

Editorials

Injustice and Us

Much has been written about what some see as conflicting or at least confusing remarks by Pope John Paul II concerning the efforts of the Church in impoverished lands such as in Latin America.

We happen to think the Holy Father comes through loud and clear. For instance, in his most recent visit outside the Vatican he told the progressive Brazilian bishops that he wanted them to continue their efforts in behalf of the poor but that he does not want the clergy to get involved in partisan politics.

His talks in Brazil reiterated many of the points he made in his visit to the United States. For instance, in New York City he cautioned middle-class Americans to enjoy their stations in life but not to ignore the hungry man at the door. He told the better-off Brazilians the same thing: that they must work for their poorer brothers and sisters.

In one speech, he told his audience of leading citizens:

"Apply your power, whether it is political, economic or cultural, in the service of the solidarity of all mankind, especially the most needy, whose rights are most often violated."

And although he repeated earlier admonitions that the Church and its clergy must remain clear of politics, by no means did he leave the impression that we are to adopt a neglectful attitude toward oppression.

"The Church is convinced," he declared, "that it has a right and a duty to advance its own pastoral policy, to use its influence, so that life in society becomes more just."

The Holy Father spoke of "a just society in which the worker shares really and equally in the riches he is producing."

So while making it clear that neither the institutional Church or its clergy are to get involved in the political arena, he made it equally crystal that it is not to stand by quietly in the presence of injustice.

"The persistence of injustice ... threatens the existence of society from within. This menace exists when the distribution of goods is used only in the economic laws of growth and bigger profit, when the results of progress reach only superficially the huge layers of the population," he said in Brazil.

It is a message that applies to all Catholics, whether in Sao Paulo or Chicago. It is not confusing. It is clear.

What are Catholics going to do about it?

Death Trap

Chilling thought.

The Catholic bishops of Australia have issued a statement condemning abortion as "the greatest human rights issues confronting our society at the start of 1980."

The bishops seem to have added an eye-opener for those who may regard such declarations as platitudinous. Pointing out that Australia has more than 60,000 abortions each year in comparison to 3,500 road deaths, the bishops added, "Statistically, the most dangerous place for an Australian in 1980 is a mother's womb."

God never intended it that way.

Schary's Lesson

Dore Schary, the film producer, playwright and Jewish community leader who died recently, left a legacy for all people who despise bigotry in any form.

To be sure, Mr. Schary, who won an Academy Award for the script of Boys Town in 1938, devoted most of his efforts to combating anti-Jewish prejudice; he was national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and fought anti-Semitism wherever it appeared.

But Mr. Schary also was concerned about anti-religiosity in other spheres. When a film called "Nasty Habits" was produced in 1977, Mr. Schary wrote Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, and complained that the film "defames and ridicules men and women of the Roman Catholic faith who have dedicated their lives to their calling ..."

Worrying about the sensitivities of others gives added impact to efforts to protect one's own. He didn't intend it that way, but nonetheless it adds up to profound lesson for us all, care of Dore Schary.

and Opinions

Comments Expanded

Editor:

We were quoted in the Courier-Journal article which reviewed the Supreme Court decision upholding the Hyde Amendment (7/9/80). The comments were reported accurately but not fully.

This decision (by the Supreme Court) underscores for the Diocesan Human Life Program, and indeed for all "pro-life" groups, the critical importance of concrete assistance to poor women with unexpected pregnancies. Through Respect Life Sunday proceeds our program has established a Pastoral Care Network of organizations which provide this kind of assistance — e.g. counseling, financial aid, pregnancy classes, parenting classes, etc.

The Supreme Court decision reinforces not only the need for such pastoral aid but morally obliges us to redouble our efforts in this area if we are to avoid the charge of being unsympathetic moralizers. Beyond concern for our image, we must respond in action to the hundreds of women in our own area who will need psychological, educational and financial support through very difficult pregnancies.

The Human Life Commission is committed to strengthening its efforts through the generous contributions of diocesan people on Respect Life Sunday.

Frank and Sue Staropoli Human Life Coordinators Diocese of Rochester 1150 Buffalo Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Likes Hour Of Power

Editor:

I wish to express my appreciation for the "Hour of Power" broadcast.

Dr. Robert Schuller is a beautiful example of God's ministry on earth. He shows us how to live abundantly and positively according to God's will. He is not a phony. He is a wonderful Christian truly

concerned with helping people. I know because he has been a great help in my life.

As well as the Church, we Christians need television ministries to fulfill us and keep us aware all the time that Jesus Christ is the only way of life.

