. We provide the tools but the far-reaching and capable arms of the Church get the job done.

A specific case in point will be presented in next weekend's annual collection — the Joint Appeal for

Black and Native American ministries. It would be very difficult for even the most willing among us to serve these ministries effectively on our own. Good intentions would be erased by frustration.

But through the Church, the apparatus has been established to channel all contributions directly to places and efforts where they are most needed.

In his supportive letter on the collection in last week's Courier-Journal, Bishop Matthew H. Clark explained that 25 percent of the collection is sent to the National Office of Black Catholics; another 25 percent to the National Office for Black and Native American Ministries. The remaining 50 percent is used right here in our diocese providing one of the major funding sources for the Office of Black Ministries. In Bishop Clark's words: "These funds are used in ministries of healing, comfort and advocacy with an emphasis on service to the poor."

Brother Cyprian Lamar Rowe, executive director of NOBC, said, "We aspire to broaden the services that NOBC provides to the black community. In the midst of growing problems afflicting the black community, the Church must be more vigorous in providing to the black apostolate programs that meet the increasing needs of our people."

He said that the organization needs to reach

growing numbers of black youths who increasingly need leadership training and further spiritual development to raise their level of responsible participation in the Church and their communities.

Morally, spiritually and even pragmatically, the Church needs such participation from these youths.

Further, Brother Rowe said, "The organization wants to increase its educational services to enhance the Church's services especially in inner city parochial schools and religious education activities for all age groups."

We don't think it necessary to once again describe the hardships the very poor are facing — whether in inner city ghettos or on largely ignored reservations. Not only should conditions be improved in such areas but the means, spiritual and practical, must be provided for such victims of poverty to blossom out into the rest of the world with their God-given talents.

Procrastination has made the job staggering. On our own we would be overwhelmed. But we have no reason for such frustration, particularly in this diocese which is blessed with an active and effective Office of Black Ministries. Next weekend we will be provided with the means to join in the work. We should not let the opportunity slip by.

And Opinions

Why Study Father Kung?

Editor:

In the Jan. 30 Courier-Journal, Nicholas Renna commented on the public announcements of the Theology Department heads of Nazareth College, St. John Fisher and St. Bernard's Seminary that each would continue use of Prof. Hans Kung's books in defiance of the Vatican decision.

Your Editor's Note facetiously addressed only the minor preface of Mr. Renna's letter referring to the illegality of the Tridentine Masses with which he agreed and ignored the serious matter that prompted his letter.

In light of the vast amount of media attention paid to the Kung affair, I agree with Mr. Renna that the diocese's silence should end and that our bishop should make clear, not only to the seminary and the local Catholic colleges, but to the public that he upholds the Holy see and the doctrines of the Catholic Church.

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Editor's Note: In response, Father Frank Lioi, St. Bernard's Seminary rector, states: "St. Bernard's Seminary still continues to use books by Hans Kung in some of its courses for several reasons. First, the Vatican declaration which removed Father Kung's canonical mission to teach did not condemn any of his books by name but rather singled out his stand on papal infallibility. The books in use are not on this subject and each bears an 'Imprimatur,' a declaration by the Church that a book is to be considered free from doctrinal or moral error. Moreover, it is the duty of the seminary in its department of doctrinal theology to guide students through all the current theological literature to strengthen the future priest's ability to sift out the wheat from the chaff. Therefore, from time to time, it will be necessary to use other works by Father Kung, such as 'Infallible?', not as text books to teach Church dogma but as materials for researching the ongoing

debates which are an essential part of the workings of theological science."

Lack of Charity Unacceptable

Editor:

From recent letters to the Courier-Journal and from paid advertising in the paper, it is apparent that a number of people in this diocese welcome some of the recent statements and actions of the Vatican and Pope John Paul II. What is also apparent is that some people view these statements and actions as personal vindication and — what is even more alarming — as an excuse for expressions of uncharitable statements of their attitudes toward those whose faith in the same Lord has been expressed in different ways.

The pain behind their words is obvious; that this pain allows them to attack individuals and challenge others' integrity is neither obvious nor acceptable. It is the responsibility of all of us in the diocesan community to minister lovingly to their pain and courageously to their lack of charity.

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Keep Eyes Fixed on Jesus

Editor:

Re: "Prayer to St. Michael," Feb. 6 issue.

God's Word says that we should not seek after angels but that we are always to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

The article stated that Pope Leo XIII had a vision of a "fierce battle between the Archangel Michael and Satan." This battle continues and I believe Michael hardly needs being distracted by us. God gives the archangel his orders, so why not go directly to the Lord with our prayers.

In the Book of Jude, verse 9, the archangel is contending with the devil about the body of Moses. Michael, it said, "...

did not dare condemn the devil with insulting words, but said, 'The Lord rebuke you!'"

