

Editorials

Must We Reach Today's Youth?

"We must do more to reach youth."

How many times, in how many forums have we heard that remark? And how many of us realize that the statement itself expresses the problem. For if we (whoever we happen to be) have to "reach" the youth, then we are in a sense accepting a gap that needn't exist.

The idea, of course, is to get youth involved, whether in church activities, social action programs, business or, in the case that we can speak of most clearly, the press.

The Catholic Press Association has engaged the services of the Gallup Poll to examine levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction among subscribers.

George Gallup, Jr. reported on some of the findings at the recent CPA meeting in Nashville, Tenn. Catholic newspaper subscribers, he found, tend to be older than Catholics in general. Gallup says this means that Catholic newspapers are being read by a disproportionately large number of older people and by a small number of young people.

Gallup has been telling Catholic newspapers this for quite some time now but many are not heeding his advice. This newspaper took its own survey back in

1974, and was distressed at the low percentage of young readers.

We took steps to correct the problem — namely the institution of the RapAround section. For three of the last four years, it has been adjudged by the CPA as the best youth coverage found in Catholic newspapers of the U.S. and Canada.

We mention this not to pat ourselves on the back — we know that such prizes are not the end-all of our mission. But we want to make a salient point. We feel that RapAround is effective not because it is a way of "reaching" youth but because youths are part and parcel of the section. The CPA judges remarked about RapAround that "Equal Time and Speaking Out are excellent; they let the kids be heard."

The judges went further. "All in all, RapAround genuinely touches the needs of today's youth."

Quickly, we must point out that this newspaper is not perfect at this task but whatever success it has had rests in the fact that the youngsters express themselves in RapAround. The newspaper has tried to avoid the "we-they" syndrome. In addition to the specific features mentioned above, Joan M. Smith, RapAround editor, has a cadre of school correspondents who report on activities at their particular schools.

Whatever success the Courier-Journal has had in this area is due to the fact that the youngsters themselves are doing a large share of the work. They deserve credit for that.

Incidentally, the problems Gallup mentions vis a vis the Catholic press and youth also apply, he said, to the secular press.

And Gallup made a cogent point in his report:

"If the efforts of diocesan press to reach and retain young readers meet with success, the Catholic Church as a whole would be the beneficiary in terms of a broader membership basis for the Church and strengthened lay leadership in the years ahead."

And that, dear readers, is part of our duty. All of us.

Census

We would hope that by now the importance of the 1980 Census has been made clear. But apparently it has not. Many, particularly those from areas most likely to be helped by a full count, have not responded. There is still time.

The Census Bureau has turned to the Rochester Catholic diocese for help.

Reminding that data acquired from census forms will be used in ways that will benefit everyone — equitable distribution of state and federal funds depend on an accurate census count — the census bureau has suggested possible ways we can help.

Perhaps parishes can distribute flyers at such gatherings as bingo; they can offer to help parishioners fill out census forms; they can make brief announcements at Mass; they can put notices in bulletins.

Where to begin? By contacting the Rochester Census Resource Center in Room 304A, City Hall; telephone 428-7225.

and Opinions

Nestle View Disputed

Editor:

In the Your Turn article of 5-14, Mr. Ciocca, Nestle Co. representative, rebukes the Courier for printing Dolores Curran's article, "Corporate Abortion." Ms. Curran attacked Nestle on irresponsibility in putting profit before people in its promotion of infant formula in Third World countries.

Mr. Ciocca claims the column misrepresents the nutritional problems involved in the feeding of such infants. Here are some facts which all might find interesting. In a 1970 study of 1,712 Chilean babies, conducted by Plank and Milanesi, the infant mortality rates for 4-week-olds were:

Breastfed only, 29.2 per 1,000; bottlefed only, 60.5 per 1,000; breast and bottle fed, 56 per 1,000.

The mortality rate for 3-month-olds:

Breastfed only, 13.8 per 1,000; bottlefed only, 38.7 per thousand; breast and bottle fed, 37.5 per 1,000.

A 1971 study by Kanneneh of 3-6-month-olds in three Israeli villages shows this incidence of malnutrition:

Breastfed only, 5.7 percent; breast and bottle fed, 17.9 percent; bottlefed only, 30.2 percent.

Dr. David Jelliffe of the Division of Population, Family and International Health University of California and formerly of the Pan American Health Organization states:

"Unsupplemented human milk is all that is required to sustain growth and good nutrition for the first six months of life in babies of well-nourished Third World mothers... the volume and composition of human milk in

poorly nourished women is surprisingly good. The conclusion seems inescapable. The decline in lactation in developing regions is a priority public health nutrition problem — a retreat rather than an advance — that tends to widen protein gap both by removing an existing protein food and by requiring a replacement."

Drs. Baumslag and Sabin of HEW stated in 1978:

"Adequate nutrition for the mother who is pregnant and the breastfeeding is the cheapest and most efficient protection for the health of the infant."

In October 1979, the World Health Organization recommended: "To avoid infection and interference with continued breastfeeding, infants during weaning should not be fed by bottle, but rather by cup and spoon or other suitable traditional vessels and utensils."

