

Editorials

The Need to Vote

We urge all our readers to make sure they are registered to vote and that they, of course, take part in the electoral process on Election Day. A great many issues of concern to all Americans, not just Catholics, will be decided by November's electees in the immediate years ahead.

The Administrative Board of the U.S. Catholic Conference has issued a booklet, "Political Responsibility: Choices for the 1980s," in which it warns that the apathy of the American voter has become an urgent problem in itself.

"Clearly," the U.S. bishops state, "fewer and fewer Americans believe it is worth their time and concern to follow campaigns, form positions on the candidates and issues, and assert those opinions at the polls. The result of this disaffection is also clear: an erosion in the very foundations of American political life."

The bishops ask "all citizens to help restore our elections as the vital and popular forum they can and must be if our nation is to address democratically the crucial issues of the coming decade."

In the booklet, the bishops list alphabetically some of the issues that should concern today's voter. They are abortion, arms control and disarmament, capital punishment, economy, education, family life, food and agriculture policy, health care, housing, human rights, mass media, regional conflict in the world.

And the bishops further point out that "this is not an exclusive-listing of the issues."

Some of the matters which voters should consider, according to the State Catholic Committee, are whether or not to increase public assistance to needy individuals; whether or not to enact a death penalty statute; whether or not to use government funds to finance abortion; whether or not to increase governmental subsidies to assure the provision of adequate health care for all persons; whether or not to reallocate state funds to improve locally-based services to the mentally impaired and developmentally impaired.

The state group, echoing the nation's bishops, also urges all voters to become informed and active. With such crucial issues at stake, we do not feel that any further pleading is necessary to get out the vote. If we are wrong then we do so plead. Please vote on Nov. 4.

and Opinions

Schwab Article Had Impact

Editor:

The article, "Life Is Gift and Mystery," by Father Donald F. Schwab, chaplain at Rochester General Hospital, which appeared in the Courier-Journal Oct. 15, is one of the finest I've read in the C-J in a long time.

You might think my praise is somewhat prejudiced because Father Schwab is a brother, priest and a close, personal friend. These facts, however, do not diminish the impact of the content of the article. If anything they strengthen it because of knowing Father Schwab as I do — as the saying goes, "I know where it's coming from."

The article spoke very forcefully, yet with gentleness, about several basic truths of our belief. It spoke of life: our respect, reverence and care for it. It gave concrete expression to the Gospel teachings of care and compassion as they are so generously given by health care teams — including the chaplains who serve in our area health care facilities.

To me, the article gave a very strong witness to priestly ministry and vocation. To him and other chaplains I offer profound respect and admiration. Their work is rewarding but often times it is trying, tiring and not without its own pain.

Lastly, this kind of article is a testimony to evangelization — not only for the patient who is the direct recipient of the ministry but for the family and friends who share in that experience of life. Those who are close to God are often drawn closer at times of sickness and sometimes those who have been estranged from Him, for a long time and for whatever reasons, meet Him anew and feel His loving care through the ministry offered by men and women who care lovingly.

Father Walter L. Wainwright
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
175 Main St.
Leicester, N.Y. 14481

Grateful To Priest

Editor:

We at Assumption Church in Fairport owe a debt of gratitude to Father Daniel Hogan. At the time of Father Beatini's illness and death this

past year, Father Hogan worked day and night to meet parish needs. He showed great love and concern for us then and he shows us the same love now.

Those of us who know him have always seen a twinkle in his eye, a compassionate heart and a great sense of humor. We have been extremely lucky to have Father Hogan to guide us through our bad times and to forgive us when we forget him in our good.

Have you thanked Father Hogan lately? I hope so.

Donna Harmon
60 Squirrels Heath Road
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

3 Sisters Need Prayers

Editor:

On behalf of all the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, I would like to express our deep gratitude for the prayers and support of so many for our three Sisters who were seriously injured in an automobile accident in Mon Luis, Ala., on Aug. 25.

Even the doctors term their remarkable progress "a miracle." Sister Marie Therese Warth and Sister Grace Noel Gleichauf were moved to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on Sept. 5 and are now engaged in a physical therapy program that is slowly but surely restoring them to full health. Sister Josette Capozzi was transferred via air ambulance to Rochester General Hospital on Oct. 9. She will require extensive therapy and rehabilitation. We ask for your continued prayer and support for our Sisters and assure you of ours in return.

