

**Editorials**

# What If Jesus Came to Dinner?

A recent Sunday Gospel dealt with the visit of Jesus to the home of Mary and Martha. Duly and well-recorded was the conversation between Jesus and Martha. The characters are so defined, the language so plain, the message so clear and all of it so applicable to our lives that it is one of the most memorable of all Gospel passages.

It led us to wondering just how many of us present-day Catholics would handle it if Jesus were to show up for dinner at our homes.

All of us, hopefully, would be content to sit at His feet and absorb the moment, listening quietly.

But just suppose Jesus were to ask us to speak to him about our lives, our views of Christianity, of world affairs, of cabbages and kings.

**Intriguing**

How many of us would rush into a long list of mistakes and sins others are making. Would try to enhance our own image by tearing down others? Would use the precious time to attempt to prove that this person or that organization is damnable?

If Jesus were to stop by for two or three hours would any of us ask Him to grant our personal wishes - help in job-seeking, to promote a cause we deem worthy, guarantee our security.

Are any of us so conceited that we would dare to flaunt our knowledge, our insight, our sophistication, our glibness, our cleverness with words? Would we use polysyllabic verbiage to express one-dimensional thoughts?

How many of us would say in so many words, "Look at me. I have done all these good things. Aren't I something?"

Would we demand miracles?

Would we call on the Prince of Peace to crush our enemies?

Would we seek punishment for those we regard as sinners?

Would any one of us tell a Polish joke? Or make an anti-Semitic remark.

Would we tell Him a smutty joke or sing a suggestive song?

How many would explain to the Master that some people, by the laws of creation itself, are superior to others?

Think about it. Just what would we do if Jesus were to visit?

# More Atheism In West?

Dr. Alan Walker of Sydney, Australia, evangelist director of the World National Methodist Council, has offered some food for serious thought.

According to Religious News Service, Dr. Walker told a church convention in Honolulu:

"The practical rejection of God by the West now matches the theoretic atheism of the Communist states. There are probably now as many people worshipping God in Soviet Russia as in England and Europe."

He added that "Soviet societies show an austerity and a sense of purpose often missing in the West. For example, pornography and open prostitution are absent from Russia. In Western Europe and Scandinavia, pornography has moved into the mainstream of society."

We hope Dr. Walker is wrong when he said, "There is more atheism and resistance to the Christian Gospel in England, Europe, American and Australia than anywhere else on earth."

## and Opinions

### Taxation Resented

Editor:

Appalling news (Rules and Regulations that the State Racing and Wagering Board issued). Would you believe

That, any church now cannot hold an event on its own premises without being taxed on any booth that may raise funds. That the state government now has set rules as to the type of booths that can be run and tied all this up in such a neat package with

red tape that it takes a Philadelphia lawyer to decipher it all.

Who gave the government the authority to put their hands out to take monies doled out by parishioners of the churches in support of that particular church? Why are we being taxed on dollars that have already been taxed? Church donations are supposed to be tax-exempt. Where does it end? Is it time for the people of America to revert to some of the old fashioned ways as we begin to realize the destructive effects of civil and federal laws on the American dream. At the pace

we are going, we won't have to wait for another country to destroy us - we are doing a fine job all by ourselves.

Laws have been altered to legalize Off Track Betting because it benefits the government funds. Laws have been altered to allow topless dancers in bars to draw crowds which ultimately increase tax dollars. The foundations of church ideals were never considered in these laws, so why should the state government be involved in our events? Greed is taking over.

A few years ago we could proudly state that there was a separation of Church and

State in the United States, but today... Baloney!!!

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### Amy Depot Prayer Vigil

Editor:

A vigil of prayer and meditation will be held at the main gate of the Seneca Army Depot Saturday, Aug. 9, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. to commemorate the 35th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan. The Seneca Depot, south of Romulus, on Route 96 - once a storage site for radioactive waste from the development of the first atomic bombs - is likely the only location of nuclear weapons in the Rochester Diocese.

