

Editorials

Another Ethnic Joke Over the Radio

Preposterous!

No other word quite fits the incredible fact that still another morning radio announcer has told still another ethnic joke in this area.

Yet it happened.

Between 8 and 8:30 a.m. Thursday, June 5, over radio station WHFM, an announcer told an ethnic joke, this time belittling the Irish.

Merely openers. After that, the pair engaged in some low banter about how many "groupies" the newscaster has.

jockey, leave the girls under 13 alone. Remember what happened last time.

All of this on the public airwaves for anyone to hear on a station aimed at attracting a young audience.

This newspaper, for one, is damned mad and will not put up with such nonsense anymore.

We hope that somewhere in the management of WHFM is someone who will take action to stop such reprehensible behavior.

We hope that there is someone at WHFM who will demand professionalism of their announcers. After the lowlife repartee mentioned above, the newscaster could not manage to deliver his report without stumbling over every other sentence.

The Urban League did a community service by objecting to the last such foul occurrence. We ask the public to follow up on this one.

Listen in the morning to WHFM-99, then report any objectionable use of the airwaves, first to station WHFM, 350 East Ave., Rochester, and if no satisfactory response is received, then to the Federal Communications Commission, 1919 M Street N.W., Washington, DC 20036.

World Circulation: Two Billion!

How many Catholic periodicals exist across the world? And what is the total circulation?

If you have never thought about it — and who has? — be prepared for a surprise. For if the Church's Central Statistical Office in the Vatican is correct, there are 4,669 Catholic periodicals with a total circulation of 1.85 billion!

Almost 2 billion Catholic readers! Run that around mentally for a while.

Then breaking down the total, the office says that 755 of the publications are weeklies with 1,006 billion readers.

Now we know there are "only" about 800 million Catholics in the world so that means that some of us are taking more than one publication. The Gallup Poll, however, has reported that most American Catholics only take their diocesan newspaper for Church reading. Ergo, it must be assumed that Catholics elsewhere in the world (presumably Europe where there are 2,645 weeklies compared to America's 1,137) do much more reading about their religion on a periodic basis than we do.

and Opinions

Holy Days Information

Editor:

The Courier-Journal did its readers a grave disservice in its Page 1 story on May 28, 1980, in presenting the item headlined "American Bishops weighing plan to curtail Holy Days," without any comment or information.

Courier-Journal readers, and all Catholic Christians in the United States, need to know (1) the supporting rationale offered by the Bishops Liturgy Committee for their proposal, (2) the name and address of the chairperson of this committee, and (3) the opinion of the local ordinary on this proposal to further desacralize the Christian year.

Certainly, the Vatican proposal cited in the news item does not seem to mandate an action of such scope and gravity, and thus the faithful can only look to the Catholic press for information, and an opportunity for reasoned discussion, before this proposal is made into law.

Kevin T. Schmelter 738 Five Mile Drive Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Editor's Note: The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy has sent a questionnaire to all U.S. bishops, polling them on the issue on holy days. The reasons for this are the pastoral difficulties of "back-to-back" holy day and Sunday observances (Saturday-Sunday or Sunday-Monday), of the working schedules of many people, and of the loss of meaning of these days. Many requests have come from priests and laity to have the bishops address the questions about holy days. It should be understood that it is entirely within the jurisdiction of the national conferences of bishops to regulate the practice of holy days within their own countries or territories. The process for the United States is just beginning and so information is still scarce. Depending upon the results of this consultation, an appropriate proposal will be presented for vote at the annual meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in November.

We Must Repent

Editor:

In response to Mr. Bart's letter of June 11: 1.) I did not assume that Vatican II condemned nuclear weapons. Moral statements can be attached to actions (or non-actions), intentions, etc., not to things. I talk about the use of these weapons, an entirely different matter. 2.) Vatican II condemns the indiscriminate destruction of entire cities. Both the United States and the Soviet Union admit that some of their warheads are targeted for cities; not just military targets within the cities, but the cities themselves. 3.) The section of the Pastoral Constitution cited says "Many regard" deterrence as an effective means to peace. It does not say all think so, or that this position is the Church's official stance, or that it is necessarily correct. There are other stances which the Church recognizes (including pacifism). The statement following the section cited begins, "whatever be the case with this method of deterrence. . . . 4.) Peace groups are not homogenous; it is deceptive, even foolish to lump them together as one. Some believe in unilateral disarmament, others in bilateral disarmament, still others in universal disarmament, and so on. 5.) Appeasement is only one option among many, and not necessarily the best. Appropriate responses have to be decided for situations individually.

I agree with Mr. Bart that "doing nothing" in response to aggression and atrocities is unacceptable, even criminal. Most of the responsible peace groups also agree.

