

**Editorials**

**Rating the Press**

World Press Review, a magazine reporting "news and views from the foreign press," reports in its current issue on "which newspapers are the best in the world?" The findings are by two recognized experts on the international media, John C. Merrill, professor of journalism at the University of Maryland, and Harold A. Fisher, an associate professor at Bowling Green University.

One of the intriguing questions concerning their report is how do American newspapers rate with the rest of the world's? Before continuing, our readers should stop and ponder their ideas on our papers versus foreign publications.

The two professors reveal their results in a book, "The World's Great Dailies: Profiles of Fifty Newspapers." It may come as no surprise but only 10 of the newspapers are American — the Atlanta Constitution, Baltimore Sun, Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, Louisville Courier-Journal, Miami Herald, New York Times, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Wall Street Journal and Washington Post.

Twenty of the top-rated newspapers are from Europe and include such worthies as the Corriere della Sera of Milan, Le Figaro of Paris, The Guardian of London, Pravda of Moscow and Osservatore Romano of Vatican City.

Why such a paper as Pravda, which is government-controlled? Because, the authors say, "great newspapers are read by the elite of the country where they are published as well as by the elite in other countries and (express) a significant segment of international elite opinion." They explain, however, that newspapers in closed societies "are not felt to be as intellectually potent as the free elite."

The authors believe that much of the mass media is mediocre around the world but that they detect "increasing quality . . . in more dailies and weeklies . . . striving to allay world misunderstandings and to bring mankind into a community of reason."

**Optimism**

A poll conducted by the University of Connecticut of residents in that state reveals that of those who believe in heaven and hell, and 93 per cent do, 73 per cent believe they are on the way to heaven.

The poll-takers estimate a 5 per cent margin of error but even so it indicates that Connecticut folks are mighty optimistic.

We wonder what the results of such a poll would be in other states. For instance, we suspect that many in California are already so high they think they're in heaven now. And in Potter County, Pennsylvania, known officially far and wide as "God's Country," residents also believe they are already in Elysian fields.

Then there are the New Yorkers who think that Florida is heaven. And the Floridians who prefer Maine. All of which probably means that earthly utopias are purely a matter of taste.

But to get back to the Connecticut poll, it is reassuring to know that the people of that state are so lofty in their hopes for after-life settling down. Still, we wonder about the 7 per cent who answered that they think they are going to hell. We hope that the 5 per cent margin of error is inclusive in their numbers and that the remaining 2 per cent are aware that there is still time to change direction.

**Looking Back . . .**

From the pages of the Courier-Journal.

**75 years ago this week** — The "Washington Letter" on Page 1 reported on a meeting of the Presbytery of Washington and its writer, one E.L. Scharf, Ph. D., gratuitously noted, "Division and discord seem to be the order of the day whenever our Protestant friends meet."

Later on in the report: "Another speaker warned the country that a conspiracy was on foot to make this country Roman Catholic by the systematic importation of Catholic foreigners from Italy, Austria and other Catholic countries. Other attacks on the Church followed, but I refrain from quoting further . . . I only give a clear insight into the character and calibre of the people who meet here in a representative capacity to exploit all kinds of fads and theories."

And among the small print on an inside page: "Archbishop Farley, assisted by Bishop McQuaid and Bishop Ludden of Syracuse, will consecrate Rev. Thomas Hickey, V.G., as coadjutor bishop of Rochester on Wednesday, May 24th." That was the item just before the announcement that the Cathedral Dramatics Club would present a minstrel show with "Eddie Lee and a pickaninny quartette."

**50 years ago this week** — The banner headline on Page 1 (and they seem to have such a display head every week) proclaimed, "Court Upholds the Right of State to Supply Text Books for Private Schools." One of the subheads told it all: "Suit Was Brought Against State of Louisiana to Prevent It from Providing Free Text Books for Pupils in Private Schools. — Action of State Is Upheld And Books Will Be Supplied."

And remembering that 1930 was really not that long ago, reflect on this Page 1 news item, "Frau Cosima Wagner, widow of Richard Wagner and daughter of Franz Liszt . . . died recently in Bayreuth, Germany, in her 92nd year."

A man for the times: The Rev. Dr. Frederick Zwierlein, professor of Church History at St. Bernard's Seminary, told the Kiwanis Club that he thought the "right to liberty" has been restricted by prohibition which he said "is an act of tyranny."

**25 years ago this week** — Page 1: "Shifting of Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's television program, 'Life Is Worth Living,' from the DuMont network, on which it began three years ago, to the American Broadcasting Company was announced by ABC president Robert E. Kintner."

And on Page 2A, "St. Michael School Addition Opened in Penn Yan, Cost Totals \$82,846." And in the same edition, "Contracts Awarded for New N.D. High in Elmira."

And the first yearbook of St. John Fisher College, the "Jo Roffs," was dedicated to the patron saint and an edition presented to Bishop James E. Kearney.

**10 years ago this week** — Lead story: "Bishop Hogan, back on home soil this week after a 20,000-mile tour of six diocesan mission stations in Latin America, called these outposts "a sign of the Diocese of Rochester growing to maturity." A sidebar box announced that the bishop "will make a radio report on his Latin American trip next Sunday evening on Rochester's WHAM."

