

**Editorials**

**Public Concern**

While many organizations, and we have in mind pro-abortion groups in particular, make hay for their causes by courting anti-Catholic sentiment with attacks on the "Catholic hierarchy," we think it important to point out that our bishops are by no means monolithic, neither in their personal opinions nor with the issues that concern them.

Far from being the conservative, one-issue monarchs some organizations attempt to paint them as, the bishops tackle a variety of problems and are among the vanguard in their concern for the poor.

The latest example of this care is the statement on welfare assistance issued by the bishops of New York State. This is not a new stance, by any means, but part of an ongoing effort by the bishops to bring up to date the assistance that goes to the impoverished of the state.

They stated: "There are over 1.3 million needy in our state... one million of them children, unable to work and take care of themselves, who face a 'survival gap' of threatening proportions which destroys their ability to live as decent human beings."

This gap, the bishops point out, is occasioned by the fact that the state says the current standard of need is \$494 a month for a family of four, exclusive of shelter costs. The state then provides only \$381 for such a family — a difference of \$113 a month by the state's own figures.

Thus, the bishops point out, an immediate increase is needed in the Basic Assistance Grant. We agree.

And we also think it is time that Catholics counter vicious, public abuse of our Church leaders by reminding all concerned that Catholics, bishops included, have been as generous as any segment of society in their care and assistance to the impoverished.

Abortion is one concern of the Church, a legitimate and important one, to be sure. But our leaders have extended that same pro-life sentiment to war, the death penalty, the needy, disarmament and problem pregnancies, to name a few.

How many of our detractors can match such extensive and deep involvement in the care of our society? How many can approach the material assistance rendered by Catholics, through their efficient and numerous agencies? Which pro-abortion organizations, trying to buy respectability through ad campaigns, can realistically claim such across-the-board and genuine and consistent effort for their brothers and sisters — from the unborn to the elderly?

**Deadlines**

No one feels worse than we when this newspaper receives a news release past our deadline for news. After all, one of the main purposes for our existence is to print our readers' news, announcements and programs.

Weekly, however, we receive releases beyond our deadlines and not only that, often arriving even after our publication has gone to press.

Four such releases arrived too late for last week's newspaper. We understand the frustration and disappointment organizations feel when their news doesn't get "in." We share the dismay.

The sad part of it is that often the event to be promoted has been in planning for several weeks. Then the publicity goes out at the last minute. Publicists trust too much to the fates and the postal service.

The first duty of anyone who takes on a publicists' duties is to learn the various deadlines of the publications needed. Ours is Thursday noon, the week before publication date.

We are here to serve our readers. Planning, punctuality and awareness of deadlines will help us to do that job.

**and Opinions**

**Cuomo Praises Stevens Pact**

Editor:

Social justice triumphed in the long-awaited settlement between the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union and the J.P. Stevens Co., permitting unionization for textile workers.

I would like to pay tribute to the individuals who led this extraordinary effort: Crystal Lee Sutton, Coretta King and Ray Rogers, to mention the most obvious ones.

The satisfaction they all surely feel is shared by the many who follow their lead — the thousands of members from union councils and their friends, individual retailers who voluntarily discontinued sales of Stevens products, and the ecumenical religious communities.

Their collective efforts included peaceful boycotts, sermons and speeches, stockholder actions, and the significant Corporate Campaign that sought to isolate Stevens from other corporations. Even Hollywood participated indirectly through the award-winning movie "Norma Rae."

I am proud of the peripheral part I was permitted to play in this struggle and will make myself available as it continues.

**Mario M. Cuomo**  
Lieutenant Governor  
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**Clarifies Comment**

Editor:

This is by way of explanation to Geneva readers of the Courier-Journal, many of whom are of Italian origin and for whom English has been first language for several generations or more. Through some misunderstanding, my

comments made at the November Diocesan Sisters Council meeting about the ethnic population in Geneva were somewhat misinterpreted in the Nov. 12 report of that meeting appearing in the Courier (DSC Meets in Geneva). The impression that the Italian population here speaks only Italian may have been given. Readers know that this is not the case, of course, and in my few months in Geneva I have learned of the long history of their active citizenship in this community.

In addition, the reference to the "over 800 Spanish persons in the area who speak only Spanish" needs clarification and does not accurately reflect my actual statement. I spoke of the difficulty of assessing the exact population of Hispanics here but that I had heard it might be as many as 800. My statement did not, I believe, include a figure for the number speaking only Spanish. I would comment now that my acquaintance with Hispanics in Geneva includes many who speak English as well as Spanish. Some Hispanics are new to the area, but there are those whose coming to Geneva goes back several decades.

