

Editorials

Thanks, OBM

The Office of Black Ministries rates applause for the excellent program it sponsored recently on the Ku Klux Klan.

While there is a viewpoint that says focusing on ugly groups only gives them undue publicity, we believe otherwise.

And if anyone in this diocese thinks the Klan is either a dead or remote organization then they haven't been paying attention lately.

We also hope that no one underestimates the KKK, or its cousin organizations such as the American Nazi Party.

At his victory party, Klansman Metzger gave a hint of the stripe of his campaign.

recently voted to bring 320,000 more refugees into the United States.

During his campaign for the nomination, Metzger characterized himself as "racist, a white racist, with a racist being one who is interested in the well being of his race, his people."

Ed Skagen, the man he defeated for the nomination, said, "Either the public is completely ignorant of what he stands for or they're saying 'the hell with it' and supporting violence."

The keynote speaker at the OBM conference, Patsy Sims, author of the book "The Klan," makes the worrisome point that the Klan is active across the country.

Because they are powerful, they take on a kind of importance attached with leadership. Thus, Sims pointed out, "People tend to join the Klan to look up (at such leaders) and to look down (at the people victimized)."

She also pointed out that although it may slip underground for periods of time, the Klan never really disappears. And it never changes; its objectives remain the same.

She turned the limelight on three men as the leading Klansmen in this country — Robert Sheldon, Bill Wilkinson and David Duke.

Add to the list Tom Metzger, who took part in a

cross-burning at Sacramento, and who, as reward, has been given a major party's nomination for the United States Congress.

Not much to worry about? Rubbish!

And we all owe the OBM credit for the recent program and also to the 38 local organizations which joined in sponsoring the conference.

Rush to Judgment

We don't know much about Rep. Paul Simon of Illinois but he sure knows how to make a point.

According to Religious News Service, Rep. Simon printed the following in his newsletter:

"Various organizations give ratings to members of Congress and members of the state legislature, and frequently the ratings are totally meaningless.

Their moral issues are items like whether a member voted for or against creating a Department of Education, 'no' being the moral vote according to them

"My total on their list — out of a possible score of 100 — is zero. A Methodist minister in Congress, Rep. Robert Edgar, got 8 percent; Rep. John Buchanan of Alabama, a Baptist minister, got only 19 percent; and Rep. Robert Drinan of Massachusetts, a Catholic priest, got a moral rating of zero.

We think the logical conclusion lies somewhere in the axiom about being slow to judge others.

and Opinions

Keep Mass For Shut-Ins

Editor:

Anyone who appreciates the television broadcast of the Mass for Shut-Ins, Sunday mornings over Channel 10, should be interested in the following information.

The Federal Communications Commission proposes to hand over television programming to advertising executives thereby reducing (or eliminating) the influence of the public, in determining what we want to see on television.

The parents and students of Aquinas Institute join the Basilian Fathers in protesting this proposal. If you wish the Mass for Shut-Ins to continue, write the Secretary, Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20554.

Kathleen L. Lynd Aquinas Parents Association 1127 Dewey Ave. Rochester, N.Y. 14613

Mixed Reaction To Document

Editor:

"Vatican Sternly Assails Abuses." The headline in the June 4 Courier was expected sooner or later from His Holiness.

1. Vatican II was not chaos — its implementation was. Catholic school enrollment attests to this.

2. Seven years as a lector and eucharistic minister has taught me a lot about reverence. Every lay person owes it to his God — and his congregation — to 1. Be well-dressed or not minister at all, and 2. follow a rigid schedule of movements during the Mass.

3. Once again, the Vatican has copied our federal bureaucracy, using composition only they know the true meaning of. What, for instance, constitutes a "real need" for a non-church Mass?

4. The politics of women in the Church leadership has been suppressed effectively. The elimination of altar girls is the elimination of a role model for future women priests.

5. The Church continues to demonstrate hypocritical reasoning, as do all other complex organizations. Catholics continue to be the butt of jokes aimed at the hierarchy.

In short, the Vatican's revival of the "sacred" in the Mass is long overdue. His Holiness should be reminded, however, that undoing 18

years of Vatican II could alienate still another Church constituency — the 18-to-30-year-olds. With enough "backward rowing," the young may "rock the boat" — in the form of a schism from Rome.

Rich Agnello St. Vincent dePaul Parish 1770 South William, No. 1004 Denver, Colo. 80210

David Nowak Bids Farewell

Editor:

I want to express my gratitude and hopes for the future to all those with whom I have worked during my stay in the Diocese of Rochester. Effective June 30, I have resigned my position as associate director of the Office of Liturgy to enter the doctoral program in Spirituality at the Institute of Spirituality, Duquesne University.

These years have been an intensive rediscovery for me of the Church in the faces and needs of the people I have met. Wherever I have traveled throughout the diocese there have been generous Christians ready and willing to take on the task of guiding the faith of their communities in prayer.

You, dear friends and colleagues, are people for whom our faith and its liturgical expression is not a luxury, or to be taken for granted as long as mass begins on time. You are a people with whom our God truly dwells, alive in your hearts and urging you to share His presence with all who wait upon His Word of dignity and hope.

prayer, can cut through shallow preoccupations with power and position.

It is my hope that you will continue to raise your expectations that a clear and effective experience of God's merciful love will one day be available to all in our liturgical assemblies. You know that His presence will only be discovered in your own mystery, your own hope for something more than anyone of us could administrate or possess.

David E. Nowak Office of Liturgy 1150 Buffalo Road Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Concerned Over Document

Editor:

We who have been encouraged since the Second Vatican Council to actively participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy are concerned that those activities in which we have been engaged are limited by the recent document on so-called "abuses" in the liturgy.

It is difficult to convince a young woman of the importance of her present and future in a Church which tells her that she may not be an altar server — but that her brother can be. She must wonder what she has been baptized for and confirmed in.

It is difficult to believe that the People of God saying, "Through Him, with Him and in Him" is an "abuse."

How are we to achieve the "full and active participation by all the people" specified by the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy if the women and men who have been giving homilies are no longer permitted to do so?

Since Vatican II, the laity have been encouraged to participate more actively in the life of the Church,

especially the celebration of the Eucharist. "Passivity... is foreign to the authentic Church spirit" (Constitution on Sacred Liturgy, No. 28). The recent Vatican document stresses separation of laity, reduces them to participation "in silence" with the priest and restricts practices which have become meaningful examples of the life of the People of God.

Sharon Crist For St. Joan's International Alliance Rochester Chapter 730 Eastwood Circle Webster, N.Y. 14580

Be Thankful For Blessings

Editor:

I am so weary of listening to unbelievers saying, "If God is a loving God how can He allow this or that misery or calamity or catastrophe to happen?"

In the first place, man

brings on the greatest percentage of trouble by his own sinfulness. And even if each and every creature ever born lived and died in the "black hole of Calcutta" he could never earn the unending, eternal life of bliss that God has in store for those who love Him.

We should get on our knees each day, no matter what our cross in life and say, "Thank you, dear God, for all the blessings I am too blind to see."

Mrs. Arlene O'Connor 214 Haddon Road Rochester, N.Y.

Parish News A Favorite

Editor:

We enjoy the Courier-Journal very much but the section "At Your Parish" is one of our favorites. We would like to see this part of the paper expanded to a full page or more.

Betsy and Roger Powers 91 Golf Ave. Pittsford, N.Y. 14534



HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT A MARRIED CLERGY FATHER?

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