Sister Jamesine Riley
Superior General
Sisters of St. Joseph
of Rochester
4095 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Coverage Faulted

Youth Day on Sept. 20 at Monroe Community College was so memorable an event for me and for the young people who attended it that I expected to see your newspaper bursting with coverage and pictures of it. Although there were excellent workshops given in

classrooms on topics of great interest for the young people — two pictures of class presentations or class discussion did not all convey the spirit of the numerous activities which were available.

Where were the pictures of those, like myself, who were gently coaxed to find dance movements helpful for personal or group prayer? Where were the pictures of the fun engendered by New Games? I laughed myself silly trying to keep that great "Earth Ball" up in the air. Where was a picture of hundreds of us relaxing on the grass and listening to the best folk groups of the diocese? It was a day of smiles, of name tags, proving useful for conversing spontaneously, of celebrating in Eucharist the faith and friendliness we all shared on that day. But where the pictures?

Yes, I'd like to see Youth Day happen every year and I want to bring bus loads of teens, young adults and adults from Seneca Falls to partake of that Church event. Many thanks to the Religious Education Department of the diocese and to the CYO for their planning and direction of the day.

And next year, go again to it, bring your cameras and enjoy the whole day with us. You won't regret it.

Sister Chris Lloyd
Youth Minister
St. Patrick's Church
Seneca Falls, N.Y. 13148

Family Life Guidelines

Editor:

I am an inmate at Attica State Prison and I would like to share with you the happiness and tranquility that a family discovers when it's united with God in love.

The family members should make themselves available to one another at all times. Most of all they should be able to communicate within the family circle, always keeping God's love first in their lives.

The family should develop outside interests jointly so that family life doesn't become boring or limiting and should look outward to the needs of others around them.

The family should always do things together, establishing traditions, celebrations and sharing spiritual activities.

The family should be consistent in their treatment of others and see each person as an individual, respecting the rights of all.

The family should develop reasonable rules and see that everyone does their share of the household work joyfully.

The family has to acknowledge the likelihood of disputes and when disagreements do arise they should work them out intelligently and seek God's guidance in everything.

The family that goes to church and looks for God's direction in prayer remains together as a loving family and truly finds the peace that God can only give them.

Anthony Liccione
77C342
Attica, N.Y. 14011

The Right To Vote

Editor:

The reason I am writing this letter is found in the Holy Bible, the Book of Proverbs, 24:15: "Rescue those being led away to death, hold back those who are being dragged to the slaughter." (Jerusalem Bible). We have a God-given responsibility to rescue those millions of babies "being dragged to the slaughter" from their mothers' wombs.

One effective means of rescuing unborn children from being killed by abortion is by voting for candidates on the national, state and local levels who have a healthy respect for life and the integrity to vote according to their convictions. We must not be intimidated by the media and all those who ridicule and expose to public scorn, the voter who decides that a candidate's record on abortion is such that he must vote against him. "In the United States today the expression 'single-issue voting' has become a code to designate and denigrate the voter who gives high priority to a candidate's stand on abortion. In fact a set of priorities in judging a candidate would seem to be the first step for an intelligent electorate to make. A person who is convinced that abortion in America is now a massive evil will not shrink from making its reduction his first priority." (John Noonan, "The Jargon of Hypocrisy," New Covenant, October, 1980, pp. 12-16.) We have many responsibilities as citizens, but



none more important than exercising our right to vote.

Leonard Dezelski
225 Franklin St.
Elmira, N.Y. 14904

Again thank you for helping us. Please let us pray for one another.

Mary Eunice Spagnola
Mary Productions Guild
Belford, N.J. 07718

Grateful For Turnout

Editor:

Just a few words to thank you for the help you gave us in promoting the very special Mass in honor of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. We were so happy to see "standing room only" in the Sacred Heart Cathedral. We feel that many people now know about Blessed Kateri... and your publicity had a great deal to do with it.

It was a lovely experience coming back to Rochester and portraying my Lives of the Saints... and did so enjoy reading the Courier-Journal. Rochester seems so active.

A Prayer For Athletes

Editor:

Lord, make me a member of your team.

Guide my pitch to your plate.

Place me in your batter's box.

Keep my scorecard.

And when the game is over

Receive me in your Hall of Fame.

Amen.

Peter R. Palmeri
16 Maple Ave.
Shortsville, N.Y. 14548

Guidelines

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 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.