

Editorials

Rejoice!

Be happy!

If only for one time in the year, this Easter, rejoice! Count your blessings. You have them. Revel in them.

We realize that the world is full of blemishes, many of which are difficult to discount, even temporarily. Poverty. Hunger. Loneliness. Oppression. Bigotry. A million and one faults, sins, weaknesses, diseases, deprivations, injustices.

As Christians, we must strive to correct such imbalances wherever possible.

And the other things over which we bicker. Church structure. Liturgy. Women's rights. Finances. Biblical interpretations. Priestly celibacy. Such issues are not easily avoidable. We must face them and find solutions. But in the meantime of this once-a-year time, we must understand our priorities. We must put our good fortune ahead of all else.

Societal problems. Inflation. Gun control. Death penalty. Elections. We line up on one side or the other.

We argue. We debate. We get upset. And this is good because it means we care.

But on this one great celebration of the most momentous event in the history of the world, there is no room for sides. We must take time to realize the spectacular import of Christ's resurrection. Though He is God, he came down to us and lived out our role as human beings. To experience human existence. To die. To be born again.

That is our lot. That is our promise. That is our saving grace. And we are fortunate in another year because our Church affords us the method of basking in this sunlight of hope. Only the blind of spirit will pass up the opportunity.

Even the most terrible plight pales in comparison to the wonder of God's scenario. We have only to realize our part and play it with lively spirit.

We are Easter people. This is our day!

Henry Atwell

Not everyone, not even among his cherished fraternity of priests, could agree with all the ideas of Father Henry A. Atwell who died last week. But he

was nonetheless held in high admiration and respect among his peers.

Father Atwell, however, had the rare distinction of belonging with almost equal standing, to still another profession — that of the journalist. He moved among the newspaper crowd with high respect, efficiency and admiration and will be remembered by many in this sphere as an editor rather than as a priest.

And while priests and journalists may each see him as one of their own, there is still a third realm where Henry Atwell was a forceful and visionary leader — ecumenism. In this area, he was a prime local mover.

And, of course, we would be remiss if we left out perhaps his true forte as pastor of St. Agnes in Avon where he will perhaps be missed most of all.

Everything that Father Atwell did was done with intensity, principle, verve and all-out effort. Some of his ideas were not acceptable in many quarters but he never saw himself as engaged in a popularity contest. He stuck by his convictions but always in a gentlemanly manner.

We in the newspaper business will miss him and we sympathize with his family, his brother priests, his sister and brother ecumenists and with his parishioners.

and Opinions

Filled With Joy

Editor:

In the March 12 Courier-Journal "Insights in Liturgy," I was so full of joy and so thankful to see, in print, so spirit-filled, rationally and intelligently presented, the true meaning of our "community worship and celebration of the Eucharist."

Mr. Nowak's column voices what the true, spirit-filled Eucharistic celebrations were always meant to be and always should be!

Every single paragraph is bursting with such beautiful insights and explanations, there is no doubt in my mind and my heart that the Holy Spirit is using David as one of his treasured channels.

Keep writing and teaching, David, this lady's prayers and love are with you — always!

Sally Ryan
232 Bluejay Drive
Horseheads, N.Y. 14845

Laud CBN, 700 Club

Editor:

It's heartening to find the article on the "Electronic Church" in the Courier-Journal (March 19). However, it will hardly repair the damage that has been done by Ed Briggs' article on the front page March 5.

We feel that a public apology to CBN and the 700 Club is very much in order. Many Catholic Christians are supporting these Christian TV and radio stations, while praising and thanking our God that His Word and His message of salvation is being shouted from the antenna tops.

Alice Maybee's response in the March 19 Courier is well worth reading and thinking about — seriously. To quote her: "Rather than oppose God's work, let all of us who are Christian join hands and hearts, binding ourselves together to form a mighty bulwark against the enemy. God wants a united body."

Some of us have evidently forgotten that unity among Christians was Jesus' dying wish!

Armand R. Tanguay
Catherine K. Tanguay
311 Tobey Road
Pittsford, N.Y. 14532

Defense A Necessity

Editor:

Re the letter by Lee Strong in the March 5 Courier.

Mr. Strong states that "in the midst of the debates concerning registration and the draft, we, if we genuinely wish to follow the teachings of our Church — and Christ — should not be arguing the efficacy of the draft; we should be utterly opposed to it, and to any other manifestation of militarism."

It seems Mr. Strong is confused on this issue. Apparently he is against a strong military on the grounds it will hamper peace or lead to war. That's like saying, "We hate fires, so we are against the fire department."

If we wish to abide by our Holy Father's wishes for peace, it is essential that we maintain a strong defense system.

Mrs. Stony R. Lohr
427 H Beluga Ave.
Fort Richardson, Alaska
99305

Gun Control Propaganda

Editor:

The article, "Handgun Control Lacks Government Action," in the March 19 Courier-Journal is an excellent piece of journalism but like any excellent piece of journalism intended to propagandize, it is full of holes like Swiss cheese, and like day-old bread, can be easily pulled apart.

For one matter, the account makes no mention of what Mr. Steinberg is, and what is the organization called "The National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy."

The question can be raised here, whether this is a legitimate organization or a "store-front" outfit with self-seeking motives, usually money-oriented.

Second, the style used by Dr. Duncan is blatantly the "scare technique" taught in most journalism classes. It is very simple to see through it, and to apply the very same technique to any situation.

