

Editorials

Impact

The recent assassinations of Archbishop Romero in El Salvador and Father Luis Espinal in Bolivia reflect two facts — 1. the futility of the murders, because in both cases, more attention has been focused on the oppression in those countries than if the churchmen had been allowed to speak freely, and 2. the kind of danger such ordinary priests, sisters and laypersons face in merely doing their jobs.

True, both of these men spoke out against injustice. They had the courage to defy oppressive authority, to voice their concerns for the poor. But there are others, less vocal, laboring in the often unseen fields of the Lord, who also pay the price.

Father Timothy McCluskey of our diocese who has worked several years in LaPaz, says that every effort to help the poor — "to organize them so there voice may be heard," to better their condition, to give them dignity, may draw the distrust of the government.

While the deaths are not always as dramatic as the gunning down of Archbishop Romero during Holy Mass or the brutal torture and multiple bullet wounds

of Father Espinal — they nonetheless happen, according to Father McCluskey. Maybe such a priest or layperson will get a call late at night from someone who is sick or needs help, then there will be a tragic accident, a car overturns, for instance, and that person helping the poor is no more.

Hundreds of people who have dedicated their efforts to assisting the poor have been murdered in our neighboring continent. Too often, they are merely names, often difficult to pronounce. Remote. Unfamiliar. Faceless.

But now, the case of Father Espinal brings the situation into a different realm. He has worked side by side with our own diocesans. He helped establish San Luis Obrero, which still receives assistance from this diocese and which was established with the direct help of this diocese.

His assassination makes it clear that we must begin to care more for these neighbors. We must grow in concern for the situation in many Latin American countries. If we do not recognize and oppose the injustices there, we may find them reaching into our own continent.

Archbishop Romero and Father Espinal gave their lives for the poor. There is no act that could be more Christian. The rest of us must see to it that they did not die in vain.



Father Espinal . . . the poor quality is because it is a reproduced from a newspaper rather than the photo.

and Opinions

Obey Your Parents

Editor:

I am an inmate at Attica State Prison and I have heard so much about parents being unjustly blamed for everything that happens to their children. This is very unfair and unreasonable for children to put their parents through.

Following are some suggestions which I hope will bring about better understanding between parents and children.

When you have the opportunity discuss with your parents areas where you believe they are being unfair or cruel.

Always try to make your parents happy and avoid things that disturb them. You will notice that the atmosphere at home will greatly improve.

Be truthful to your parents and air your gripes and problems with them. Don't be disrespectful to them and be sincere in your efforts.

Especially if you're a minor submit humbly and obey your parents explicitly. Don't ever argue with them or disobey them.

Sometimes when being

stubborn it's very easy to see only one side of a problem and this will give you a distorted view. Compromising and showing a lot of love will always solve the most difficult of problems.

In closing, I would like to say that things will not get better overnight but by your making the first move a gradual change will come about in your relationship. Just remember that our Lord promises to bless everyone who obeys and honors his parents!

Anthony Liccione  
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Fundless NFP Needs Aid

Editor:

The Board of Directors of Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester would like to inform your readers that our request for funding from United Community Chest (\$34,251) has been rejected again this year. Planned Parenthood will receive another increase from UCC over last year's \$232,000.

We have welcomed requests for information and have provided speakers for groups and instruction

throughout the diocese. We hope to continue to expand our educational work among community groups, including the clergy and medical personnel as well as high schools and colleges. Many people of all denominations are beginning to be aware that Natural Family Planning is not calendar rhythm and does indeed offer a sound alternative to artificial contraception.

We must once again seek funds through private donations from all who feel it is important for us to offer this moral and medically sound information and instruction. Unless we can secure the necessary funds, we face the closing of our office.

Bob and Kathy Burke,  
Sister Helen Edward Dodd,  
Donna E. Hill,  
Cliff and Mary Largess,  
Madeline Lilly,  
Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara,  
Joe and Terri Petracca,  
Frank and Sue Staropoli,  
Jim and Maureen White  
Natural Family Planning  
Education  
89 Genesee St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Column Balm For the Soul

Editor:

I am, like Msgr. Shannon, an avid reader of Father Paul Cuddy's column. It is one I look forward to with pleasant anticipation. His diocesan travelogue keeps me informed about many priests I knew and it is a heartwarming connection to Father Cuddy, whom I met for the first time on one of those fabulous conducted tours of his. Don't consider those tours superficial. They are far from that. He is a working priest, a shepherd of souls and his tour groups are happy with the akin-to-retreat type of experience enjoyed on his tours. His daily Masses alone are a big plus.

