COURIER-JOURNAL

Wednesday, June 24, 1981

Edit Odd Bedfellows

Question for our state legislators and anyone else willing to play the game: What do the Soviet Union. China, South Africa, Iran, Iraq, South Korea and the Philippines have in common? Repressive governments? Correct: But something else also - capital punishment.

Now, what do all the nations of free Europe (the West), except one, have in common? That's right - no death penalty.

France, which gave the world the guillotine, stands alone in Western Europe as a proponent of the death penalty. The United States, which we like to proclaim as the world's leading advocate of human rights, has chosen as allies in this issue Moscow, Peking, Teheran, rather than London, Rome and Bonn.

Alfredo Rampi

Too often it takes tragedy to remind us of some fundamental facts. Perhaps that is the reason and necessity for calamity.

The recent, sad circumstances surrounding the demise in a hole in the ground of a 6-year-old Italian boy while the world watched helplessly provides several lessons.

First, the science that has taken us to the moon and beyond is often woefully lacking in more earthly crises.

Second, the world, that is the people thereof, so often described as bellicose, cold and callous, stopped to sob over little Alfredo Rampi. Ronald Reagan's budget cuts, nuclear saber-rattling and even the

Editor:

baseball strike had to take media backseats as most of the population of the planet Earth waited, hoped, prayed and finally cried.

We the people cared. We hurt for a single life. We felt for his parents. The president of Italy dropped everything and went to the scene to kneel and try to talk to Alfredo entrapped 200 feet deep in earth's womb. Those who saw that scene broadcast live over Cable News Network will not soon forget it.

Hardly a heart did not pay homage to the value of that single, far-off life. In the name of Alfredo Rampi, we should apply the inherent lesson to all the life-anddeath issues we face.

And we earthlings should realize that perhaps we are not all that bad if we can still suffer so much for one, helpless stranger.

Please, New York State legislators, think about this.

"Only a socially just

destroyed from within."

Jesus did, in solidarity with

the poor, the wounded, the

marginated and those con-

sidered "least" in our society.

CHD family, 1 express sincere

thanks also to Bishop Mat-

thew Clark and to Ms.

diocesan director.

projects.

Mercy Sisters

We would like to take the

On behalf of the entire

and **Opinions**

CHD Thanks Diocesans

Editor:

, I wish to thank the people of the Diocese of Rochester for their continuing and generous support of the Campaign for Human Development, Recently a check for \$77.255 was received here at the national office. This amount is the three-quarters portion to be distributed nationally. This year 663 funding proposals requesting \$41 million have been received. These are now being reviewed and prioritized by national staff, the CHD diocesan directors, and the CHD National'Committee of 40 people representing all geographic regions and the ethnic racial makeup of the United States. Last year, we had about \$6 million to fund some 146 self-help projects.

CHD is not a "handout," but rather provides a way out of the vicious cycle of poverty through seed money for selfhelp projects. Of every dollar received by the National CHD, 96 cents actually gets out to these self-help projects.

Since 1970, the Diocese of Rochester has received 22 national CHD grants totaling \$599.600 for a return of 78 percent.

The continued generosity Editor: of the people of your diocese fulfills the spirit of the words of Pope John Paul II opportunity to publicly

society, one that strives to be Sisters of Mercy serving in the portant civil rights law should evermore just, has reason to Rochester diocese on the now insist that it be enforced. exist. Only such a society has 150th anniversary of their founding. a future ahead of it. "Every society ought to establish a just social order

We note with gratitude, also, that June 9 com-memorated the beginning of unless it wishes to be their 125 years of service to CHD is designed to foster the people of our diocese. We those institutional changes say thank you to all of the which will help to bring about Sisters of Mercy for their the kind of society recomdedication and commitment mended by the Holy Father. to the life of the diocese, and CHD provides an opwe offer our support, prayers portunity for us to live as

> Sisters Council **Diocese of Rochester**

congratulate the Religious

Rights Law Abandoned

and good wishes to them.

Francine M. Patella, your Editor:

Father Marvin A. Mottet Last year legislation was enacted (HR 9400; S.10) that empowers the U.S. Attorney Executive Director **Campaign for Human** Development General's Office to initiate **U.S. Catholic Conference** lawsuits to protect the civil 1312 Massachusetts Ave. rights of institutionalized Washington, D.C. 20005 citizens. Congressman Robert Editor's Note: Elsewhere in Kastenmeier said this action this edition is a story was warranted "because the reporting that the diocesan states have been sadly slow to CHD has distributed \$25,000 improve institutional conto seven local self-help ditions" and because of a federal court ruling that lacking statutory authority, the Attorney General cannot DSC Commends the Attorney School initiate such actions.

