

Editorials

St. Joseph

Probably too many book titles begin, "The Man Who..." So we must overcome a bit of reluctance as we start off on this editorial, "The man who taught God."

Yet that is exactly what Joseph, that remarkably humble and under-acclaimed saint, did.

Just imagine saying to the Creator of all things, "No, no, you don't do it that way!" Yet it probably happened as father taught son the rudiments of carpentry.

It was not uncommon for all men in those days to have a trade — even those trained to be tax collectors might be tentmakers, for instance. But the wonder of the One who was the Creator working with his hands is incomprehensible to mere mortals.

And tomorrow we honor Joseph, the man who was chosen by God to be His mentor. Naturally, he is eternity's patron of workers.

Atlanta Slayings

The dateline Atlanta, Ga., for anyone who has ever been there calls up memories of a beautiful and progressive Southern city.

But perhaps those sorts of memories, such as the great novel centered on that city, are "gone with the wind."

Unfortunately, and through no direct fault of the city, most of us will never again be able to think of Atlanta without our mind racing to the plight of the 20-plus black boys slain there in a series of terror still unfolding before our very eyes.

Despite all the man-hours of police work, even with the full cooperation of the Federal Bureau of In-

vestigation, and despite the attention of the entire nation, the murders unbelievably continue to occur.

No one knows at this point to what extent the boys' color is concerned; although it most certainly is. If so, when teamed with the senseless killings (is that phrase redundant?) of blacks in Buffalo and Rochester, the ominous prospect of do-it-yourself genocide exists.

No one at this time knows if one person, or two or ten are responsible for the murders in Atlanta. Pray God the answer is learned soon and the criminals apprehended.

We also suffer who can only stand and wait. We weep for the fallen, try to share the grief of their parents, shiver at the sense of loss to the greater community and are personally victimized, for none of us is an island.

On Sunday, the call should go up from every church and temple and mosque and home in the land: Please, God, end it!

and Opinions

Boycotters Praised

Editor:

Many Catholic schools in the diocese are participating in the Campbell's label boycott. In solidarity with other Catholic schools throughout the country, our schools are speaking through their action on behalf of justice for thousands of farmworkers in the tomato fields of Ohio, Indiana and southern Michigan.

After several unsuccessful years of trying to organize for better wages, and improved living and working conditions, the Farm Labor Organizing Committee redirected its efforts to the two largest canneries, Campbell's and Libby's, to involve them in a three-way collective bargaining process with farmworkers and growers. As in the case of J.P. Stevens and Nestles, the boycott is the "last best chance" of obtaining justice after other efforts have failed.

The support of the boycott by our schools means loss of access to materials and equipment provided by the Campbell's label program. Obviously the sacrifice incurred is great, but many principals have substituted other programs for obtaining equipment, and the potential for sharing and dialogue among schools and with school boards is significant.

We commend the principals, staffs and school boards for endorsing this boycott.

Sister Anne Urquhart
Diocesan Sisters Council
Social Concerns Committee
15 Gibson St.
Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424

Must Oppose Fr. Curran

Editor:

As an alumna of Nazareth College I have followed with interest letters pertaining to the invitation extended to Father Charles Curran to speak at Nazareth College. I share their concern.

I believe that the Courier-Journal has an obligation to clarify, for all readers, any deviation from Church teaching that was presented by Father Curran. The diocesan newspaper is one of the major educational resources available to the subscriber so a very heavy

responsibility is levied on the staff to present truth, the teachings of the magisterium and or clarification, when indicated.

When there is conflict between the teaching of the Church and the opinion of theologians — we, as Catholics, accept the teaching of the Church. And, as Catholics, it is our obligation, in faith and honesty, to notify confused people that this is not a matter of controversy or opinion. Only the Pope and the bishops speak for the Church. If theologians contradict them, in matters of faith and morals, then they are wrong.

In the meantime, please pray for all who are confused and upset in today's Church, including some of our own "leading theologians."

Mrs. Gerry G. Narendorf
107 Sweetbriar
San Antonio, Tex, 78228

Don't Help Communists

Editor:

There are three ways for a country to become a Communist dictatorship — conquest, coup d'etat and revolution. The first is caused by an outside power imposing its will. The second is caused by an elite imposing its will. The third is not caused by an imposition of will — it is the last resort of a desperate people. The developing situation in El Salvador is of this third type.

Amnesty International, the U.N. Human Rights Commission, the Catholic hierarchy in El Salvador, the (Rochester) diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission and even the State Department have all accused the Salvadoran regime of gross human rights violations. People are indiscriminately tortured, raped and murdered, their homes are looted and destroyed, they are deprived of their political rights, they are left hungry, jobless and with little hope for anything better.

The revolution in El Salvador began long ago. For years, the people fought with only pistols, hunting rifles, machetes and their bare hands. They have had Communist arms only since September of 1980 (again, admitted by the State Department). After years of repression, the people finally became desperate enough to run to the Communists.



"WHO SAID THERE WAS POSTAGE DUE ON ST. PAUL'S LETTERS TO THE CORINTHIANS, GALATIANS, THESSALONIANS, AND ROMANS?"

At the end of World War II, Gen. Douglas MacArthur consulted Toyochiko Kagawa, a Japanese reformer, social worker and Christian leader, about the best way to head off Communist incursion in Japan. Kagawa told him to feed the hungry and provide shelter for the homeless. MacArthur heeded his advice.