And the U.S. bishops, at their semiannual meeting, approved a new collection at Thanksgiving to finance a \$50 million domestic antipoverty drive.

**and Opinions**

**Inmate Notes  
Appreciation**

Editor:

I wish to express my thanks for the publishing of my poem. I've gotten quite a few responses and wish to thank your readers from my heart. Those letters encourage me to grow and to accept my life for what it is. Also my relationship with Christ is more meaningful knowing that there are Christians, who are concerned with the lives of convicts. Each day now is easier thanks to your kindness and the kindness of your readers.

I would like to thank the priests I've encountered in my six years of prison — Father Clarence Gardner, now of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn, and Father James Enright of St. Mary's in Auburn. Both these men, and the avenues they opened up for me, have turned me around.

Also very important to note are the lay people who come into the prisons, three of whom are from the Rochester area. They have been instrumental in bringing us love and bolstering our faith in Christ.

Again I thank you. I shall continue to pray for all of our clergy, that they encourage their parishioners to get involved in prison work.

J. Hemmers  
75A4301  
Attica Correctional Facility  
Box 149  
Attica, N.Y. 14011

reason such communion (without unity of faith) cannot be regarded as a means to be used to lead to full ecclesial communion."

Although the motto of the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research at Tantar is "the light of Christ shines for all," the "Catholic" priests who invite their colleagues to share their infidelity of intercommunion are in spiritual darkness. There is an obligation to Tantar's motto: He who follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life (St. John 8:12-13).

Catholic priests publicly profess that Our Lord is the Head of the Church. In other words, Tantar's Catholic priests tell their minister colleagues, "I cannot invite you in the name of Christ (the Church), nevertheless, I do invite you to be unfaithful and dishonest with me at His table. I have greater faith in the light of your faith and your conscience than in the belief that Christ is the Head of the Catholic Faith and author of the Church-formed conscience."

Tantar's solution to the question of intercommunion is just as bad as an invitation to the infidelity of adultery. When Tantar's Catholic priests and their minister colleagues give false witness to the beliefs they profess, who in search of truth would believe them and trust their research?

Joseph J. Murray  
38 Wyndover Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14616

**Support Asked  
For Boycott**

Editor:

Recently six southern Catholic bishops publicly endorsed the boycott of the J.P. Stevens Co. products. The bishops of the province of Atlanta and the Diocese of Richmond stated that until the giant textile firm "can demonstrate that it has eliminated the mood of fear and retaliation from its plants, bargains in good faith in contract negotiations, and responds to the rights of workers to organize, we believe the boycott is a legitimate and effective instrument toward the

**Tantar Idea  
Taken to Task**

Editor:

Catholic Faith (and its Church Teachings) forbids intercommunion except for 1. separated Eastern (Orthodox) Christians; and 2. special cases in which other Christians who believe in the Real Presence are unable to have recourse to their own minister. "There is an indissoluble link between the mystery of the Church and the ministry of the Eucharist. The celebration of the Eucharist of itself signifies the fullness of profession of faith and ecclesial communion . . . for this

promotion of justice in this matter."

As expected, the bishops have been receiving criticism and hate mail from the friends of J.P. Stevens. Their work is not done, however, and now they must put the spirit of the endorsement into practice in their churches. For that they will need support from all around the country.

For this reason, and to affirm the bishops for their stand in defending the rights of workers, the Diocesan Sisters Council has written a letter of support to each of the southern bishops. We urge all readers to write support letters to the following bishops as soon as possible.

The Most Rev.  
Michael J. Begley, D.D.  
PO Box 3776  
Richmond, Va. 23202

The Most Rev.  
Thomas A. Donnellan,  
D.D.  
Catholic Center  
756 W. Peachtree St., N.W.  
Atlanta, Ga. 30308

Sister Anne Urquhart  
DSC Social Concerns  
Committee

**Msgr. Shannon  
Is Praised**

Editor:

We are writing to pay tribute to a man who had a positive Christian influence on our lives and the lives of our children.

We have known Msgr. William Shannon first as a teacher who imparted to us both the historical facts of the Catholic Church, but also his love of the Church — both by his words and by his example.

As a young, married couple we were privileged to be part of the Family Renewal Groups he moderated. The unforgettable Family Renewal days have profoundly influenced our marriage in all ways Christian.

He has enriched the Christian life of the Diocese of Rochester through his tireless efforts on the Diocesan Liturgy Commission, as his column in the Courier will attest.

The Thomas Merton Society is but one result of his work in the field of prayer and contemplation — a new book on Thomas Merton will soon go to press.

He has been to all his friends a priest of whom we can be proud — a man whose breadth and vision have kept many Christian, Catholic.

We are grateful that Father Shannon is here at our point in time. May he have many more years of fruitful service to the Lord.

Rosemary and Jack Maracle  
373 Birch Hills Drive  
Rochester, N.Y.



\* WE TRY NOT TO WEAR DARK CLOTHES WHEN SHE'S SHEDDING \*

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