Third, when individuals like Mr. Steinberg and Dr. Duncan call for handgun controls, they are simply admitting their ignorance of the matter, because, as a matter of historical record, we do have handgun controls. On the federal level, we have the Gun Control Act of 1968 (interstate shipments, sales or trades of firearms manufactured since 1898 and of ammunition or components for them can be made only by and through holders of Federal Firearms Licenses) and on the state level we have the Sullivan Law under which all pistols of hunters, competitive shooters and collectors must be licensed with the state and all pistols registered in Albany.

Finally, derogatory references usually made concerning the National Rifle Association tend to give the impression that this is some kind of modern, high pressure lobby group. This is simply not true, since again, as a matter of historical record, the NRA was founded way back in 1871, with the basic purpose of educating and training citizens in the safe and efficient handling of small arms, and generally of encouraging the lawful ownership and use of small arms by citizens of good repute.

Sorry, Mr. Editor, but your article was just too heavily larded with propaganda to go unanswered.

Karol Anders
329 E. William St.
Bath, N.Y. 14810

Editor's Note: According to David J. Steinberg, the National Council for a Responsible Firearms Policy was formed early in 1967. It is composed of private individuals concerned with both the dangers and responsibilities of gun ownership. Steinberg said that the group is concerned "with all kinds of firearms" not just handguns. Lobbying is a part of the

council's activities and it also conducts public awareness programs. "We don't have a formal professional fund-raising campaign," he said. Rather he receives contributions from individuals who have heard of the group and he does ask for renewal of support from prior contributors. Council membership is less than 1,500 members and it operates on a budget of less than \$10,000 with no paid staff. Its address is: 7216 Stafford Road, Alexandria, Va. 11307. The National Rifle Association, through its Institute for Legislative Action, is a major lobbyist and makes no secret of it. We are grateful to reader Anders helping us clarify the story.

St. Bridget's In Prayers

Editor:

Having read about the turmoil created at St. Bridget's Church, one wonders how parish administrators are chosen. It would almost seem as if names are thrown into a basket and whatever name is drawn, that is who the parish is assigned.

It would seem that the Personnel Board would be more discerning in the appointment of pastors.

The people of St. Bridget's, in their struggle, display a deep love for their parish.

We will remember them in our prayers.

Dorothy A. Reinagel
3602 North Road
Churchville, N.Y. 14428

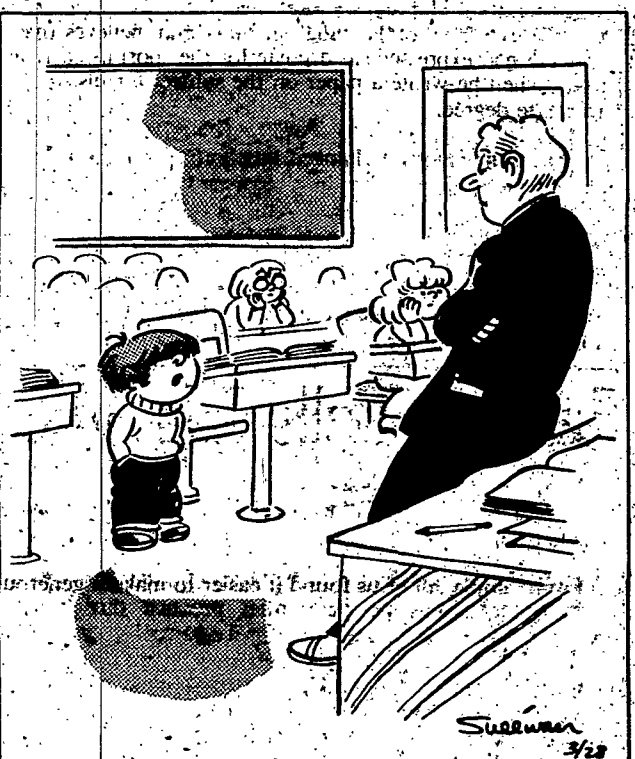
All Should Say Rosary

Editor:

St. Denis said that there is nothing more pleasing to God than to cooperate in the work of saving souls and to frustrate the devil's plans for ruining them.

The Rosary with meditation on the life and passion of Jesus Christ is certainly most pleasing to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother and is a very successful means of obtaining all graces.

The Rosary as a mystery is a sacred thing which is dif-



"MY MOM SAYS MONEY PROBLEMS BREAK UP A LOT OF MARRIAGES. IS THAT WHAT THE PRIEST MEANS WHEN HE SAYS, 'TIL DEBTS DO YOU PART'?"

icult to understand its importance.

St. Dominic has divided up the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady into 15 mysteries which stand for their virtues and their most important actions. They are 15 flaming torches to guide our steps throughout life.

The heavenly salvation of the Hail Mary drains down upon us blessings from Jesus and Mary in abundance, for it is an infallible truth that Jesus and Mary reward in a marvelous way those who glorify them.

In our own day we see people who hold new doctrines which may have quite a bit of surface piety, but they scorn the Rosary and often dissuade their acquaintances from saying it. They are careful not to condemn the Rosary but the way they set about attacking it is all the more deadly because it is the more cunning.

The more the Rosary is said the more enlightened one's intellect becomes, the more zealous his heart and the stronger his armor against his spiritual enemies. This is the great secret that Our Lady taught St. Dominic so they might convert heretics and sinners.

This is why she came herself at Fatima and insisted

we say the Rosary every day — the more who say it together the louder our voices rise to heaven.

Pope Paul VI of blessed memory told us the devil has entered through fissures in the Church — the wise will listen to his voice.

Mary Kelly
7 Harwood Lane
East Rochester, N.Y. 14445

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 1½ 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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