The question and answer dialogue may be, as Msgr. Shannon says, a "nostalgic yearning for the Baltimore Catechism," but, please, not R.I.P. There are a great many of us who were raised to live by it and I for one regret to entomb it.

As to the error of the reference to "head liturgist," I am sure the reproof given Father Cuddy will be accepted by him with his usual good grace and good humor.

Please continue to let us have Father Cuddy. His column is balm to the soul. Peace.

Rhea M. Gartland  
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Editor:

In view of the many changes in our Church since Vatican II and the effort of so many wonderful priests to help the laity keep their balance between the important and the unessential, it seems sad to read such unkind and picky criticism as was directed by Msgr. William H. Shannon, of Nazareth College, against Father Cuddy, in the Courier March 26.

Since I, too, am an "avid" reader of Father Cuddy's column, may I take this opportunity to express my admiration of OTRS, and feel that it has great value in bringing enjoyment and good to many people, with far-reaching results. According to my Catholic teaching, which had its roots in the Baltimore Catechism, I feel this to be a pretty satisfactory result for anyone's work.

Alberta Krott  
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Editor:

In an otherwise mediocre letter, Msgr. Shannon for no very apparent reason recently took occasion to ridicule Father Cuddy, an admirably apostolic priest whose delightfully distinguished columns have for many years enriched the Courier-Journal. That Father Cuddy should have become the object of monsignor's verbal abuse is in its way an ironic tribute. It places Father Cuddy in distinguished company. In the Jan. 2 Courier, monsignor directed an oblique attack upon the Holy-Father himself, as well as on the dutiful cardinal prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, essentially for disciplining two recalcitrant ecclesiastical scholars, Fathers Schillebeeckx and Kung.

In substance as well as in form that Shannon's invective was for the most part a series of innuendoes, nonsequiturs and deceptive suggestions. It was forthright only in its last brief paragraph wherein Msgr. Shannon, by identifying

Father Kung as a Catholic theologian, outrightly contradicted the vicar-of-Christ, who had in a formal proclamation explicitly deprived Kung of that privileged status.

The remaining observations of monsignor's perverse letter may be characterized, to use his own flippantly uncharitable phrase, as "a number of emotions some of which it would not be in good taste to express in a letter to the editor."

What is worthy of attention may be reduced to the following. Monsignor speaks of Father Cuddy presenting a goodly number of truths, no one of which he chooses to designate. He refers to distortions, half-truths and anti-Vatican II statements without specifying any one such item. He deplores Father Cuddy's self-dialogue technique largely it would appear because it puts monsignor in mind of the time-honored Baltimore Catechism, a document he would do well to review.

I have chosen to identify myself professionally as a member of the Nazareth College faculty, essentially to emphasize that Msgr. Shannon, who invariably invokes the college name in his public pronouncements, cannot presume to speak officially for the institution, and that he and I write as private persons.

Joseph F. Conway  
Lecturer in Economics  
Nazareth College

Editor's Note: Father Cuddy has been stoutly defended and Msgr. Shannon's criticism amply answered. In the interest of space, we must end the discussion.

Can't Ignore Afghanistan

Editor:

Lee Strong in his letter (March 5) quoted statements from Vatican II to support his theory that modern war cannot be just.

If I understand Mr. Strong correctly, we are to stand by helplessly while the Soviet Union continues its policy of genocide in Afghanistan.

In 1975, when Congress

stopped sending aid to the anti-Communist governments in Indochina, the Communists prevailed and millions were put to death.

This great loss of life was the direct result of the Communist takeover which the various peace groups wittingly or unwittingly helped bring about.

It is curious to observe that in the wake of mass murder in Afghanistan and the bloodbath in Indochina, the so-called peace groups have been virtually silent.

But let the U.S. make a feeble effort in response to Communist genocide, and these hypocrites are all over the place crying "warmonger!"

While it is true to some degree that "those who live by the sword shall die by the sword," it is also true that many without swords have died like those defenseless civilians in Cambodia.

Our Lord also said, "I have come to bring a sword, not peace" (Matt. 10:34-35).

Therefore as Catholics we must intelligently interpret the Gospel and not pervert it, as did the scribes and pharisees when they ignored the needs of their fellow men.

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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.



"I'VE GOT ANOTHER GREAT IDEA FOR THE LITURGY — OH, GOOD, YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT IT!"

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