

Editorials

Quotables

Some food for thought gleaned from letters crossing the editor's desk:

From Nelson T. Shields, chairman of Handgun Control, Inc.:

"President Reagan survived after being shot with a handgun. Thank God. More than 20,000 Americans each year don't. If 20,000 people died from the same illness during one year, the nation would be outraged. Citizens would demand an explanation. Politicians would call the disease an epidemic and dramatic steps would be taken to put an end to it. Why then won't the Congress take steps to put an end to our epidemic of random, wanton handgun violence?"

"I'll tell you why ... in just four words: The National Rifle Association."

From Thomas Laverne, executive director, No Dice — We Love New York:

"No one knows how many more people would be employed because of casino gambling. Six different studies have produced totally different estimates, ranging from 7,000 jobs in the 1976 State Legislative Institute Report to 150,000 jobs predicted this year in a marketing study commissioned by casino advocates to support their campaign slogan, 'Casino means jobs.' An industry that names its objective can always find some consultant to support it!"

From Father Timothy J. O'Brien of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights:

"There is simply no factual justification for believing that Catholic schools are elitist ... (Catholic schools) do not discriminate on the basis of test scores, religion or race ... these schools serve predominantly low income, minority families on a first-come, first-served basis. Although 90 percent of inner city private schools are Catholic schools, more than one third of the students attending them are non-Catholic ... 56 percent black, 32 percent Hispanic."

From Robin Gallaher of Religion Today:

"'Real to Reel' is an example of good television ... (it) differs from many of the slick Christian talk shows and musicals. It's low key. It's not hard sell."

From Don McEvoy, senior vice president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews:

"All of the fundamental safeguards of human rights, of which England boasts and has reason to be justifiably proud, are waived in Northern Ireland in dealing with members of the IRA ... It is unconscionable to apply special rules for imprisonment and then callously declare that this situation is no different from that of any common criminal."

From Malcolm Muggeridge:

"I am an old man and I shall soon be dead."

"Old men have a strange thing that happens to them. They often wake up in the middle of the night, at two or three o'clock. They can see between the sheets the battered old carcass that they will soon be leaving, and it seems like a toss-up whether you go back to it to live through another day, or whether you make off."

"In that situation, you have some very sharp convictions. One of these convictions is the great beauty of human relationships. Out of the Christian notion of a human family has come all that is most precious to us."

"We have to guard it. We have to treasure it. We have to stand up for it, whatever may happen. This is our essential duty and privilege."

From Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan:

"I have nothing against guns. I was indeed a gunnery officer in the Navy and rather like them. I know how they work, not something I can say about most machines. There is no reason a responsible citizen cannot possess a gun. It is not a constitutional right as some well-meaning persons suggest. The Second Amendment, so frequently cited, has to do with the right of the several states to maintain state militias. The words of the amendment are:

"A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

"That has nothing as such to do with merely owning a gun. In my view most persons should be able to do that if they wish. But not every person and not every gun."

and Opinions

Biology Offensive

Editor:

In response to Father G. Stuart Hogan's letter of 6/24/81, several points presented are so offensive to women that they cannot be ignored.

First is Father Hogan's statement that "God is a father because he gives life." Even the most cursory biological review will show that both the male and the female, the father and mother, are required to "give life." Nowhere in nature is the equality of the sexes more clearly shown than in the mutual need for both genders to participate in reproduction, to "give life."

After one sees the fallacy of Father Hogan's basic premise, the rest of his "reasons" for exclusion of women from the priesthood are mere rhetoric and puffery. For if, as Father Hogan states, the Catholic priest is "one who gives life" and one who, like Christ, "gives life of himself (herself) through the Church," the number of women who fit the role are innumerable.

There are many theories and opinions on the role of women in the priesthood, but to allow or propose the exclusion of women from the priesthood for the reason that they "cannot or do not give life" is a blatant factual error, as well as a slight to all women.

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Catechism Commended

Editor:

I would like to submit some helpful information to the poor, misguided soul who wrote to "The Open Window" (CJ June 10) concerning the Sacraments of the Church. This person is not alone among Catholics in being misguided and confused and

the answer received from Father Hohman was just as misguided and confusing and most inadequate.

The most fundamental and elementary thing to bear firmly in mind is that it is a dogma of the Catholic Church that the Sacraments are absolutely necessary for salvation and that they immediately confer Sanctifying Grace on the receivers. Let it be added parenthetically that without this grace in the soul it would be an impossibility to expect to be saved. The Protestants, of course, have a variety of different notions as their meaning and purpose, some very similar to the response from "The Open Window."

