

Editorials

Mother's Day

Mother's Day. Overcommercialized? Perhaps. But more important, it has its roots in genuine sentiment.

And this feeling of love and gratitude to all our mothers is general as well as genuine. Witness the first Courier-Journal Mother's Day write-in contest. Almost 700 young people wrote in to express maternal love and praise. In addition, almost 100 drawings from younger children were received.

Such enthusiastic response from younger readers belies the cynical claim that devotion to mother is maudlin or passe. And that is heartening news for the human race because it means that we have not forgotten to repay love with love, loyalty with loyalty, and that the simplest values which are often the greatest do indeed endure.

And Mary

'Tis the month of our mother,
Those blest and beautiful days
When our lips and our spirits,
Are loaded with song and with praise.

We wonder how many remember that May song. We wonder how many parishes still have May Day ceremonies, or still crown Mary the queen of the May.



True, such celebrations are largely in the past, a matter for nostalgia. But, as often is the case, because they are not forgotten, they probably will return.

Regardless of the passage of tradition, nothing of essence has changed. Mary is still the same monumental historical figure, the mother of God! She

still hears our supplications, still serves as the common denominator for all of us, symbolizing our similarities rather than our differences.

And during these times when women's rights are an issue, it might serve well to remember the lofty place accorded this woman by the Catholic Church. She is the patroness of our nation. She serves as a worthy model for all women — a servant of the Lord but also a leader of men.

So, though we may not pay our respect in the same manner as we did in the Thirties or Forties, we may see Mary in a new role, fitting the pattern of these new times. The same homage is still paid, although in a different manner. As indeed it must, as indeed it will eternally.

Grange Advice

The New York State Grange has joined the fight to keep casino gambling out of New York State. Metaphorically speaking, it describes the proposals for casinos as "the first symptoms of a growth which can be ugly, and in many cases as deadly as cancer."

"In case you doubt that gambling is an illness," the Grange states, "be alerted that the New Jersey Legislature has introduced legislation for the creation of a compulsive gambling clinic there."

The bishops of New York State have urged all to urge their legislators to defeat any proposal for casino gambling in this state.

and Opinions

Fr. Reedy Misses Point

Editor:

I hope that I have misunderstood Father Reedy in his March 25 column, "It's Time to Come Back Home." Father writes, "One of the major assumptions of my generation of Catholics was that the Church was absolutely sure and absolutely right on all matters of doctrine and morality." Now to me this statement is far too equivocal to be in a Catholic newspaper.

These "major assumptions" are, not only correct assumptions, but they are the only assumptions that one can maintain in order to call himself a Catholic. If anyone does not hold this belief, that the Church is "absolutely sure and absolutely right" (divinely so) in her doctrine and pronouncements in morality, then that person has very obviously lost his/her faith (temporarily, I hope).

The reason why so many people left the Church after Vatican Council II is because the modernists have not followed the direction of the council and have twisted its teachings to conform to the "world." The reason why so many people are coming back to the Church is because they realize that they were duped and can now see how the Church is being persecuted by those who are her own. As

Archbishop Sheen once said, "It is only those who are cradled in the bosom of the Church who know best how to betray her, much as Judas was able to betray our Blessed Lord." And Origin once wrote that "Christ left the task of defending Him to His followers for when He was asked by Pilate to defend Himself He remained silent." To betray the Church and her teachings is to betray Christ and His teachings. Those faithful who are coming back to the Church understand this thoroughly. Why else come back?

As I first mentioned, I hope I have misunderstood Father. But I do wish that from now on he would be less ambiguous in such serious matters. It can be most upsetting to those who love the Church and are always ready to protect her — even those who have "come back" to her.