We have an obligation as Christians to repent of our past sins and pray for God's grace that they may never be repeated in the horrors of a nuclear holocaust. We must put our faith into action with love for our enemies so that we can "let the weapons fall from our hands" (Paul VI, U.N., Oct. 4, 1965) and avoid the bleak vision of our Holy Father: "The continual preparations for war

demonstrated by the production of ever more numerous, powerful and sophisticated weapons in various countries show that there is a desire to be ready for war, and being ready means being able to start it; it also means taking the risk that sometime, somewhere, somehow, someone can set in motion the terrible mechanism of general destruction." (John Paul II, U.N., Oct. 2, 1979).

It is hoped that this vigil of reflection will be a small contribution in the tremendous effort required to halt the arms race so that we and our descendants may live.

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### Turn to God, Not Bottle

Editor:

I am an inmate in Attica State Prison and I can fully understand the problems that people are having in earning a living and raising a family. With all the tension that people are going through it's very easy to see why alcoholism is fast becoming a major problem for millions of Americans.

Alcoholism has become the number one drug addiction in the country. There are over an estimated 14 million alcoholics in America.

Few will ever admit that they are alcoholics and many don't even want to recognize it or seek help until it's too late and their health has been seriously damaged.

It is much better if a person faces the fact that he is an alcoholic before he gets seriously ill or has family problems. He should seek outside help which will always be available if he really wants it.

I would like to share a verse in the Bible from Psalms: "Cast thy burdens upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee, he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved."

It would be wonderful to see more people turn to our Lord with all their stress and burdens for comfort and support instead of turning to the bottle which never solves anything but always ruins your health and most of all the lives of your loved ones!

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Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

### Rules And Regulations

Dear Father,

May a lay person receive Holy Communion twice on the same day if the second Mass is not a funeral, wedding or some special occasion? May he if the second Mass is celebrated in a different church from the first Mass? I think there are differences of opinions and I would like to have this clarified.

(Signed) L.Z.

Dear L.Z.,

The answer to your question is contained in the instruction from the Sacred Congregation for the discipline of the Sacraments called by the Latin words, "Immense caritatis," and dated Jan. 23, 1973. The document deals with the faculty for receiving Holy Communion twice in the same day. It indicates that it is possible on the evening of Saturday preceding a Holy Day if you have already received in the morning. It

may be received twice on Easter, Christmas and Holy Thursday and also under the following circumstances:

- At those Masses in which the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Sacred Orders and Matrimony are administered; also at a Mass at which First Communion is received.

- At Masses at which a church or altar is consecrated; at Masses of religious profession or for the conferring of a "canonical mission."

- At the following Masses of the Dead: the funeral Mass, the Mass celebrated after notification of death, the Mass on the day of final burial and the Mass on the first anniversary.

- At the principal Mass celebrated in the cathedral or in a parish on the feast of Corpus Christi and on the day of a parochial visitation; at the Mass celebrated by the major superior of a religious community on the occasion of a canonical visitation, of special meetings or chapters.

- At the principal Mass of a Eucharistic or Marian Congress, whether international or national, regional or diocesan.

- At the Principal Mass of any congress, sacred pilgrimage or preaching mission for the people.

- In the administration of Viaticum, in which Communion can also be given to the relatives and friends of the patient.

- Also, local Ordinaries may, beside those cases mentioned above, grant permission "ad actum" to receive Holy Communion twice in the same day, as often as they shall judge it truly justified by reason of genuinely special occasion, according to the norm of this instruction.

Obviously the Congregation is trying to limit the reception to special occasions and in view of the fact that local Ordinaries may grant permission in particular occasions it would seem that if you are in doubt about the specialness of an occasion that following the principle, "favores sunt ampliandae," you would be able to receive. Equally obvious, receiving Holy Communion simply as a kind of superstitious act or showy act or one simply designed to mathematically multiply graces would be out of the question.

### 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.



"HOLD IT! MAYBE THIS IS GONNA START THE WHOLE THING OFF!"