For this person who wrote the letter and for the many others who are unclear about certain aspects of their Faith, I sincerely and prayerfully urge them to beg, borrow or buy the excellent catechism, "The Teaching of Christ," by Lawler, Wuerl and Lawler. Trant's has many on hand. For \$5.95, this precious book will not give you mere theological opinions that are currently in fashion, but the clear and unambiguous truths of the Catholic Church, that is, the teaching of Christ.

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Eliminate Sex Ed in Schools

Editor:

Since the inception of sex education programs in Catholic schools, sound but futile objections like those in "Sex Education Program Criticized" (Courier-Journal 6/17/81) have been made by many parents and organizations throughout the U.S.A. Workshops and seminars on "Education in Love" for parents would further support diocesan imposition of classroom sex

education programs — under the guise of a mandate by Vatican II, as exemplified by the diocesan response beneath the above mentioned letter. (Vatican II mandated the wearing of religious garb — the diocesan response is scandal and silence.)

From the time of Pope Pius XI, the Church teachings have insisted that sex education be given on an individual basis by those who hold the authority from God. Vatican II affirms the parents' duty.

The Vatican II documents contain only two statements pertaining to sex education: (1) Declaration on Christian Education (Chapter One) — "As they advance in years, let them be trained by a prudent and positive sexual education;" (2) The Church and the Modern World (Sec. 49) — "It is imperative to give suitable and timely instruction to young people, above all in the heart of their own families, about the dignity of married love, its role and its exercise." Amen!

In September 1980, the U.S. Coalition for Life asked the U.S. Bishops to withdraw the USCC Department of Education's total jurisdiction over classroom sex education. The coalition pointed out that Dr. Dan Dolesh, the primary architect of the then unpublished new national Sex Education Guidelines, was a member of AASECT and of a front organization for Planned Parenthood. The American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors and Therapists back abortion, homosexuality and other sexual perversions. Dr. Dolesh's philosophy includes teaching sex ed "without being moralistic." He recommended Herbert Otto's pro-abortion, pro-homosexual book, New Sex Education, to be used along with the bishops' National Sex Education Guidelines. Otto is also author of other sex manuals such as Total Sex and a do-it-yourself self-stimulation book, Fantasy Encounter Games.

The U.S. Coalition for Life received only silence from the bishops and the new national sex ed guidelines, "Education in Human Sexuality for Christians," is now being issued on behalf of the U.S. Bishops. They have quickly come under fire by parents and other parties. Growing, intense controversy and division within the Catholic Church of the U.S.A. are evident.

Letters of appeal for the teaching of Humanae Vitae and the elimination of classroom sex ed programs will likely be fruitless in the U.S.A., but should be sent to the Holy Father and his representative here in the states: Archbishop Pio Laghi, Apostolic Delegate; 3339 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

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Budget Criticized

Editor:

Last evening I participated in seven hours of prayer, study, worship and socializing with a group of 40 teenagers from Webster and Ontario. What made the evening remarkable were two things:

First, it was organized by the teens themselves, on a Monday night, after the end of the school year. Those attending were members of three of the 50 ongoing "Reality" groups (the follow-up program to Teen Seminar/Genesis/Jeremiah Youth Retreats) which meet weekly, year around, throughout the diocese.

Secondly, the zeal and spirituality of these teens provided a marked contrast to the indifference to youth of our Diocesan Pastoral Council which recently voted against providing some funds for a coordinated youth ministry program in our diocese.

In the Courier-Journal, 6/10/81, it was reported that



the DPC, out of a budget of \$3.3 million, was unwilling to allocate a mere \$24,000 (i.e., .007 percent of the total) to begin development of a systematic and coordinated youth ministry in the Rochester diocese (instead of the conglomeration of youth programs which, while good, so often obviously are addenda to and squeezed out of the cracks of other parish and departmental areas).

Considering that "YOUTH" has been one of the top 10 priorities of the DPC for at least the past four years, to deny this miserly request mocks the presumed purpose for priorities and lets our young people know that, once again, they are important on paper but not in the flesh.

Perhaps the DPC is unaware that over 50 percent of the teenagers who join cults are Roman Catholics? Or that the percentage of those joining the other fundamental religions surpasses even that figure?

Why? Because the cults and

fundamental religions put their money where their mouth is!

How can our teens possibly take seriously the Catholic Church's commitment to them when the budget lines tell them that, unless they are enrolled in parochial schools or CCD programs, or unless they are sick or handicapped or imprisoned or gay, then the Diocese of Rochester is uninterested in them? What about the 80-90 percent of our teens who are not included in the above categories (usually because even those services are not offered to a decent degree within our traditional structure of things)?

When even .007 percent of over three million dollars is too much for the teens, no wonder they get turned off from Catholicism or become cynical about religion in general!

Move over, kids, maybe I'll join you!

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