

**Editorials**

**Public Assistance  
United Front**

Movement. Finally.

That seems to sum up the present posture of increasing public assistance to the poor in New York State. And the beginnings of such momentum are even more encouraging because they are of a bipartisan nature.

The New York State Catholic Conference, the public representative of the state's bishops, has been for a long time working to gain an increase in the grants, which have not been adjusted since 1974.

Last summer, Bishop Matthew H. Clark at a public press conference urged the State Legislature to increase the public assistance basic grant level. He and representatives of other religions pointed out that there are 9,976 public assistance cases in Monroe County, involving a total of 27,300 persons — 66 percent of which are children.

That is the case around the state — most of the indigent are young.

The situation seemed destined to remain static until the State Coalition for Fair Public Assistance, com-

posed of religious and civic organizations, rolled up its collective sleeve and went to work for the poor.

This legislative session, Senate Majority Warren, Anderson called for a 15 percent increase. His proposal was praised by the State Catholic Conference as "a welcome sign of a continued concern for the poor."

Sen. Anderson is the state's top Republican legislator.

Then Democratic Gov. Hugh Carey, citing an "awesome obligation to provide for those truly in need," called for a 20 percent increase in the basic grant level over two years.

This kind of bipartisan support exists on the federal level as well. Democratic Sen. Daniel Moynihan has proposed a bill which would have the federal government assume local government's Medicaid costs. Endorsed by the Republican Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, this bill would increase federal support of Medicaid from its present 50 percent to 75 percent, assuming the 25 percent presently paid by county governments. This would remove a major burden of the state's property taxpayers and distribute it evenly among all taxpayers.

Sen. Anderson answered the obvious question as to wherewithal of the money for the increase: "I have every confidence that state revenues in 1981-82 will remain at their present growth rate, so that we can afford this 15 percent increase (his proposal) along with the \$488 million in reduced taxes that are proposed over a five-year period."

With such a united front it seems likely that action will be forthcoming. But the increase should be assured. Thus it is necessary that in favor write or call their state legislators to let them know of their support.

**Infamous Date**

July 4, 1776.

Dec. 7, 1941.

June 6, 1944.

We can think of only one other date that ranks with these for immediate recognition.

Jan. 22, 1973.

The day that the Supreme Court of the United States legitimized abortion on demand has become as infamous as Dec. 7.

In impact, it ranks with D-Day. In American deaths, it dwarfs World War II's 292,000.

In fact, the number of Americans who have been killed in battle since July 4, 1776, to protect the rights granted on that day, is about 600,000 (including the Civil War). That figure is diminished when compared to the average number of abortions performed annually since Jan. 22, 1973.

A date which also lives in infamy. A date which lives in shame.

**and Opinions**

**Thank You  
From Needy**

Editor:

Thanks to the leadership and staff of the Courier-Journal for sponsoring the recent Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities annual Christmas Appeal.

Thanks to the staffs of the Catholic Family Center, Charles Settlement House and Genesee Settlement House for processing and clearing more than 2,000 cases needing temporary emergency help in the first weeks of December.

Thanks to the staff of the Office of Human Development, Rural and Urban, the Southern Tier Social Ministries Office, and the office of Urban Ministry for their efforts in helping the poor.

Thanks to Star Markets and its many cashiers for processing more than 2,000 food vouchers this busy season!

And thanks to the hundreds of contributors who have shared their wealth in a rather bleak economic year, with other families and individuals struggling to survive in desperate circumstances.

Maurice J. Tierney  
Director  
Catholic Charities

**Changing  
Bookstores**

Editor:

I have seen the publication "Alberto" by Jack T. Chick and his other money-making enterprises on the bookshelves of Alpha and Omega bookstore in Penfield and from my past experience in business dealings with that retailing firm it did not surprise me that they should defend such a publication and their right to sell it. In the future I will order any purchases from New Creation

Bookstore in Geneva, which is run by a fine Christian couple.

As far as the demonic and cheap junk published by Jack T. Chick and his imaginary and invisible "Dr. Rivera" whose friends won't appear publicly to support him (how can they, since they do not exist either), the identical slurs and slams against the Catholic Faith and unfounded accusations against the Church can be found in publications by Jehovah's Witnesses, Way Ministry, Worldwide Church of God, and the Roman pagans of the first century (and that's just a beginning). My principle of discernment is simple: "Who is the liar? He who denies that Jesus is the Christ, he is antichrist... Do not trust every spirit beloved but put them to the test... Many false prophets have appeared in the world... Any spirit that fails to acknowledge that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh does not belong to God, this is antichrist... Such is the case with the aforementioned sects who speak in unison with Jack T. Chick. What is or is not verifiable by Jesuit records pales into insignificance while discernment puts Chick in the company he belongs.

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**TV Program:  
Be Alert**

Editor:

Thanks to the Office of Religious Education, Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and Nazareth College for the promotion of "The Christians." Since it is a non-religious 13-week series on TV Channel 21, Sundays at 6 p.m., it offers stimulus for study particularly because it omits many essentials.

