

Editorials

The Devil

Maybe a recent Gallup Poll has shed some light on just what is the malaise disturbing this great nation of ours. The poll showed that only 34 percent of the American public believes in the existence of the devil.

This kind of statistic probably holds true in other Western nations as well and undoubtedly provides a chuckle for the Beast, as G.K. Chesterton pointed out.

Richard Dujardin of Religious News Service in reacting to the poll pointed out that Satan has appeared throughout history in legend, mythology, art and in various shapes and guises. He has various titles, such as the Evil One, the accuser, the adversary, the tempter, the rebellious angel, the serpent.

Writer Dujardin opines that even if Satan did not

exist, he would have to be invented because of a basic need to give character to the darker side of life we all encounter.

Indeed, Satan has appeared in countless short stories recounting "deals with the devil," in light cartoons and in other jocular ways. For instance, one English teacher has declared that his "proof" of the existence of the devil lies in the fact that whenever someone drops a slice of toast it lands buttered-side down. And comedian Flip Wilson made half a career by expounding, "The devil made me do it."

Undoubtedly it is worthwhile to poke fun at the devil. But it is equally certain that it is a big mistake to proceed as if he doesn't exist.

Dujardin in his piece on the poll, interviewed Thayer Greene, a former Congregationalist minister and chaplain who now practices Jungian analysis.

"The state of the Church," Greene is quoted as

saying, "is related to the loss in our consciousness of an active presence of the dark side of life."

In an interesting sidebar thought, Greene points out that there are racial overtones to the whole question of the devil. In our society he is referred to as dark. "In West Africa," Greene says, "the devil is portrayed as white. One of the most difficult aspects of the world racial crisis is that of the archetypes which are involved."

Aside from the unfortuitous landing of buttered toast, we feel that if one checks the daily newspapers one can find plenty of other proof that the devil is at work in today's world. Neither enough space nor time exists to list the examples of his work.

And he is more than the personification of evil, a figure of speech. He is the father, the source, the producer, and the continuing promoter of malevolence. We should all pay the devil his due and that begins with recognition of his existence.

and Opinions

Coverage Had Error

Editor:

In your coverage of the final commencement of St. Bernard's Seminary, May 6, 1981, there was one misstatement and one serious omission (May 20, 1981).

I was not the recipient of an honorary degree. Those so honored were Father Robert F. McNamara, who delivered the address; and as an unannounced surprise, the rector of the seminary, Father Frank E. Lioi.

The matter omitted was the list of those who were awarded the Master of Arts in Theology, which the candidates — priests, seminarians, sisters and laypersons — worked so hard to achieve.

Since their names deserve to be stated for the record as the last to acquire this degree at St. Bernard's Seminary, I list them:

Stephanie Guerin Barterman, Peter Paul Brennan, John Peter Calerso, Joseph Raymond Catanise, James Edward Dombeck, Paula Hellriegel Dumont, Richard Bruce Dunn, Anne Marie Fehrenbach, SSJ; Mary Bryan Ford, RSM; Carol Ann Fox, RSM; George Paul Heyman, Frances Bauer Kovalcik, Rosario Paul LaDelfa, Denise Winfield Mack, Margaret Mary Mattie, RSM; Timothy Joseph McCluskey, Kevin Ernest McKenna, Robert Ludwig Muhlneckel, Robert Paul Ring, Frank Vincent Staropoli, Paul Joseph Tomasso, Annette June Truby, JoAnn Mary Weber, Robert Thomas Werth.

Rev. Robert DiFulio
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Editor's Note: Letters to the same effect were received from Anthony J. Rimore, Jane Brophy, Marilyn J. Bennett, Anne V. Martin and Mildred M. Keenan.

Death Penalty Inexcusable

Editor:

For the life of me, I can't understand the logic of recent writers to this column who hold that deliberate extinction of human life is excusable when it is called capital punishment while saying it is inexcusable when it is called abortion. The rationale seems to have something to do with the fact that the adult human life has been proven (through court processes) to have committed a grievous wrong in our society causing the loss of his right to live.

This seems to be an extension of the "you brought this on yourself" philosophy, which I find difficult to reconcile with the Gospel teachings of love and forgiveness. What is gained by gassing Charles Manson, for example, except to prove that we collectively can behave like him in a more sophisticated manner?

I don't deny the rage I feel when I read or hear of the terrible crimes we commit against one another. But if it is wrong for an individual to take a life, then it follows that

it is also wrong for the State to do so deliberately.

Jesus never said His way was easy, only that it was right.

