

Editorials

Sloppy Journalism

To be honest, covering Vatican City is no easy task for journalists. Rudeness abounds, courtesy is at a commodity and there is a great deal of kow-towing to the Italian press at the expense of "foreigners," albeit in many cases Catholics.

That is no excuse for less than objective reporting. But even journalism is a human pursuit and such treatment tends to sap the resolve of even the most reasonable observer. Reputable newsmen want to deal in facts and these are often difficult to come by from officious Vaticanites.

Now that we have stated that premise, may we strongly state nonetheless that the handling, in some cases, of recent Vatican developments has been so meretricious as to be inexcusable. And, although we hate to sense a bigot behind every bush, some of the errancy could be the result of bias.

For instance, at the Bishops Synod, American Archbishop John Quinn was widely quoted as urging the reversal of Humanae Vitae. He objected to that interpretation of his speech and a check revealed that what he called for was a review of the encyclical for possible further development, an idea originally advanced by its creator, Pope Paul VI. He received an apology from the wire services on the scene but we wonder how many, if any, local newspapers which carried the original erroneous report ever corrected the misinterpretation.

Then came the case of Pope John Paul II's ongoing discourse on human sexuality. Often, perhaps, it was too philosophical for interpretation in the daily press. But that is no excuse for taking phrases out of context and building sensational conclusions from them — which is exactly what reporters and copy editors did.

Now comes a public revelation of error on still a third abuse of a John Paul talk. A columnist in the Minneapolis Star, Kate Stanley, lambasted the pope on the basis of wire service reports and a front-page story in the New York Times which detailed a papal attack on organ transplants, among other things.

Ms. Stanley, perhaps, revealed a great deal of her own pre-sentiment when she shot from the hip. "This ambush on drugs and transplants is a fixture in Catholic folklore . . . I wonder what the truly devout think when they read that the Church has cavalierly tossed out one twisted dogma (the Galileo case) and appropriated another . . ."

However, after a storm of protest caused her to read the full text of the pope's remarks, Ms. Stanley wrote in apology, "No assault on organ transplants, etc., appears in the pope's text. The speech includes criticism of the application of some medical techniques, but most of his criticisms there make eminent sense . . . What a reading of the full text would have revealed is a reasonable, thoughtful statement by this pope on 'ethically aware medicine.' My column failed to acknowledge the substance of the speech; it distorted the message . . ."

We congratulate Ms. Stanley on her graceful admission. We wonder why there hasn't been more of the same in the press.

and Opinions

Humanism Seen In Letter

Editor:

There is not much more to say than Father Hohman has already said in his so-stated "reading between the lines" answer to the "sincere, albeit bumbling Christian" as to why "the great amount of adulation paid to Jesus Christ." (Courier-Journal 12-17-80)

It is, however, shocking and incredible that Humanism could supplant the Christian consensus to the degree that the terrible sufferings of Jesus Christ would be questioned and said to have been equaled by other men — men who I am sure never aspired to be the gods for whom this sincere humanist seeks adulation.

Venerable Catherine Emmerick was a great, suffering soul who supported everything for her crucified Lord. Her revelations are included in the book, "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ." Another treasure are the visions and revelations of Mary of Jesus (of Agreda), four volumes, "The City of God." These were given to mankind by Jesus and Mary so we may come to know and have a heart for the sufferings and death of Our Lord.

I quote from the above book of Venerable Catherine

Emmerick's revelations, "The corruptors and the corrupted of all ages outraged and tormented him for not having been crucified after the fashion, or for not having suffered precisely as they settled or imagined he should have done. They vied with each other in tearing the seamless robe of his Church; many ill-treated, insulted and denied him and turned contemptuously away, shaking their heads at him, avoiding his compassionate embrace, and hurrying on to the abyss where they were finally swallowed up."

Eleanor M. Dean
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Atwell Fund Contributions

Editor:

Many people loved Father Henry Atwell. That is obvious from the over 200 contributions by his many friends in the Avon community and elsewhere to a recently established Father Atwell Memorial Fund administered by the Rochester Area Foundation.

On behalf of the Avon Interfaith Council, Inc., I would like to thank the many contributors to this fund which will be used to sponsor an annual symposium within the Rochester area to promote

a sense of human interdependence and unity.

During this holiday season, I would like to encourage everyone to consider the Father Atwell Memorial Fund when deciding upon their charitable gifts. Contributions are tax deductible and can be made through the Rochester Area Foundation, 315 Alexander St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Doris Ryan
President
Avon Interfaith Council
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Paper Shows Lord's Gifts

Editor:

At a time of year when hope and peace are ever present in our prayers of petition, I would like to thank the Courier-Journal for the Dec. 17 issue. In reading the individual columns by priests and journalists, I recognized a strong sense of assurance and faith-filled experience and knowledge went into their writing. Sometimes, the battleground of issues gives little hope or peace but this particular issue showed the Lord's gifts of faith, trust and love.

