

Editorials

Let Justice Flourish

1970.

Paul VI was pope.

Joseph L. Hogan was bishop.

Richard M. Nixon was president.

The Vietnam War was still on. The floods hadn't yet struck the Southern Tier.

Three popes ago. Four presidents ago (including the president-elect).

Ten years of rapid change as history seems to progress geometrically in our nuclear age.

And in 1970, the Campaign for Human Development was begun. It has survived a decade of tumultuous change. It has survived because Catholics believe in helping others. It has survived because many, many people strive long hours to keep it helping others to help themselves. It has survived because it is needed.

During those 10 years, CHD has assisted more than 1,500 self-help projects. From 1970 to the present, Catholics across the nation have contributed more than \$79 million to CHD, \$59 million of which has gone to the national office; the other \$20 million remaining in home dioceses, such as Rochester.

Despite inflation, despite a tight economy, despite

a wide set of economic hardships, the Campaign for Human Development continues to flourish — last year's collection was the largest in its history, \$8.8 million. Catholics do give a damn!

And the CHD office can proudly state that it has kept costs down — 96 cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to self-help projects.

When he visited the United States in 1979, Pope John Paul II singled out CHD for particular praise. "The projects assisted by the campaign," the pope said, "have helped to create a more human and just social order, and they enable many people to achieve an increased measure of self-reliance."

The key word in describing the work of CHD is justice. This year's campaign has as its slogan "Let Justice Flourish." The saying has its roots in Scriptures, "Justice shall flourish in his day" (Psalms).

The annual national collection fuels CHD work for a year. Each diocese sends 75 percent of the collection to the national CHD office. The remaining 25 percent of the diocesan collection stays in the diocese for local justice-oriented efforts.

Local dioceses also benefit from nationally-funded projects. For instance, this year national CHD awarded \$60,000 to the Rochester Farmworker Abuse Task Force to help eliminate exploitation of migrant farmworkers. The project will help farmworkers establish self-help groups to work for lasting changes affecting conditions of migrant farmworkers and their families.

Father Marvin Mottet, national executive director of CHD, states the case for the collection: "If we

recognize the presence of Christ in those who are considered 'least' in our society, and if we sacrifice and work together, justice will flourish in our day."

The collection will take place the weekend of Nov. 23. How blessed we are to be granted the means to do Christ's work in today's world!

Smokeout

In case anyone hasn't heard, tomorrow, Nov. 20, will mark the fourth annual Great American Smokeout, a campaign sponsored by the American Cancer Society to get smokers to give up the habit for just one day.

Aaah, you cough. Can't do it!

Here are some things to try for a smoke-less day:

Tell everyone you know you will be with that you are trying.

Ask a friend or relative also to quit in an effort to cooperate mutually.

Keep a bunch of "munchies," such as carrot sticks, peanuts, etc., in reach.

Get rid of all the cigarettes at work, at home, in the car.

If you have the opportunity, do some kind of exercise each time you get to urge to smoke. If not possible, then take a deep breath.

But by all means, try it. It can't hurt.

and Opinions

Parish Asks For Help

Editor:

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church has a special mission in the city of Rochester. Not only does the Church carry out the normal function of a parish, the celebration of the liturgical and sacramental aspects of our faith, but it also is the voice of many poor people who live in the city. Much effort is dedicated to the problems of housing, of unemployment, and of securing the human and civil rights of black and Hispanic people.

In order to carry out this work we need the assistance of other churches. Specifically, we are in need of large tables and chairs, old or new, so that we can accommodate the various groups which use our church to organize and carry out their work. We would appreciate any assistance that individuals or groups can give us.

If one needs more information, please call either Raul Collazo at 266-7467 or Mount Carmel Parish at 232-1133.

In anticipation of your generosity we thank you for your help.

Raul Collazo
president of Mount Carmel Spanish Committee
Father
Timothy J. McCluskey
administrator.

Cards Needed In India

Editor:

I thank you very much for your generosity in publishing our appeal in the past. The response has helped us to carry on our apostolate for the uplift of the poor and the needy.

We request used greeting and Christmas cards to help in

our social welfare activities, such as: A free dispensary with seven volunteer doctors, nursing sisters and social workers aiding more than 100 patients daily; a medical van with a team of a doctor, two sisters, a social worker who daily visit three slum areas in Bombay aiding more than 200 patients; a child guidance clinic staffed by a psychiatrist, psychologist and specialized social worker; a counseling clinic to help persons in despair who may be considering such drastic steps as suicide; an employment bureau staffed by social workers to seek jobs for youths.

We also provide sewing classes for the poor and our rehabilitation program works with alcoholics.