"When Jesus came to Caesarea Philippi," according to Matthew 16:13-20, "he put this question to his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' and they said, 'Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others

Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.' But you," he said, "Who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my father in heaven. So I now say to you, You are Peter and on this rock I will build my church. And the gates of the under-world can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: Whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven." Then he gave the disciples strict orders not to tell anyone that he was the Christ.

Yes, as "The Christians" states, "the divinity of Christ is accepted on faith." A faith welded to the bedrock of reason!

During this series let our pulpits be ablaze and our classrooms abounding with full Catholic teaching on the facts of history lest the important omissions in the TV narrative become a danger to the faith. Parents, teachers and students, be on guard.

Father Leonard A. Kelly  
Pastor Emeritus  
Assumption Parish, Fairport

**Encourages  
Religious Garb**

Editor:

Since our society promotes and renders as respectable moral perversions such as homosexual practice, abortion, drug abuse, fornication, etc., everyone is assured of living and dying with respectability. Within the Catholic Church, scandalous, devastating sins against Catholic Faith by Church leaders, priests and religious have also been elevated to respectability. Sins of inordinate pride, visible as self-gratifications of presumed superior intelligence, are rationalized as respectable, sometimes admirably daring exercises of personal conscience formed by personal experience.

By contrast, Catholic Faith is characterized by child-like humility, trust, and the obedience of love for Our Father's will which He clearly expresses through Our Lord's Church magisterium, in union with the Holy Spirit. The witness of Catholic Faith is fruitful in increasing not diminishing religious vocations and the number of faithful, in permeating education with holiness rather than making religion (or theology) a subject of little importance on Catholic teachings. Mature Catholic faith has gratitude for the gift of reasoning through which, with grace, one recognizes the capability to rationalize every evil as good (respectable), and good as evil, but chooses the rock foundation (Matt. 7:24ff).

God empowered his vicar explicitly to claim obedience of the faithful in matters of discipline as well as in matters of faith and morals — these are inseparable by the (above) nature of Catholic Faith.

His vicars, Paul VI and John Paul II, have more than once asked priests and religious to obey God's will, by wearing readily identifiable religious garb as a visual means to publicly profess the consecration of their life to Him. Is there at least one diocesan nun-official who doesn't reject this Church teaching (VAT II) and scandalously place her faith in her personal conscience?

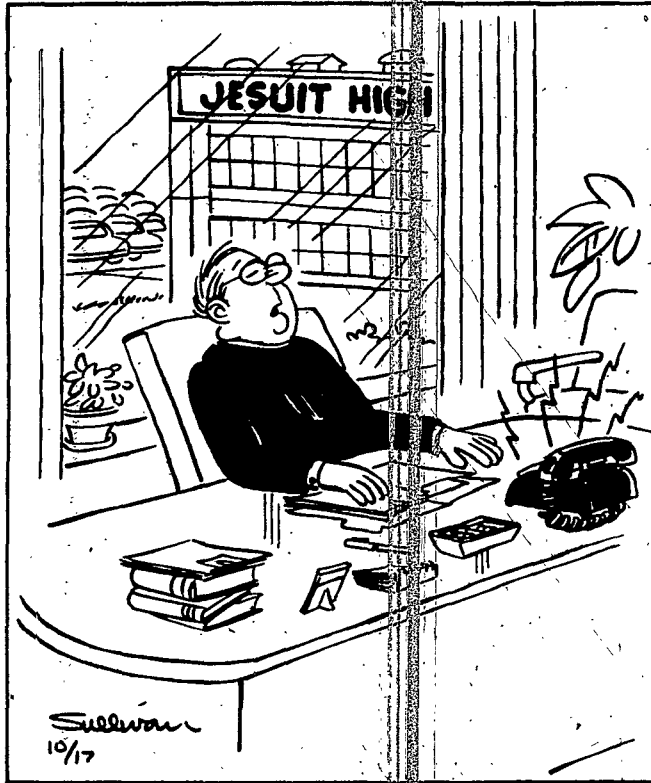
For the present we can be grateful that there are still some faithful priests, sisters and brothers.

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**Must Upgrade  
Our Morals**

Editor:

"St. Bernard's to Close." This recent sad headline in the C-J, I am sure, shocked many people, particularly Catholics. This is the latest of closings of many parochial and private schools and churches in this modern age of liberalism. There will be more. Under the heading Courier-Journal there appears these words, "Our 97th Year." Liberalism is closing in on many facets of Christian life



"PLEASE, LORD, DON'T LET THIS BE ANOTHER CALL ASKING FOR AN EXPLANATION OF 'SHOGUN!'."

and forcing these closings. Will the C-J be next?

Liberal and greedy judges, lawmakers and politicians, many profess to be Christians, yet condone murderers, abortionists, adulterers, gamblers, homosexuals, pornography, etc., and the "art" of living without working puts religious organizations in financial trouble. One by one, they close. Unless or until we demand better government and upgrade our own morals things can only get worse. As Jenking Lloyd Jones puts it, "The criminal grip gets tighter."

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**Many Support  
Bishop's Move**

Editor:

There are many lay people who support Bishop Matthew in his decision to close St. Bernard's Seminary for the reasons that he has given.

Perhaps, His Excellency will now permit the future seminarians of this diocese to choose a seminary where they can now get an Orthodox Catholic education.

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**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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