Wednesday, June 18, 1980

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Editorials

Thanks, OBM

The Office of Black Ministries rates applause for the xcellent program it sponsored recently on the Ku Klux Klan. Everyone involved, from the Rev. John S. Walker, executive secretary, on down, deserves plaudits not only for the day-long program itself but also for deciding to put a spotlight on such a sordid organization.

While there is a viewpoint that says focusing on ugly groups only gives them undue publicity, we believe therwise. We think it is necessary to bring vermin out into the light of day where they can be seen and controlled.

And if anyone in this diocese thinks the Klan is ther a dead or remote organization then they haven't been paying attention lately. We have had a crossburning in our own backyard and although some may characterize such a happening as a "prank" we see it as minor act of terrorism, symptomatic of sick minds.

We also hope that no one underestimates the KKK. dr its cousin organizations such as the American Nazi Party. Try this for size. The Democratic party in California has nominated a KKK leader to run for the United States Congress from the San Diego area. Tom, Metzger will be seeking to represent the 43rd District, which is the nation's most populous with 1 million residents.

At his victory party, Klansman Metzger gave a hint of the stripe of his campaign. "We have an incumbent," he said of Rep. Chair Burgener, "who has

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 determiningg what we want to see on television. This could well mean that religious programming, such as the Mass for the Shut-Ins, will be discontinued, as well as programming for the poor, the elderly, and minorities. WE DO NOT WANT THIS TO HAPPEN.

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. The. proposal to be opposed is Rulemaking Number RM 3099 and RM 3273. Include your name and address.

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; that its leaders are "power hungry, money hungry, manipulating their own people as well as their victims."

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. Anti-black, anti-Jew, anti-Catholic. Hate, bigotry and violence.

She turned the limelight on three men as the leading Klansmen in this country — Robert Sheldon, Bill Wilkinson and David Duke, the latter young, articulate, handsome, college-educated with a knack for disarming those not alert to the true nature of the KKK.

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

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. Fifteen to 25 years of John Paul II could sew such seeds.

> 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. I look forward to Duquesne this new challenge, but I

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

It is my hope that-you will continue to raise your exeffective experience of God's merciful love will one day be available to all in our liturgical assmblies. 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. I know, because I have met you and shared your need, that you are ready for more than calculated progress toward controllable ends. You are ready for God. Let His presence resound in your community this Sunday. I'll be listening!

David E. Nowak Office of Liturgy 1150 Buffalo Road Rochester, N.Y. 14624 Concerned Over Document Editor:

We who have been enouraged 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?

cross burining 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 ... (An) example of the problem is the rating by 'The Christian Voice' on moral issues.

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. While Rep. Richard Kelly of Florida, the member who has admitted taking \$25,000 in the Abscam scandal, got a moral rating of 100 percent."

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

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. Hopefully, we are not returning to a time when the Celebration of the Eucharist becomes another spectacle at which the faithful are a passive audience.

Sharon Crist

For St. Joan's

International Alliance

730 Eastwood Circle Webster, N.Y. 14580

Be Thankful

For Blessings

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

Editor

happen?

Rochester Chapter

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 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

> 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. It is really interesting to read and see what is going in our fellow parishes

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

Mrs.

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. As a product of the "mixed Church" (neither all-Latin nor all-progressive), the following reactions come to mind:

an Catholics who need absolution from only venial sin receive Communion? Will "scandalized" and the "bewildered" please stand up? My address is below.

1. Vatican II was not chaos

its implementation was.

Catholic school enrollment

attests to this. High tuition did

not drive students away -

fed-up parents did. Perhaps

the English Mass could have

waited until 1968, with more.

Vatican II orientating bet-

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. All lectors, for example,

should preface the readings

the same, kneel at the same

place, etc. The spirit of the pope's message? Don't put on

3. Once again, the Vatican

has copied our federal

bureaucracy, using com-

position only they know the

true meaning of. What, for

instance, constitutes a "real

need" for a non-church Mass?

a circus on the altar!

ween 1963 and 1968.

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. The "fewer priests but better priests" argument prevails, unchallenged.

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. The hierarchy continues to say, "Christian unity!" and "Be Catholic or else!" at the same time.

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

orge dedicated people I have had the privilege of working with during these past four years.

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 peoplewith whom our God truly dwells, alive in your hearts and urging you on to share His presence with all who wait upon His Word of dignity and hope. It is your goodness, made in His image, which you share as you offer one another a place where our words and gestures of love, our liturgical

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