Joanne Martone 141 Gates Manor Drive Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Magazines For Missions

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway 14 Castle Street Cork, Ireland

Hand-Written Opinions?

Editor:

I think that your "guidelines" for letters should be amended. There are many people that have very legible handwriting and some intelligent opinions that do not have access to a typewriter.

The Democrat and Chronicle and the Times Union do not make this stipulation as long as it is completely legible and written in English. I think that you and your staff should give some serious thought to this request as I believe that many good opinions and responses are stifled by this request. You could of course request that the letter contain a maximum number of words, which would be a logical request.

Thank for your kind consideration.

Robert C. Karley 138 Hillary Drive Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Keeping Up with the Pope

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord.

This Pope is creating a couple of special problems for the church.

One is the likelihood that he is going to burn out a whole group of papal assistants who won't be able to maintain the pace he is setting.

The other — probably more important for the whole church — is the need for an editorial staff which can sort out, organize, represent the teaching which is gushing forth from Rome and his various trips.

About the papal assistants: I recall having dinner, after the Mass in Grant Park, with several reporters who had been accompanying John Paul on his travels through the United States.

All of these people were simply beat. They had been jumping on and off airplanes and buses, rising at ungodly hours to catch transportation for the first papal activity of the day, following him till late at night (always long after the scheduled conclusion of his day) trying to pound out stories whenever they could grab a typewriter and a few minutes.

While we are relaxing

over dinner, the Holy Father was still on tour. (None of us felt a compelling need to wait outside till he left a musical presentation that evening.)

But his aides had to be with him, or else they were planning the next day's activities, trying to iron out the inevitable problems that arise.

Now the fact is that most of those fellows on the Vatican staff don't strike you as being in real good shape. (Archbishop Marcinkus, who occasionally serves as blocking back, is an exception.) They are middle-aged or older — men who are used to the Roman tradition of siesta, bureaucrats who distrust any effort to rush things in the church.

Men like this are going to begin dropping like amateurs in the Boston Marathon.

beyond the moment.

For the effectiveness of his teachings, someone should sort out the important statements from the ephemeral, bring together statements on common themes from Poland, from Mexico, from the United States, Africa, France and Brazil.

These need to be correlated with his constant teaching from the Vatican. They should be edited (such work need not be a sacrilegious interference with the Holy Spirit) for appropriate presentation under the various themes he has been emphasizing.

I don't know how long the Holy Father will be able to keep up this pace, but his style represents a different kind of leadership from that of his predecessors.

His statements in one situation are qualified by what he says in another. His thinking cannot be packaged in a number of neat formulas — which are simply repeated in different words. Much of what he says on his journeys is as important as many of those carefully constructed encyclicals of the past.

These are mixed in with devotional exhortations — some of which are very moving — and with a lot of ceremonial statements which have no importance

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Sunday Scripture Quiz

I. Gospel Reading: Lk 11, 1-13 — The bread-seeker persists until he is heard.

Below is a key passage from Scripture. You can determine what this passage is by finding the answers to the questions below the puzzle and then putting the letters in their appropriate box. The first one is done for you.

Word search grid with letters L, U, K, E and numbers 1-12.

- 1. Gospel writer: L U K E
2. Followed Jesus: 47 14 65 30 45 62 41 26 9
3. Move yourself: 13 30 40 53
4. Type of singing: 70 35 57 21 15
5. Very nice: 44 5 54 52 10
6. A noise: 25 11 34 64 7

Following are key passages from 2 scripture readings. Fill in the missing words.

- II. First Reading: Gn 18, 20-32 — Abraham bargains with God for the safety of Sodom.
III. Second Reading: Col 2, 12-14 — God gives us new life in Christ.
Phrase: The _____ said: "The _____ against _____ and _____ but also is so great, and their _____ so _____ that I must go _____ and you _____ in the _____ of see-whether or not their _____ fully correspond to the _____ against them that comes to me. I _____ to find out."

- 7. An animal: 33 65 50 25 24 34
8. Mostly women do this: 3 31 23 67
9. Be victorious: 36 59 6
10. The vowels: 55 37 59 51 12
11. Cast a ballot: 23 71 60 63
12. A horse: 18 51 1 46

Answers on Page 11

Passage I words: AEIOU, jodel, roan, walk, Luke, win, vote, fancy, knit, sound, disciples, donkey.
Passage II words: Gomorrah, down, Lord, sin, outcry, man, actions, cry, Sodom, grave.
Passage III words: God, raised, him, baptism, dead, power, believed, life, buried.