In our day of battle, God will be with us. That beautiful 23rd Psalm says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me." God's angels surround us, His children, and He stands at our right side. Nothing shall touch us or come nigh our dwelling. In Him, I trust and have no fear.

Isn't God greater than the fallen angel? I know He is and I praise God that I'm at peace in His security. I know also that what ever happens, He is in control and that ... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose."

Praise Jesus, who by His Word has taught us how to pray. In the Gospel of John, Jesus says, "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

In Psalm 122, Jesus commands us how to pray for the peace of Jerusalem. Why not pause at the end of the liturgy and be obedient and have silent prayer for this nation of Israel who is the apple of God's eye.

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Who Recalls This Show?

Editor:

In the Courier-Journal of Jan. 30, you had a very beautiful story about Danny Thomas which stated that he was star of shows "Make Room for Daddy;" and "The Danny Thomas Show." This same statement has appeared in many other papers and TV Guide.

I wonder if the writers are too young to remember or just don't want to, since the first show series, "Make Room for Danny" ended when his wife died of cancer (instead of an abortion or one of the many other things that happen on TV today).

In this show, Danny Williams had a wife Penny and one child Terry. The

name "Make Room for Daddy" came when Danny married his second wife, Kathy, who already had two children.

Do you remember?

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Abortion? Reconsider

Editor:

I am an inmate at Attica State Prison and I have heard so much about the killing of unborn babies that I decided to write in the hope that someone who is contemplating abortion will reconsider.

Always remember that God is the giver and sustainer of life and that no person has the right to take the life of an unborn baby.

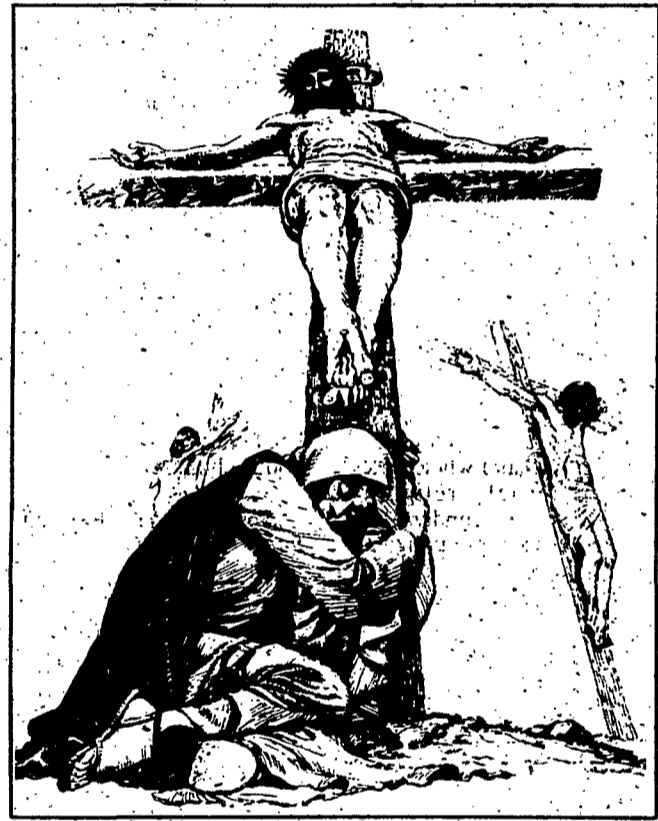
The unborn baby is considered a person from the very first moment of its generation. God who permits woman to conceive requires her to cultivate and nurture the new life within her. She must respond to God's will faithfully.

Many women fail to realize that their bodies and the new life within them are not theirs to do with as they please. Above all, anything that is willfully done to the woman which results in the death of her unborn child is wrong and evil in the eyes of God.

Everything possible should be done to welcome the unborn baby and the joy should be evident from the very first moment. The unborn must feel from the very beginning that he or she is important, wanted and dear to the parents.

I would like to tell every woman who is considering an abortion to please think very carefully what she is doing and to consider all the joy that the baby will bring to them. The baby through God is the unity of the family and I pray to God that people realize this!

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Is Abortion Murder?

Editor:

I would like to comment on abortion. Through the perseverance of NOW and similar organizations, have been perpetrated the most heinous laws ever inflicted on our society — the abortion laws. They say that the female should have the freedom of choice over her own body, but there doesn't seem to be any choice for the other body that might be growing in her; or, the "poor" people that might have to have another child that might be unwanted.

I can't ever remember being overjoyed when my wife made one of her frequent announcements that she was pregnant but when I saw the baby for the first time, it dropped the unwanted category in a hurry. We have seven children. We love them all and we aren't what you would call rich.

Other war cries are that a fetus is a content of the womb and that murder of this "content" is a termination.

I ask all of you to think with an open mind for five minutes. Is abortion murder or isn't it? If it is, it has to be

an enormous blot on our national conscience. We can dress it up any way we want and perfume it with terms such as choice, termination and contents but we still inhale the stench of death.

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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.