

Editorials

Cancer's Foe

Spring is God's symbol of hope. So it is appropriate that the American Cancer Society has chosen that early bloom of the season, the daffodil, as a sign of the hope of defeating cancer.



No doubt, cancer is a formidable and persistent enemy. But is not the unbeatable foe it may have once been, nor is it inevitably fatal as all of us tend to depict it.

Great strides have been made in the battle against cancer and more are in the offing. The American Cancer Society is one agency waging the war that is inching cancer out.

And as it is necessary for society in general to realize that this can be a winning struggle, it is doubly important for individuals facing the disease, either

personally or in their families, to realize that cancer can be beaten. And, even doctors will tell you, hope is of prime importance.

At the end of this month, the American Cancer Society will begin its 11th annual daffodil festival. Volunteers will be distributing the flowers throughout the area but anyone wishing bouquets may order them by calling (716) 288-1950.

Last year, the ACS Monroe County unit raised \$30,000 during the festival and this year hopes (there's that word again) to surpass that total.

Churches have joined the effort annually in a number of ways, including passing out the daffodils or using them as decoration on the first Sunday in April, this year the fifth.

Individual checkups, research, knowledge are all adversaries of cancer. But perhaps this disease's arch-foe is simply hope.

The Quints

Happy birthday, Timothy. And Patrick. And John Michael. And Corinne. And Deborah Jean.

Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. (Timothy and Corinne) Beach. Speaking for our readership we are thrilled that the greatest gift of all, times five, was granted to you on, of all days, March 17, the feast day of St. Patrick.

Surely, dear babies, and proud parents, attention enough has been focused on you the past week or so. May we simply add, God bless and keep you.

Pray for Atlanta

We're sure that everyone is praying for the nightmare in Atlanta to end. Still it would be fitting if all our Catholic churches joined in an effort by the National Council of Churches calling for all places of worship to include such prayers in services over the March 27-29 weekend.

We know that all Catholics share the intention of halting the massacre and a concerted prayer to that end is in order.

and Opinions

Catechetical Information

Editor:

In the Feb. 25 edition of the Courier there appeared a letter by Teresa Houwers who presented Father Robert Fox's criteria for evaluating religious books used in classrooms.

While Father Fox's criteria may be suitable for complete catechisms, there are other considerations for the evaluation of published catechetical materials.

The American bishops have stated that "all catechetical textbooks and other materials are to be prepared (and evaluated) according to the criteria and guidelines contained in the 'National Catechetical Directory.'"

The National Conference of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education has prepared an evaluation instrument based on the "National Catechetical Directory" and are seeking \$50,000 to do a one-time national evaluation of major catechetical texts.

The instrument recognizes the principle developed in the "National Catechetical Directory" that faith grows in stages related to the steps of human growth and that God reveals himself to us in a fourfold way: through Biblical, ecclesial, liturgical and natural signs of His saving activity.

Growth in faith which the "National Catechetical Directory" presents as the goal of catechesis requires not only sensitively published materials but also a conscientiously prepared catechist.

Catechists, especially parents and parish professionals, need to prayerfully discern what published materials are the best aids in promoting the growth in faith. The evaluation instrument available from this office will be an excellent help in this discernment process.

Father Lewis Brown
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Why Curran Over Martin?

Editor:

It was disheartening to see that most of our Catholic organizations sponsored

Father Charles Curran's visit and many priests and nuns attended his talk, when it is well known that he deviates from the Church's teaching.

More recently, Ralph Martin, who is committed to proclaiming the gospel and upholding the teaching of the magisterium, drew little response among our Church leaders at an all-day seminar at Mercy High. His topic was timely: "The Crisis of Truth."

Ralph Martin is a present-day prophet and we were privileged to have him come to Rochester as he has been a leader in the Catholic charismatic renewal from the beginning.

In December 1979, the international leaders of the Catholic charismatic renewal met with Pope John Paul and pledged their fidelity to him and the Church, even to the point of giving their lives, if need be. There was a unity of spirit. We should be grateful that God has given the Church such a leader and example of evangelization that the kingdom might come more quickly upon the earth.

One wonders whose voice most of the Church leaders in the area are listening to. Let us remember that the Pope and no one else is the Vicar of Christ on earth and it was he who said, "The importance of the magisterium must always be kept in mind and safeguarded because of the attacks being leveled nowadays in various quarters against certain truths of the Catholic faith."

Wilma M. Higgs
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Let's Protest Junk on TV

Editor:

Are you as disgusted with sex and violence shown on TV as I am? Our children unfortunately are great copycats. So they can see nothing wrong with free love and all the other things bad shown on TV.

If you agree with me, please write to: ABC, 1330 Ave. of Americas, New York City, 10019; CBS, 51 W. 52nd St., New York City, 10019; NBC, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York City, 10020; PBS, 475 L'Enfant Plaza, West Southwest, Washington, D.C. 20024.

The PBS station is the

cleanest one of the four networks.

Ann Walsh
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Editor's Note: Reader Walsh's advice on registering criticism of certain TV shows is sound but it is more effective to notify the sponsors of the shows. Their addresses are available from your public libraries.

Renewal Weekend

Editor:

When it comes to a very caring and healing experience, I would like to suggest enthusiastically the Parish Renewal Weekend.

My husband and I attended such a weekend in our parish and came away with a sense of belonging, not just to the small group with whom we shared the experience, but of belonging to the whole parish family. Parish Renewal brings the group closer together by encouraging the people to become real to one another. The beauty of it is that this weekend can cut across the invisible barriers that often exist between church members who are into different ministries or activities, or who have experienced other renewals. It brings together people who attend different Masses and those who sit in different pews or on opposite sides of the church.