Dr. Mahler, director of the World Health Organization, said that "industry is morally obligated to change their marketing practices."

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Tantur Fulfills Letter of Law

Editor:

I have just received a copy of Joseph J. Murray's letter (C-J, April 23) ridiculing the way Tantur handles the problems of intercommunion (C-J, April 16) in an Ecumenical Center of Christian theologians and scholars working together to fulfill Christ's prayer "That they all may be one."

I simply cannot allow Mr. Murray (no relation of mine) to have the last word. With the best of intentions, such

destructive and malicious interpretations of the motives of priests and theologians is unworthy of a Christian and creates suspicion that undermines trust in the Church and its leaders.

To set the legalities straight, our Tantur situation fulfills both the letter and the spirit of the Catholic Faith and its teaching on intercommunion stated in Mr. Murray's first paragraph, exception No. 2. We are a community of Christians who all share a faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist (something Mr. Murray may not know). We also confess the same faith in the Apostolic Nicene Creed.

Those who are present at the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist are unable to have recourse to their own minister. Therefore we come under the exceptions allowed for in the teachings of the Catholic Church. The Eucharist is not used as a means to Christian unity but is the act of common worship, thanksgiving, praise and adoration of the Father by a community united by faith in Christ in the spirit of love.

The interpretation Mr. Murray puts on these actions is so negative the only parallel I can think of is the Pharisees' condemnation of Christ's apostles in the beginning of Chapter 12 of Matthew's Gospel. Here, Christ defended the apostles' violations of the sabbath because of their hunger and used David as a precedent.

"Have you just not read what David did when he and his men were hungry? He went into the House of God and ate the sacred bread, though neither he nor his men had a right to eat it, but only the priests... if you had only known what that text means... you would not have condemned the innocent."

If Jesus defends the violations of the sabbath by his apostles on the basis of their physical hunger and implies David and his men were justified in what they did, he would certainly not deny the spiritual hunger of

those who believe in Him and love Him from Holy Communion with Him in the situation they find themselves in at Tantur.

We Catholics ought to reflect on this text. It may keep us from using such Pharisaical expressions as infidelity, dishonesty and false witness in passing rash judgments on the motives of others.

John C. Murray, CSB
Tantur
Israel

Objects To Liturgy

Editor:

Regarding the liturgy, which is far from improving, I would like to write about two important points.

First, on Holy Thursday, I visited two churches besides my own. One church had on a side altar the precious Host on a paten, alongside a crystal chalice containing the precious blood of Christ. This was a public display. The other church had a "roll" alongside a crystal chalice containing the precious blood on a table around which 12 chairs were placed. Where, I question, does it state that a ROLL can be consecrated? Isn't it a lack of vigilance to allow the precious species of our Lord's precious body and blood to be exposed in this manner? What safeguards were introduced to prevent desecration of the holy species?

From a letter written by Pope John Paul II, on Holy Thursday to all bishops, No. 11, he states "... a deplorable lack of respect toward Eucharistic species have been reported, cases which are imputable not only to the individuals guilty of such behavior but also to the pastors of the Church who have NOT BEEN VIGILANT enough regarding the attitude of the faithful toward the Eucharist."

Secondly, I do not believe that Liturgical Committees are

representing the people. I suggest that it become mandatory that members serve on a Liturgical Committee for NOT MORE than two years and then be replaced. I suggest that members represent every walk of life — single, married, widowed, divorced, blue collar, professional, different nationalities, races, etc., and that these members have a free input as to what the people they represent want and expect from their liturgy. Then maybe we will not have these statements made so often — "The liturgical aberrations American Catholics have suffered from embody a peculiarly suggestive form of LITURGICAL ATHEISM."

"In music we have substituted for our old and beautiful music by singing of foot-stomping evangelistic handclappers. And in our spoken liturgy we have been given prayers and readings that use a SIMPLISTIC language that are TRITE at the first reading let alone the one hundredth." (From Liturgical Crisis in the Church, D.J. Kalekas.)

What with potato sack vestments, dancing girls in leotards (not to mention middle-age nuns), silly banners, ugly tables, the great Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar in commenting upon the travesties of Catholic worship sums it all up by stating, "They celebrate themselves more than they celebrate God."

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We Must Follow Rome

Editor:

Re the present review of Sacramental Guidelines: The opportunity of expressing personal feelings in this very important matter is a generous gesture in shared responsibility. This expression of feelings, however, is coming in many cases from sincere people with very limited experience and/or canonical training. We are being told that

Correction

Because of a typographical error, Lee Strong in an opinion appearing in the May 14 Courier-Journal was misquoted. As printed, his letter stated, "Mr. Bart said that he doubts that just war is possible today." Strong actually wrote, "Mr. Bart said that I doubt just war is possible today."

many Roman directives are open to interpretation. What we need, want and will accept is not the expression of the "feelings" of the comparatively inexperienced, but the authoritative interpretations of Roman directives by the bishop and the uniform enforcement of them throughout the diocese.

We parents are sincerely trying to bring up our children to live the Catholic faith with love and dedication. Let us not confuse them further by too much individual opinion but let us know what the Church teaches and let us help pass on the faith which has come down to us from the apostles.

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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 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.