Theresa M. Hussar
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Rochester, N.Y. 14606

Must Object To TV Show

Editor:

I urge all people who viewed The Donahue Show on April 22 and were as repulsed as I at his guests, the sex peddlers displaying their wares, to write IMMEDIATELY to the show

and register objections. Even if it is only a few lines on a postcard, the show should be deluged with mail objecting to this most offensive material on prime time TV. Some adults will say that you can turn it off, you don't have to watch it, you can't deny freedom to those who find this material unobjectionable, etc. My concern is not with the adult as much as with the thousands of young people who are struggling to form a decent, correct sense of values in this unbalanced society. We, their parents, the Church, hopefully, our schools, are trying to teach a moral code based on the teachings of Christ, only to be knocked down by such presentations.

There is no way Mr. Donahue can defend this particular program — it was completely irresponsible and God only knows how much damage this one show did. Consider the timing — young people all over the country, home on Easter recess and exposed to this! It was great, free advertising for the sex peddlers — they must be laughing all the way to the bank! We are shocked at the statistics on teenage sex, etc. — the responsibility rests here — is it any wonder we have refuse cans full of fetuses? We will never get this offensive material off our TV screens until we demand it.

Write to: The Phil Donahue Show, 2501 Bradley Place, Chicago, Ill. 60618.

Joan M. Floegel
100 East Parkway
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Columnist Missed Point

Editor:

In his column of April 15, Father Louis Hohman's reply to the letter written by the "confused Catholics" would lead me to believe that perhaps he does not have a clear understanding of who these people are and how they became confused. Because I am one of them, I hope that Father Hohman will allow me to try to explain some things about us.

We are people who find it difficult to believe this statement that "the vast majority of our traditions have been left untouched," when it becomes more and more difficult to recognize the Church as we once knew it. We are aware of the fact that, as Father said, many of the traditions which have been changed "merely take us back to a previous age." However, we must not forget that often they were originally discontinued because of frequent abuses at the time. Many of these abuses have recently reappeared.

It is my opinion that those who questioned the use of certain materials for the chalice did so with a sincere concern for the properness of the vessel "which is intended to hold the blood of the Lord." (Sacramentary, section 291) It was unfair of Father Hohman to accuse "those people of looking for trouble or not knowing the law when, in fact, section 290 states that "materials which do not break or deteriorate easily are to be given preference."

The primary role of the laity is to be responsible for divine truth in the Church. We must love it and seek the most exact understanding of it, in order to bring it closer to ourselves and others in all its saving power. (Encyclical Redemptor Hominis 19)

It is unfortunate that Father Hohman was unable to recognize the true motive of the confused Catholics when they asked their question. I hope that Father will take this "in a spirit of fraternal correction and not as simply a putdown."

Mary L. Griesen
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Inquiry Lacking

Editor:

Recently in your opinion column "Equal Time" Aquinas students indicated in most cases that they favored legalized gambling on the



grounds of increasing employment in New York State and that governmental control would eliminate mob control of gambling.

May I suggest that in view of their inexperience (except maybe with bingo) that further study should be made of this problem. A recent book entitled "The Company that Bought the Board Walk: A Reporter's Story of Resorts International," by Gigi Mahon, is well worth reading. The more recent article in the April 13 U.S. News and World Report entitled "Atlantic City's Struggle against the Mafia" will be a further revelation.

The purpose of education is to develop inquiring minds. How many of these students inquired into this problem or was their opinion based on hearsay?

Dorothy Smith
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'Real to Reel' Questioned

Editor:

Recently on "Real to Reel"

an organization called Action for Children's Television (ACT) was featured on the national segment of the program. This concerns us.

ACT is opposed to and is actively working against efforts by Christian groups to boycott the products of advertisers on television programs that exploit sex or violence. ACT has aimed its attack specifically at the Coalition for Better Television. This organization is a coalition of more than 100 regional and national Christian groups such as the National Federation of Decency. The opposition of ACT toward the efforts of this coalition of Christian groups was not mentioned on the "Real to Reel" program.

Since "Real to Reel" is made possible by our and other Catholics' hard earned money we want to know why "Real to Reel" would give positive publicity to an organization (ACT) which is trying to keep Christians from having an impact on the kind of programming that comes across the airwaves.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond N. Buonemani
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Rochester, N.Y. 14612

Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

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

Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.

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