But "reponses" come after the fact. They do nothing to solve the problems that produce the violence that dominates our world. Communism, Naziism, totalitarianism spread because hatred, fear, greed, and a thousand other perversions of human nature exist. Until these are rooted out of man, or at least controlled, there will always be wars.

We must begin with ourselves, eliminating

violence from our daily lives. We must examine our every thought, word and deed, we must question every attitude and belief; in short, we must repent.

Lee Strong 242 Meigs St. Rochester, N.Y. 14607

St. Ann's Group Thanked

Editor:

We want to thank Sisters Jude, Collette and Alphonsus and all the Hornell Human Development Committee of St. Ann's parish for being so thoughtful as to planning and inviting us to such a lovely picnic at Canacadea Park in Almond.

The food was delicious and a welcome treat from our daily routine. We have lots of love to share and welcome any invitations.

We have adjusted to the community and family care and only want to spread our joy. These are some of the things that make us grateful to all that have trust in us and care. God bless all.

Garrett Family Care Home Evelyn Kehoe Lillian Hensteveck Madeline Filardi Gloria Stevens 63 East St. Hornell, N.Y. 14843

Red Rose Hypocrisy

Editor:

In answer to Father William J. O'Malley's letter (Courier-Journal, 6/11/80) attacking the person who sent in an anonymous letter speaking out against Father Drinan:

If he felt Father Drinan did so much to help the people of El Salvador, then he should have felt that Father Drinan did so little to help the life incapable of helping itself, inside of a mother's womb.

Father Drinan directly voted to allow the abortion of the innocent helpless life of another human being. One cannot be with God on one

issue and against him on another.

As for wearing a red right to life rose, what did God say to the Pharisees who wore the Host around their neck or on their belts in a phylactery? "How you love to show off, you hypocrites."

Pilate said, "I wash my hands of the blood of this just man." That statement did not make him less guilty or absolve him of the wrong he allowed to happen. God said, "By your deeds I already know you."

Mrs. Dorothy Macaluso 222 Cliff Ave. Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Carter Bungled Iran Crisis

Editor:

The American Embassy in Iran was seized by militants Feb. 14, 1979, and held for five hours. Two Iranian militiamen and an Iranian waiter died, two Marines were injured. After sporadic demonstrations which reached a peak by late October there were daily demonstrations against America. It has been confirmed that the American Embassy in Tehran requested not to admit the shah into the United States. Nov. 4, the embassy was overtaken again. Is it American to leave our embassy open to demonstration and chaos, while opening the door to the shah?

Is it Christian to let Cyrus Vance take the blame for the controversial U.N. vote? I thought Mr. Carter and Mr. Vance were illegitimate sons of Neville Chamberlain until Mr. Vance had sense enough to remove himself from the vice he became clamped in. Now Hodding Carter has followed with his resignation.

The commission chosen to investigate the Iranian crisis is to begin work when the hostages return. The injustice and suffering of 53 hostages and eight martyrs is unforgivable. The negligence of the State Department and Mr. Carter may lead to impeachment. The Taiwan issue was worthy of it. Our allies were willing to join in sanc-



LET ME FILL YOU IN ON A COUPLE OF THINGS ABOUT THIS PARISH...

tion against Iran to avoid military action. They were betrayed by the ill-conceived rescue mission. Our Afghanistan diplomat said he sent frequent communiques for six months warning of a buildup of Russian troops.

Mr. Carter has the acute faculty for letting problems reach crisis stage before he reacts with inadequate solutions. Our military capability has regressed under his leadership. The three-year economic results are a condemnation.

There is no credit to half a nation!

Mr. Carter has the advantage of television news coverage from funerals he creates, to greeting ships, to gathering with dignitaries.

Aileen Suter Knapp 23 Clover Drive Webster, N.Y. 14580

Can't Condone Abortion

Editor:

According to a premise in Father Reedy's May 21 column, "We are most free to do this (witness to the values proclaimed by the Church) outside of the practical demands of politics."

Following this ethic, could we not all witness to the values proclaimed by the Church to honesty with the exception that in the practical demands of business we would cheat and the practical demand of a sex urge commit adultery? Again, we could all proclaim Jesus and loyalty to him but in the practical arena curse and deny him, but shouldn't all the above not be called "sophistication" but sin and betrayal?

I, for one, wish to acknowledge my gratefulness to the many noses, unsophisticated though they may be, that sniffed out the near 100 percent, odious abortion voting record of Congressman Drinan which is in marked opposition to the words of Pope John Paul II:

"Proclaim before you and before the world that all human life from the moment of conception through all its stages is sacred . . . and so will stand up every time that human life is threatened, when the sacredness of human life before life is attacked, we will stand up and say no one has the authority to destroy unborn human life."

Louis J. Pasqua 133 Exchange St. Geneva, N.Y. 14455

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