We would be wise to heed his advice, too. Everyone who has studied the situation in El Salvador has admitted that the chief threat to peace comes from the right, not from the left; few of the people of El Salvador really want to go Communist.

If we persist in supporting a brutal regime, thereby giving tacit approval to its policies, we will push the Salvadoran people into the Communist camp. We should, instead, withdraw all aid until the Salvadoran government begins making the necessary reforms. We should then pour in economic, not military, aid to help the people relieve their economic problems.

All observers agree that if the government of El Salvador were to begin some genuine reforms, the Communists would quickly lose what little support they presently have. The United States should push for these reforms. On an ethical level, we would be living up to our stated ideals of justice and human rights. On a practical level, we would be creating a strong friend rather than a dependent vassal.

Lee Strong
242 Meigs St.
Rochester, N.Y.

In Favor Of Casinos

Editor:

Re your editorial "Casino Gambling Won't Work," Feb. 18.

Leaving aside the moral issues, as this editorial does, your refutation of each major point fails.

Income — The point should be bannered that off-track betting produced \$59 million, that the state lottery produced \$96 million. Did they miss initial projections? Yes, so what? In a state that's closing schools, libraries, facilities for the elderly, every piece of additional revenue helps. The current numbers are significant. Casino numbers — which will not solve all the state's problems — will be significant. And it will stop the flow of these tax dollars to other states.

Employment — In New Jersey, 25,000 new jobs have been created in the casino hotels alone, thousands more in construction, thousands more in support industries — laundry, taxis and the like. Some school teachers left their jobs to work in casinos. The same would be true if you opened a new auto assembly plant in the area. It's a price paid for expansion in the area, not a price paid for casinos. Unemployment is temporarily high because thousands of people have moved to the area, expecting jobs, not understanding that there's a lag caused by residency

requirements. It's a temporary, boom town phenomenon.

Organized Crime — Gambling exists now in each of your parishes — illegal sports betting, numbers — with most of the money funneling to organized crime and with no control over loan sharking activities, no recourse to law if you feel you've been cheated. This must be stopped. And establishing a well-regulated, tax-paying casino industry can be an important step.

Street Crime is up in Atlantic City. It's also up in any city that holds a professional sporting event or a political convention. Crowds and money attract crime. Careful planning can combat it, and the time to plan is now rather than sticking your head in the sand and hoping it will go away.

In summary, the problems you claim to fear are expansion problems brought in by any growth, any dramatic increase in jobs and population. The state in which you live desperately needs that expansion, and casino gaming offers it. Casino gambling will work. It deserves a chance.

Daniel B. Stone
Senior Vice President
Playboy Clubs
International, Inc.
The Playboy Building
919 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill, 60611

Editor's Note — State Assemblyman John Scheffing of the 141st District (Buffalo, Amherst, Clarence, Newstead), who has been actively opposed to casino gambling, says that while no applications have been received for casino licenses because the procedure has not been established, Playboy definitely is interested in issuing a club franchise, either in Niagara Falls or Cheektowaga. "It is very clear," he feels, "that Playboy wants to establish a casino in Western New York."

Wants Bible Used More

Editor:

I congratulate the Rochester Diocese in becoming part of the electronic church with its recent premiere. However, it is not in televising the lives of modern day Catholic saints or "holy fools" as presented by Father Mura which will bring the viewers either to greater depths of sanctity or initiate them into the Catholic Church.

I realize we are finally attempting to emulate the

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fundamentalists who have been capturing the eyes and ears of thousands of our local Catholics for many years now. However, it is the Good News of the Gospel they bring their audience. Testimony, except on the 700 Club and the PTL Club, are secondary to the Gospel message, and when it is presented, it only underscores the change in a person once he or she has accepted the living Christ as his or her Christ and Lord.

It is an unbelievable promise, were it not from God Himself, that we are to become holy as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:15). However, the only way to fulfill this command is by knowing His Word which will never go forth void (Isaiah 55:11). No amount of viewing the exemplary lives of Catholics of our times will do any more than make people wish they, too, could be as saintly. We know we are all sinners and have fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23) but John assures us that "no one who is born of God practices sin because His seed abides in him and he cannot sin because he is born of God." (1 John 3:9) The mystery unravels. We are sinners but we can become holy as God is holy! But how? The answer is so simple it is overlooked, ignored or totally rejected by most Catholics. Our salvation and sanctification is a gift offered by God through Jesus' sacrificial death upon the Cross which must first be accepted by each of us individually. Only upon acceptance does a gift become a gift.

This Good News must be preached to every person within the Catholic Church over and over again if necessary. This, after all, was the commission of Jesus to all mankind (Matt. 28:19).

The people in the pews are literally starved for good Bible teaching. They want to know how to live in the world but yet not be a part of the world (1 John 2:15-17). My fervent prayer is that soon we shall see the Roman Catholic Church become a Bible-reading, Bible-believing and Bible-living church. I hope this TV series will be followed by Bible teachings from such internationally recognized, spirit-filled teachers as Fathers Richard Rohr, John Bertolucci, Mike Scanlan and George Montague, all available on audiovisual tape.

Mrs. Georgette T. Ermatinger
224 Shorewood Dr.
Webster, N.Y. 14580