**Sister Lorraine Jolien**  
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**Proud of Parish**

Editor:

Our Lady of Mercy parish, Greece, just recently held its sixth annual Hunger Bazaar. At this time of year for giving thanks, I would personally like to thank the hundreds of people who made this event such a tremendous success. I have been involved in four of these bazaars and never before in my life have I known such a dedicated, caring and loving group. They include our senior citizens, our involved parishioners, our youth and, yes, even people out of our parish, going as far as Long Island.

Many of these people work

all year, knitting, crocheting, creating beautiful items that are used at the bazaar. A 94-year-old woman from Niagara Falls has crocheted rugs for the bazaar for five years! All of the profit from this bazaar will be given to many organizations helping to alleviate hunger. I know of no other parish who does this!

I would publicly like to thank Agnes Veness who did such a super job as chairwoman, all the workers and those who attended. The Human Development Committee can be mighty proud of "this job well done!" Our Lady of Mercy Parish should also be proud!

**Helen Mercier**  
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**Latin America Help Urged**

Editor:

"Red sun in the morning, sailors take warning." That's the way we Central Americans felt on awakening on the morning of Nov. 5 with the news of what had happened in that imposing country to our north.

But God is good and looks out for the "anawim" — the little ones on the face of the earth. Because a few days later, the Catholic bishops of the United States asked the White House to cease military aid and any interference to our neighboring country of El Salvador.

But now the people have to follow this up. We ask that Catholic laypersons, especially young people like us (we are 16 and 18) join ranks with their bishops.

We propose that teachers, pastors and parents challenge the young people to join the American revolution to bring enduring justice to Central America.

They may seek current and correct information from the United States Catholic Conference, Office of International Justice and Peace: 1312 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005. Phone, (202) 659-6600.

**Ruben Ulloa and Azucena Venegas**  
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**Fr. Albert Shamon**



Word for Sunday

**Expect The Best**

Sunday's Readings (R3)  
Mt. 11:2-11; (R1) Is. 35:1-6, 10; (R2) Jas. 5:7-10.

The greatest difference between people is in what they expect or anticipate.

Some people always anticipate the worst. Late one night a man driving home had a flat tire. He was out on a lonely dirt road in the country. To make matters worse, he discovered his jack was missing. Thinking he might be able to borrow a jack, he started walking toward the darkened shadow of a farmhouse down the road.

But as he walked, he began thinking, "Here it is one o'clock in the morning, I'll probably make that fellow angry by knocking at the door at this hour."

As he kept walking, another thought hit him: "He'll probably be so mad that even if he has a jack, he won't let me use it."

Finally he reached the farmhouse and knocked on the door. When the farmer answered, the apprehensive motorist shouted: "Keep your old jack!"

Advent is a season of anticipation or expectation. Isaiah speaks of hopeful anticipation, an expectation of the best as yet to be. His words (R1) were addressed to his countrymen groaning under the cruel yolk of slavery in Babylon. He fanned high their hopes and expectations by promising liberation. This liberation would cause them so great a joy that even "the steppe will rejoice with joyful song."

So clearly would it be the

love, mercy, understanding, healing. He was directing His efforts toward the poor. This could have scandalized those expecting a warrior Messiah: So John asked, "Are you he who is to come?" Jesus offered His works as proof that He was the one who is to come. But He is the One who does what God expected of Him, not what God's people expected. "Blest is the man who finds no stumbling block in me."

And we? What kind of Messiah do we expect — a judging or a merciful one? Our answer is important, for it will decide for us whether we are to be fire-and-thunder Christians striking back at haters and exploiters, at the unfairness that befalls us when we strive to seek God! Or shall we be Christians patterned after the true Messiah, as St. James advises. "Be patient," he wrote, "like the farmer waiting hopefully for his harvest or like the prophet waiting surely for his words to come to pass. Steady your hearts — don't grow tired of living the Christian life. The Lord has come and He will come again. Do not grumble; therefore — that is, don't find fault with others — so that Christ will not find fault with you when He comes to judge. This won't be long, for the judge stands at the gate."

Expectation, therefore, is two-directional: we can expect the worst, like the man seeking a jack; or we can expect the best: everlasting joy one day — our Advent expectation.

**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 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.