The team (our pastor, a married couple and a single person) led us in reflecting on the Body of Christ, its manifestations, its gifts and its suffering. It was exciting to witness how we, as members of the Body, complement each other's strengths and weaknesses. We are not independent units but truly parts of the whole Body. Like the physical body, when one cell is injured, the surrounding cells support and attempt to aid in healing. We were given the opportunity to support and help facilitate healing and growth for each other.

The weekend is unique in that after the closing, we are not scattered to different areas, but remain in our geographical community to be a sign of Christianity alive and well. "See how they love one another."

This spring please consider giving yourself the gift of the Parish Renewal Weekend. Alleluia!

Barbara E. Fisher
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Spiritual Bouquets

Editor:

While cleaning a closet with my two nieces I ran across a creation of their father's from grammar school. It was a spiritual bouquet he made our parents during Lent many years ago. For those who don't know, a spiritual bouquet is a gift of prayers to someone dear.

Aside from memories that I recalled I had a small inspiration I'd like to share.

Our whole nation is being shaken by the taking of life from young black children in Atlanta, Ga. Despite diligent efforts of the best law enforcement officers the deaths mount up.

None of us can do anything physical to solve this sickness. We can, however, offer the black community of Atlanta our prayers.

I'm writing to suggest that we, the diocese of Rochester offer our help through personal spiritual bouquets of rosaries to Our Lady. I feel the rosary to be the most potent prayer, especially when we pray for children, as Mary is special to children.

I suggest that individuals, priests, even Bishop Clark encourage and obtain commitments for prayer gifts particularly during this time of Lent from the people of our diocese. Some individuals might even set up prayer groups.

Perhaps each parish could keep track of the prayer commitments its members can pledge. We might even make our commitments known to the diocese of Atlanta.

Well, what do you think? If anyone wants to contact me, please do.

Elizabeth Maloney
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The Right To Vote

Editor:

Recently, there was an article in Speaking Out concerned with one-issue groups using pressure to influence the outcome of the elections in November.

We always thought our government was of the people,

by the people and for the people. Therefore, if our representatives do not represent us we have the right and privilege to vote someone out of office by voting someone else in.

Whether we be members of the AFL-CIO, a welfare rights organization, pro-life group or any other group we all have the same right to express our opinion, to vote and to urge others to vote.

The choice of for whom to vote is up to each individual. It appears that the majority of those voting in the past election were not satisfied with the incumbent candidates.

The important issue is that everyone who is able to should get out and vote in all the elections and let their voices be heard.

Helen M. McGill
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This letter was also signed by **Mary E. Sorgenfrei**.

Religious Garb Urged

Editor:

As a Courier-Journal reader, many times I have difficulty discerning just who are the nuns and the priests in your photos: The words of our Holy Father, imploring the clergy to dress as such, have fallen on deaf ears here in America. How are we, the laymen, to recognize our nuns and priests as the light of the world and the salt of the earth? Their light is hidden beneath the bushel, no longer shining before men. Their salt has been trampled, no longer giving flavor.

One photo of Mother Teresa speaks for itself. Here we see a sign of God's presence among us. Her light shines bright and clear, a beacon in the darkness to all who behold her. In her fidelity to our Holy Father, she recalls the words of Christ to Peter, His successor: "He who hears you, hears Me."

Thanks be to God for the priests and nuns who have the faith and courage to acknowledge their love of Christ and His Church by wearing the ecclesiastical garb. Our Lord has said, "Everyone who acknowledges Me before men, I also will acknowledge him before My Father in heaven."

Sharon Pearte
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Computer Politicians

Editor:

In this age of technology, one of our most sophisticated tools is the computer. We feed it the questions and it will give us the answers to anything.

We also have a few politicians who try to act like computers. They are very interested in facts and figures. Both the politician and the computer have something in common—the ability to be above mundane emotions, such as love and compassion.

I made up a composite of such politicians. He has a firm jaw, clear eyes, wears a three-piece suit. One day he wonders how the abortion business is going so he asks the computer, which will name Ben for the sake of that homey touch. Ben comes right out with the answer that in 1979 the USA gave up 30 percent of its pregnancies to abortion, which breaks down to 1.5 million murders (oops, I made a mistake, I meant "terminations").

Then he wondered how we have been doing since the big decision of 1973, when the Supreme Court, in all its wisdom, said abortions were okay. Ben gave him the answer of 10 million abortions. Clear Eyes said, "This is great! It might not be so hot for 10 million fetuses (another mistake—I mean, contents of the womb), but look how it will improve the "quality of life for the rest of us." Then he starts wondering how to improve the quality of life even more. Maybe we should check out the senior citizens. He asks Ben for some information on this subject and Ben obliges: "Twelve percent of our population is 65 years of age or older, but with the rate of abortions, it will shoot up to 25 percent in a few years." Clear Eyes says that this will upset our "quality of life," but what can we do? Ben says, "Euthanasia." Clear Eyes is beside himself with joy. First we can start with the terminally ill, and then graduate to the ones who are just too old. We worked it the same way with abortion. At first we argued that a fetus was just a blob of cells and tissue, so it didn't matter if we killed it. Then after a while everyone realized that it was a life but a lot of people were so used to the idea of death, it didn't matter anymore.

We can do exactly the same with anyone our society designates as "unproductive." If Clear Eyes and Ben came up with this solution, it must be right. Or is it?

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