Joyce M. Strazzabosco
6 Girard St.
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Nestles Is Manipulative

Editor:

I would like to respond to Judith Echaniz' concerns in her letter of May 26 re: manipulation and information about the Nestle boycott.

Manipulation is a tool used by the company and other infant formula manufacturers in promoting their products: manipulating doctors by gift-giving; manipulating mothers by exploiting their poverty and ignorance. These tactics are the very reasons for the need of a code of marketing ethics, according to the World Health Organization and UNICEF.

We have all heard by now of Nestle's \$25,000 donation to the Ethics and Public Policy Center. This "independent" center distributed only months later thousands of copies of an article from Fortune magazine supporting bottle feeding. This is manipulation of the press.

Ernest Lefever, the president of the center, was working "unofficially" at the State Department prior to, and at the time, of Reagan's decision to vote "no" to the WHO Code of Conduct. That could be interpreted as manipulation of public policy.

Thank God, Reagan stands firm on protecting the unborn. But why can't he apply that same sensitivity to children already born and in another country?

Where business and profits are concerned, his values are compromised.

Carol Crossed
60 Ramsey Park
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

Urges Marian Movement

Editor:

I am pleased to see that St. Helen's Church has initiated a

Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Priests, thus joining us here at St. Nicholas Church in our efforts to further the Fatima message and to pray for our Holy Father and for other intentions.

Last Oct. 7, we began our Cenacle for the Associates of the Marian Movement of Priests and have met regularly each first Tuesday since.

At St. Nicholas Church, we begin with the recitation of the Holy Rosary and then offer up the Byzantine Divine Liturgy during which all present consecrate themselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

We cannot do better than make reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary for our own sins and for those of the world, for it is sin that is ultimately responsible for the violence and social upheavals in the world today. At Fatima, Our Lady declared that war is a punishment for sin. Consequently, to end or to prevent wars, we need to stop offending Our Lord in order to merit the grace and peace we need.

I wish that every church could have its own well-attended services to further this movement. Those who miss the novenas of past days might wish to participate in the prayers at the Marian Cenacles at least for nine of the monthly meetings, if not longer.

Father Salem Faddoul
Pastor
St. Nicholas Church
20 Leo St.
Rochester, N.Y.

Local Dancers Excel in Eire

Editor:

The Pat Butler School of Dancing traveled to Dublin, Ireland, recently to compete in the All World Competition.

Kathy O'Keefe placed in the top 20 in the Junior Ladies Open Championship out of 85 competitors.

Twelve members of the school danced in the Senior Choreography Competition and placed second among 12 groups. Their performance was enthusiastically received and the audience reaction was

so great that they received a standing ovation.

These young people could not have accomplished all of this without the support of, initially, their parents, and especially the Irish community of Rochester. I would like to thank everyone for their support — the Harps Club, the Hibernians, the Feis Committee, and all others who in their own way were most generous in support.

It is an honor for the teachers, Pat Butler students and parents, and the Rochester area as it is their first time to compete in this international event, with entries even from Australia, and to come home in triumph.

We are very proud of them.

Mrs. Timothy O'Keefe
122 Kartes Drive
Rochester, N.Y.

Congreda Celebrates

Editor:

La Congreda San Michael Arcangelo recently celebrated the feast of the apparition of St. Michael. Officiating at Mother of Sorrows Church was Father Richard Shatzel. Banners and flowers decorated the altar beautifully.

Two little girls, Judy Trott and Karen Tinsonon, made their First Communion dressed in traditional white

dresses and veil. The choir was superb as it sang "Michael, Row the Boat Ashore." Directing was Rosalie Mogavero.

Guest of honor at a dinner at D'Andrea's afterward was Allan Cassetti who gave a speech enjoyed by all and for the third year the singing Troubadours entertained. Mary Ann Gushone, Congreda secretary, gave everyone present an artificial rose. Why? "It is simple, today is my birthday." Two other members also were having birthdays — Mary Tomasella and Josephine Mirabella.

Out-of-towners included Virginia Tomasella from Orlando, Fla., and Mr. and Mrs. Salvatore Testaquattr from Cleveland.

The Donna Dancing School put on a show and the little Bees stole the hearts of the audience. Vice President Louise Spagnolo announced that one of the Congreda members, Jennie Calaca, is 101 years old. She was born in Potenza, Italy, and is president of the St. Anna Congreda.

Jennie is well-known; for many years she ran a dry goods store on Lyell Avenue. "God bless you, Jennie, and keep you in His care."

President Theresa Aggulia and all who helped her are to be congratulated.

Louise Spagnolo
174 Cameron St.
Rochester, N.Y.



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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