J.O. Pujol, SJ
Social Service Center
Seva Niketan
Sir J.J. Road
Bombay 400 008
India

Christmas Gift Idea

Editor:

As Christmas time is approaching, I would like to suggest a very nice Christmas gift for children.

It is "My Friend Magazine" by the Daughters of St. Paul. It is a beautiful, little magazine with many pictures, drawings and cartoons which teach the Catholic faith in a very interesting way!

The address is: MY FRIEND, Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Ave., Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass. 02130.

The Daughters of St. Paul also have many other outstanding books and some records and tapes for children and adults. There are also some in Spanish. If readers are interested, they may use the above address and request their booklist.

Mrs. Robert Buchheit
5436 County Line Road
Webster, N.Y. 14580

Anti-Semitism Seen on Rise

By Darrell Turner
Religious News Service Staff Writer

The explosion of a bomb outside a Paris synagogue which killed four people in early October has drawn renewed attention to the fact that anti-Semitism remains a dangerous force in the modern world.

Analysis in France and other countries attempted to determine what factors in that country were responsible for the bombing. They cited the French government's failure to denounce other anti-Semitic incidents in recent years and its promotion of improved relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as factors.



Analysis

But no country is in a position to point a finger at France and say, "It happened there but it can't happen here." This was pointed out by French Consul Bertrand Rault when he recently addressed a meeting at Jewish Congregation Tifereth Israel in Glen Cove. "It's true there have been several attacks against synagogues in France in 1980," Rault said. "But did you know that during that same period of time, 75 synagogues were robbed, desecrated or bombed in the United States?"

(In the Rochester area, rabbis and congregational leaders are reluctant to attribute the recent rise in local thefts and vandalism to anti-Semitism, Helen Cohn of the Jewish Community Federation said last week.

(She noted, however, that the question has arisen and that some Jewish leaders are maintaining "vigilant" position on reports of such events.)

The French diplomat might have noted that several violent anti-Semitic incidents had been happening during the previous week in Long Island suburbs not too far from where he was speaking. Just hours before he addressed the Jewish congregation, rocks were thrown through the windows of a Jewish couple's home in Port Jefferson Station, who had been harassed with anti-Semitic vandalism for several days.

Persons who engage in such activities probably do not base them on theology — at least not consciously. But interfaith dialogues have recognized and attempted to grapple with the Christian roots of anti-Semitism that may spur such actions at worst and at least make some Christians refrain from denouncing them.

Father Gerard Sloyan, on the religious studies faculty of Temple University, said that "no amount of critical scholarship is going to meet the pastoral problem caused by the fact that the sacred books of the Christians contain a polemic against a people who, subsequent to the writing, became almost totally other than the community of the writers."

As the Lenten and Easter seasons approach each year, Christians are faced with the dilemma of either using Gospel passages that seem to be anti-Jewish in their liturgies, or of omitting these passages, pretending they do not exist.

Episcopal Father John Townsend, professor of New Testament, Judaism, and biblical languages at the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., said that in presenting the Passion story, "it is difficult to omit what

is anti-Jewish without omitting the whole story of what is being commemorated."

While Christians have been wrestling with the need to prevent their Scriptures from being used to justify anti-Semitism, Jewish scholars have often cautioned against going too far in attempting to portray the Gospels as anti-Jewish.

One scholar who took a particularly ironic approach in this respect was the late Samuel Sandmel who wrote a book in 1978 entitled, "Anti-Semitism in the New Testament?" In discussing his research at a New York gathering, the scholar said that denunciations of each other among the Church fathers of the first Christian centuries were "much worse than anything Christians ever wrote about the Jews."

Lutherans have frequently been embarrassed by the anti-Semitic polemics written by Martin Luther. But Luther, like the Scriptures, can be quoted to justify a completely differing view of Jews.

The Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry has reported that the Soviet Mission to the United Nations has become a "resource" for anti-Semitic literature in the United States. The Jewish agency has quoted articles in Soviet periodicals that attempt to link Zionism and Nazism and charge the state of Israel with "aggression and genocide" against the Arab peoples in the occupied territories.

According to the Greater New York Conference, "the material is clearly incendiary. It is aimed at the basest instincts of an ignorant population and reads alarmingly like an incitement to riot and pogroms, all too familiar from earlier periods of Russian history."

Anti-Semitism can sometimes arise from ignorance rather than malice. This was the conclusion some observers reached about the controversial statement made in August by the Rev. Bailey Smith, president of the Southern Baptist Convention, asserting that "God Almighty does not hear the prayer of a Jew."

While Smith proclaimed opposition to anti-Semitism, he refused to modify his stand on the question of Jewish prayer. Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, national director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee, described the Smith comment as one of "invincible ignorance," and added that "the kindest thing I can say is that he knows nothing about Judaism."

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.

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