> But on May 27, Attorney General William French Smith announced that the Justice Department will abandon what Smith calls "a massive intrusion into state and local prison management" and the imposition of "a predetermined set of minimum standards as the nisahle for norm

Joel Freedman 329 N. Main St. Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424 Priest Defends **Death Penalty**

Supporters of this im-

Regarding capital punishment, two points never seem to be mentioned: 1. It was through the death penalty that the world was redeemed. Through the death of Jesus on the cross, God seems to have accepted and, as it were, approved, the death penalty as an atonement for sin. 2. The convicted murderer is a threat to the lives of other people even when in prison; he is a threat to the prison guards, to hostages taken in the course of a prison riot, to other

prisoners, and to the general public if he is able to escape. The convicted murderer has nothing to lose by a second murder.

troversy over the possibility of the ordination of women to the priesthood. The Church teaches very explicitly that women never can be ordained to the priesthood. However, when Catholic writers try to explain the reason for this teaching, they never seem to be able to find the reason which is both basic and fundamental. It is this: God is a father because he gives life. The concept of all fatherhood comes from God, says St. Paul. A mother receives life from the father, nurtures it, and brings it to completion. But she is never a father. Jesus came into this life as a man because he, too, gives life of himself through Holy Mother the Church. The Apostles were to be other Christs.

other Christs. They were to be fathers. A woman could never be regarded as a father, Then there is the con-

another Christ. That is why there were no women among the Apostles. Mary the Mother of God and the Queen of Heaven holds the highest place in Heaven — but she never was ordained a priest, another Christ. Hence, personal holiness is not the issue in the

matter of the ordination of women to the priesthood. IT IS FATHERHOOD. A woman could never be considered a father. Hence, Jesus chose only men for his Apostles. The Catholic priest has the title of "Father" one who gives life.

> Father G. Stuart Hogan 789 East Ave. Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Christians! Wow! That's devastating!

Yet listen to what Archbishop Joseph L. Bernardin of Cincinnati said in his farewell address as president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in November 1977: He expressed concern about the large number of Catholics "who have never experienced true conversion, whose understanding of what the Catholic faith really means and the demands it makes is minimal." He went on to say, "The most important task of a bishop is to proclaim Christ Jesus and His Good News in such a



forth in Sunday's gospel the requirement for being a "10" disciple. "Whoever loves father or mother, sister or daughter, more than me is not worthy of me. He who will not take up his cross and come after me is not worthy of me." That calls for total commitment. A number 10.

How many churchgoers have you heard say, "I'm a

They, too, were to give life through Holy Mother the Church. There were to be

APPL APPLIAN dryers, Suburb

COURI

se

ALA.

CITY APPR

alarms. Systems,

ALTERATI

seamstrei 458-4763.

ewelry, s clocks, lamps fur

ART

Plan, E 473-901

CREATIVE

CARS B Junkers auto rej son Ave

FOR: SAI 663-775

BUYING \ Nichola

From local Direc Data (

FETZI Dependi Quality glass estimati **2485 E**

с. 4419

CA

CARPE

windo 254-6

ADDITK

Chan

Carpeni encla dows perie Chec BRO 227-4 CARPE insid lockt 872-1

CHIMM plas towr estir DINi 225-



Rating Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 10:37-42. (R1) 2 Kgs.

11.

4:8-11. (R2) Rom. 6:3-4, 8-

Have you noticed in the past few years, there's been an epidemic of tens. The ten best books, the ten top records, the ten best this and the ten best that. Then there's the rating scale of 1 to 10. Even a movie titled "10," where a woman is the physical embodiment of perfection, registering a perfect "10" (morally, she was closer to "1"). But 1 to 10 seems to be the new standard of measurement. Maybe it is the metric system which bases weights and measures on "10."



WELL, MISS FINCH, THE BOYS INVOLVED IN POLITICS GOT IT. I SUPPOSE I HAD TO EXPECT THIS SOONER OR LATER."

the many varying conditions in state and local prisons and iails.'

So much for my hope that the Justice Department could be involved in upgrading Attica Correctional Facility! (I described Attica's problems in my May 13 C-J letter.)

Beyond this, Smith's announcement suggests that S.10 will not be applied to penal institutions. A similar policy on mental, geriatric and juvenile facilities appears inevitable.

In recent months, there have been enough publicized cases of institutional abuse to point out that the situations which prompted Congress to strengthen the Justice Department's ability to take corrective actions still exist.

The department's new policy is an abandonment of those most in need of the protection the Attorney General is to provide.

Still, this phenomenon isn't really that new. Ten good men could have saved Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham was tested by God on ten different occasions. There were ten plagues that freed from slavery, and the Ten Commandments that advance the cause of a perfect society.

Of course Jesus didn't specifically use the ten system. However, He did set

good Catholic - no worse than my neighbor; at least as good, if not better"? How often have we heard jokes about the lukewarmness of many "catholics"? There is the one about 3-sprinkled "catholics": those sprinkled with water at baptism, with rice at marriage, and with dust at death. Or those "catholics" who come to church only when they are "hatched, matched, or dispatched."

I heard an Episcopalian minister, Father Charles Irish, say of his parish in Ohio that his congregation were very good church people, but not one of them knew Jesus Christ - really knew Him! He said they believed to the limit of their understanding, but they just didn't understand anything. He also charged that our churches are improverished, spiritual slums, because our people do not know Jesus. Good church people, poor

way as to elicit a deep personal commitment to Him and acceptance of His message.'

A few years back, when I was in the hospital, my nephew brought me some light reading. He knew my love for football, so he brought me Jerry Kramer's "Instant Replay." Jerry Kramer was guard for the Green Bay Packers when coached by the legendary Vince Lombardi. He remembers Vince telling his backs one day: "This is a game of abandon. You run with complete 'abandon. You care nothing for anybody or anything, and when you get close to the goal line, your abandon intensifies. Nothing, not a tank, nor a wall, no eleven shall stop you from getting across that goal line.'

It is this kind of abandon Jesus demands of us - the "let us do or die" of Robert the Bruce at Bannockburn!

,