

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

El Salvador: Mixed Thoughts

For several weeks — off and on — I've been thinking of the martyrdom of those four missionary women in El Salvador.

My thinking and my emotional response remain mixed.

On one level, there's furious anger, a frustrated desire to see the murderers (and those for whom they were acting) brought to justice. There's little doubt in my mind that this was political viciousness rather than an isolated act of criminal violence.

My opposition, in

principle, to the use of the death penalty is put under severe strain in the face of this kind of brutality. It becomes easier for me to understand why some Christian leaders in Latin America are unwilling to reject all recourse to violence.

My desire to see justice done is frustrated because I know there's very little chance that those really responsible will be punished. Even if diplomatic and political pressures require that some individuals be identified and punished, they are not likely to be the ones really responsible.

There's also the frustration of trying to figure out what I, as a citizen, should be asking our government to do. I am willing to give the Carter

administration credit for good intentions in trying to use our national influence to improve the human conditions in the country. But our influence didn't seem to help. It can be argued, in fact, that we made the tragic situation even worse.

At least, I would make an act of faith in the appeal of the murdered Archbishop Romero that the United States cut off military supplies to El Salvador. Even here, I can see the possibility of damaging, unintended effects, but I would rather trust the judgment of Archbishop Romero and others who have lived in this situation.

My angry response also includes an element of guilt. I recognize the reality of that response. For years now we have been hearing of outrages like this which are obviously condoned by political or economic establishments in some of the countries of Latin America.

But it strikes home, becomes real, only when the victims are American women, three Maryknoll

sisters and a lay missionary. I'm not at all comfortable with what this reaction tells me about the universality (or the lack of it) of my Christian concern.

Nor am I particularly comfortable when I contrast the dedication and service of these women with those of my life. It's naive to think that only missionaries and social activists can offer dedicated service. Still, the conditions under which they lived and died present an unavoidable challenge to the quality of the service I offer in my own circumstances.

Finally, for these women themselves, my emotional response is also mixed.

The final moments of their lives were horrible and this horror becomes grotesque when seen in the light of the charity and dedication of their lives.

But it is no small thing to die in a way that is faithful to the basic commitments of our lives. I'm sure that these Maryknoll sisters, while they were formulating their commitment to this life,

considered the possibility of violence, even of a violent death.

And when you consider the circumstances in which they lived and worked, that possibility must have been in their thoughts often during recent years.

They could have come back; they could have served elsewhere. But their love and dedication to God, Whom they found in the desperate needs of the people they served, drew from them a courage and a fidelity which had to be terribly important in their lives.

Their deaths were consistent with the commitment of their lives. For those of us who have passed the midpoint of our lives, that consistency takes on a growing importance.

So, in spite of my anger, my desire to have justice done, my dominant response to this martyrdom is one of rejoicing with my sisters who achieved the great success of living and dying faithful to their commitment.

Welfare Hearing Slated

Among Bishop Matthew H. Clark's first public appearances after his journey to the Rochester missions in Latin America will be as a panelist at a hearing on the state welfare situation.

Bishop Clark will join Bishop Robert Spears, Jr., of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester, Rabbi William Blank of Beth Joseph Center, Rev. Carroll Turner of the Monroe Baptist Association, Rev. Raymond Graves of the New Bethel Community, Ann Nelson of Church Women United, and Rose Tantalio and Mark Griesberger of Catholic Charities.

The hearing will be held at 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Feb. 10, in St. Michael's Church Auditorium.

DANCE SCHEDULED

Elmira — A dance will be sponsored by the Notre Dame Parents Association from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 7, in the Notre Dame High School gym. Music will be by the Starlighters; a buffet will be served, and beer and setups will be available. Tickets are \$5 per person.

At Your Parish...

Good Shepherd

The Rosary Society of Good Shepherd Parish will hold a Communion Breakfast Buffet after the 8:45 a.m. Mass on Sunday, March 1, at the Hilton Inn. Reservations and the \$5.75 fee must be received by Feb. 22. All women and guests of the parish are welcome.

St. Michael, Penn Yan

Penn Yan — The list of special guests for the annual St. Michael's Sports Nite Dinner has been completed. The parish event, set for tomorrow evening, will include sports celebrities Lou Brock, Tony Franklin, Walt Patulski, Marty Springstead, Surtis Brown, Al Oerter, Keith Moreland, and William Boyle. Matt Rinaldi, local television personality, will be master of ceremonies.

St. Charles Borromeo

Catholic Schools' Week will be celebrated with open house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., daily, Feb. 9-13 at St. Charles Borromeo School, 64 Maiden Lane. Parents and friends are invited to visit and are welcome to stay for lunch. Registration for the September 1981 school year for pre-school through eighth-grade will be taken from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily, in the school office.

A Star Market Club Dinner

Holy Family

Holy Family's Rosary Society will next meet at 8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 11 in the Pine Room. Following the regular business meeting a

St. Stanislaus

The Holy Name Society at St. Stanislaus Parish will host a Valentine Card Party at 2



Logo Winne

Sixth grader Debbie Troidle (on left) celebrates a win along with her St. Thomas More compatriots: Miss Darlene Hoover, third grade homeroom teacher; Ann Peacock, eighth grade pupil; and Doug Kirst, sixth grade homeroom teacher. Debbie's poster and slogan "Why Not More — spirit, care, love, and respect" won first place in the parish slogan contest. Her logo will be visible throughout the school.

St. Mary, Honeoye

The eighth annual Valentine's Dinner/Dance, hosted by St. Mary's Parish in Honeoye, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14 at Gamrods Restaurant in Honeoye. A

buffet dinner will be served and music will be provided by Paul and Sheila. For further information those interested may contact Maggie Masci, 367-2553.

Holy Ghost, Gates

Holy Ghost Parish will host a Valentine Dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14 in the parish hall. Reservations for the buffet

dinner and dance may be obtained by calling 247-1061, 247-5167, 247-2594 or 247-3822.

St. Rita, Webster

St. Rita's Parish, W. Webster, continues its Breakfast Club activities this Sunday with crepes being served from 8:30 to 11 a.m. in the St. Rita's "Barn."

The festivities will continue the following Sunday, Feb. 15, with German Potato Pancakes featured. The pancakes will be prepared by John Kunzog. The breakfasts will have a \$1.25 donation fee.

St. Philip Neri

A Valentine's Dance is set for 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14 at St. Philip Neri Parish. The dance, featuring refreshments and music, is sponsored by the Philip Neri

Women's Club. For reservations or further information, those interested may call Vee at 288-4790, Sandy at 288-4491, or Mary at the rectory, 482-2400.

Cathedral

The next meeting of the Sacred Heart Cathedral Rosary Guild will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9. The evening will begin with devotion to the Blessed Mother in the church, followed by a brief business meeting. David School will be guest speaker. He will discuss senior citizens' benefits. All members are welcome and are urged to bring along a friend.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR
"Children and Death"

Some adults believe that allowing a child to view a dead human body will terrify him. However, in most cases, it is much better for the child who has experienced the death of someone close to him to see the body, rather than fantasize death in his own mind. By seeing the body, he is able to accept the real meaning of death — and may be better able to express his emotions.

Certainly a child should not be forced to view the body, but even with very young children, the truth is usually less harmful than allowing them to cope with death in their own way.

Allowing the child to attend the funeral service gives him a sense of belonging and support at a time when, all too often, he may be overlooked.

If we may answer any questions for you concerning children and death, please call us at any time, or come in and make use of our extensive library of books on death, dying, and related subjects.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL HOME
2100 St. Paul St. 342-3400