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St. Christopher's

Pope's Christmas Message

Pope John Paul II, in a Christmas message, has said that the Church will never stop working for peace and the betterment of human conditions throughout the world.

At a special audience with officials and personnel of the curia, during which he reviewed the past year of his pontificate, Pope John Paul said that there were international crises threatening world peace. He focused on the Iranian-Iraqi war, the "Afghanistan situation," the "persistent tensions" in Lebanon, and the "great violence that has bloodied certain dear regions of Central America."

Mentioning terrorism, which he said was plaguing parts of Spain, Italy, and Northern Ireland, the pontiff decried violence as "moved by obscure centers of power."

He also said, "We cannot forget the hostages that are still denied liberty in various parts of the world, victims of political repression, or of a wicked, cruel, inconceivable monetary speculation."

He described his journeys abroad as "a very effective form of that collaboration that the Church wants to offer to the responsible authorities for the construction of a more ordered and more just world."

"In this way, the Church is at the service of man; and

'The Church is at the service of man and above all the service of the poor.'

above all the service of the poor," he said.

Pope John Paul said that by speaking out for human rights, the Church contributes to the betterment of the poor who in some countries "find themselves in sub-human conditions."

Mentioning his frequent encounters with various heads of state, the pontiff said, "The Holy See does not allow the occasion to slip to underline the precious good of peace."

Finally, on the con-

temporary family, Pope John Paul said that it was "the only guarantee for the complete formation of young children, in the face of the depreciation of pure and limpid love, of frenetic hedonism, of the diffusion of pornography."

"The effect of the Church is in building bridges with the various expressions of social life, in which singular individuals operate. It has no other purpose than the construction of a serene, constructive, pacific, joyful social life: a society which measures up to man," he said.



"IS IT WORTH A CRACKER TO FIND OUT MY VIEWS ON THE EPISCOPAL PRIESTS?"

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.

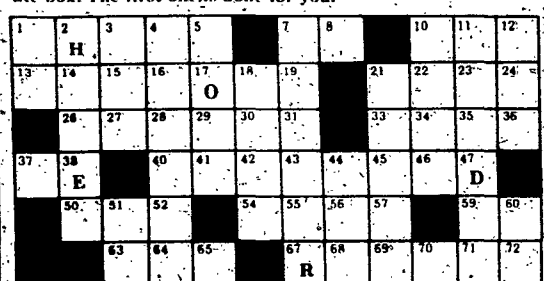
We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

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.

Sunday Scripture Quiz

I. Gospel Reading: Mt 2, 1-12 — The Magi believe in the possibility of finding a savior.

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.



- Wicked Judean king: H E R O D
- Climb up it: 8 6 4 5 6 2 2 4
- Magi came from here: 4 3 5 9 3 6 1 0
- A color: 4 1 1 8 2 6 1 5 7 1
- Bee does it: 5 4 2 9 5 1 2 3 7 2
- Jesus' faith: 3 3 3 7 7 6 9 3 0

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

II. First Reading: Is 60, 1-6 — The exiles believed in the possibility of liberation and their dream came true.

Phrase: Nations shall _____ by your _____, and _____ by your shining _____.

Raise your _____ and _____ about; they all _____ and come to _____ Your _____ come from afar, and your daughters in the _____ of their nurses.

III. Second Reading: Eph 3, 2-3, 5-6 — Paul preaches the possibility of spiritual liberation.

Phrase: It is no _____ than this: in _____ Jesus the _____ are now _____ with the _____ members of the same _____ and _____ of the _____ through the _____ of the gospel.

Answers on Page 2.

Passage I words: Jewish, vest, stair, bone, Herod, shirt, swing, east, heifer, brown, week, sting.

Passage II words: radiance, walk, arms, eyes, sons, light, look, gather, you, kings.

Passage III words: Gentiles, Jews, preaching, body, Christ, less, co-heirs, sharers, promise.

- Body covering: 6 5 5 0 7 0 4 4 6 0
- Wear over shirt: 4 5 1 2 4 2 5 5
- Seven days: 3 5 1 4 5 3 1
- Found on playground: 5 2 1 6 9 1 9 2 4
- Young cow: 1 1 4 6 6 3 2 7 3 4 5 7
- Found in body: 1 6 4 6 1 3 3 1

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