

Editorials

Sympathy

The heartfelt prayers of all go out to the family of Timothy David Beach, the quintuplet who died last week of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. In a world filled with callous disregard for human life, it is always astonishing to see the sincere remorse evoked by the death of a single person in clear focus.

We sympathize with the family and can only imagine the anguish being endured. Perhaps the tragedy will serve to increase resolve to solve the mystery of SIDS.

2-Headed Hatred

Hatred, unfortunately, as are folk tales and music, seems to be passed on from generation to generation. Witness the sad recounting of Don McEvoy, senior

vice president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, who recently returned from Northern Ireland.

He interviewed young people on both ends of the vicious whip that is ripping that nation. He asked the same questions of six Protestant teenagers on Shankhill Road and of another group of six Catholic teens on Falls Road. Their answers were alarmingly similar and ominous. For instance: "What do you think the young people your own age on Falls Road think of you?" "They hate us. They really hate us. It is unbelievable how much they hate us."

On Falls Road he asked the same question in reverse: "What do you think that young people your own age on Shankhill Road think of you?" "They hate us. They want to smash us. They're out to get us, to kill us. That's all."

Neither side thinks the situation will ever change. The hatred persists. The future is gloomy.

Dealing in Prejudice

The lead on the Religious News Service story begins: "Whether legal advice, an insurance policy or a blueberry pie, Barry J. Hough and associates have made the search easier for Christians who want to do business only with other Christians."

What RNS was reporting is the publication of a Christian Telephone Directory in the Saco, Maine, area.

"It's a miracle," enthused Hough. "I'm not saying that anybody who is listed has rates any more reasonable than other businesses. But with the ideals of Christians they should perform to the best of their ability."

We object to his kind of obvious prejudice. We prefer instead the ideals of a Jewish carpenter of 2,000 years ago who would not rate listing in such a directory. And exclusivity was not among His ideals.

and Opinions

Xavier Group Offers Texts

Editor:

As the school year is about to begin we ask your readers to bring the fact that we offer braille, large-print and tape editions of popular CCD textbooks to any visually impaired person, free.

Our services are available in: "The Word Is Life," Benziger Series; "Christ Our Life," Loyola University Press Series; "The Lord of Life Program," Sadlier Series; "Living Faith Series," Our Sunday Visitor; "Religious Education Program," Silver Burdett Series; "To Live Is Christ," William C. Brown Series; and "The Easter People Series," Winston Press.

The Xavier Society for the Blind is the national Catholic press and library for the visually handicapped.

Betty J. Dodd
Xavier Society for the Blind
154 East 23rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10010

A Note Of Thanks

Editor:

In June 1981, there were no vehicular accident fatalities in Monroe County, a sharp contrast to June 1980 when

there were 17 highway deaths, the majority involving alcohol.

This fortunate occurrence did not just happen. It was the result of a vigorous short-term campaign involving many organizations and many people.

I wish to publicly thank all the individuals who participated in the campaign through the following groups: the Sheriff's STAR Patrol, the Rochester Police ALERT Unit, the Retail Gasoline Dealers Association, the Genesee Valley Medical Foundation, high school administrators, the clergy, the Rochester Chapter of the New York State Restaurant Association, Rochester Jobs Inc., the Rochester Safety Council, the Genesee Region Affiliate of the New York State Public Health Association, the Automobile Club of Rochester, Rochester Against Intoxicated Drivers (RAID), the Health Department and the Medical Examiner's Office, the Monroe County offices of the Commissioners of Human Services and Public Safety, Media Learning Inc., and newspapers, radio and television stations which helped to focus public attention on the problem of drinking and driving.

We believe that the short-term campaign, which incorporated multiple approaches, was successful. It demonstrated over a limited period of time that, working together, concerned people and organizations CAN do something about reducing the risk of vehicular fatalities from drinking and driving.

Now, as a community, we must go on to the more difficult task of educating ourselves to develop a permanent attitude of strong public disapproval, both socially and legally, of the drinking driver.

Gerald L. Glaser, MD
Chairman, Advisory Council on Vehicular Fatalities
Monroe County Board of Health
220 Alexander Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Bethany House Begs for Help

Editor:

I am appealing to the generous hearts of your readers in the hope that you will help me meet the great need for service at Bethany

House. As of August 1, I am the sole full-time staff person in the Catholic Worker House dedicated to serving the needs of homeless women and children. I need another full-time person to work with me on a daily basis, as well as other persons who could give a few hours weekly.

Many individuals, groups and parishes in the Rochester area are faithful in helping us meet the material needs of Bethany House, and our guests are most grateful. Now I am asking your help to meet the service needs. I have been praying that our loving Father will send a caring person to help lift some of the burden of ministry here. Please keep us in your prayers, and know you are remembered in ours.

Linda Scibilia
Bethany House
169 St. Bridget's Dr.
Rochester, N.Y.

Help Life Program

Editor:

"Human life is precious because it is the gift of a God whose love is infinite; and when God gives life, it is forever" — Pope John Paul II. We must restore our protection to the unborn children. We must stop this mass killing. "Freedom of choice" can never justify freedom to take innocent lives at will.

What is needed are programs of compassionate service and care to provide pregnant women with options consistent with a commitment to the sanctity of human life. These are challenging priorities and we must meet the challenges head on — with courage, determination, patience, faith and much hard work.

We can all show we care by becoming involved in parish and community programs that respect human life.

St. Charles' Human Development Committee will be holding a garage sale on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., to help purchase the film, "Assignment Life," for the Human Life Commission of our diocese. This is an excellent film and if purchased it will be available to all in our diocese for educational purposes. The cost of the film is \$1,200. We need donations of furniture, clothing, dishes, etc., to make this a success. We also need you to come and get a bargain.

If you are able to donate some items (tax deductible), please call me at 458-1726 or drop the items off on Friday, Sept. 11, between 7 and 9 p.m. Please support this most important cause. God bless you all and thank you for helping.

Linda Travers
259 Avis Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Praise for Family Camp

Editor:

Many of your readers may be interested in knowing about the unique vacation opportunity offered here in our diocese called Christian Family Renewal. Run by Father David Mura, diocesan director of youth retreats and Family Camp, and Kathleen Burnham, director, and staffed by teens who have experienced Teen Seminar and the Antioch retreat programs, this family retreat pays dividends all year long because of its emphasis on Christian family living. It is a week of prayer, study, and play which has such an appeal to children and adults of all ages, that many families, including ours, return year after year.

Having just returned from Kamp Koinonia, we would like to thank Father Mura, Kathleen Burnham, and their staff for a wonderful vacation and urge other families to consider Family Camp in next year's vacation plans.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Madonia
115 Valley View Crescent
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

No Women's Ordinations

Editor:

Shortly before his death, Jacques Maritain warned the Catholic world to be careful of "flabby minds" in their dialogue. If ever I had to be reminded of this prophetic message (and I do not), the recent letters in the Courier-Journal (7/22/81) and Sister Joan Sobala's "viewpoint" pertaining to the absurd contention that women should become priests, only verifies this gigantic portrayal of Catholic illiteracy.

The primary reason for the continued rattlings and ravings over this issue is the



REMEMBER HOW WE USED TO STUDY CANON LAW IN OUR SPARE TIME?

absolute failure to understand the Catholic meaning of the priesthood, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and the Papacy. To put it simply, they give remarkably lucid reflections of heretical notions of the above, but certainly nothing near to what corresponds to the Catholic faith. The priest, according to the Catholic faith, acts in the person of Christ. Thus when a priest baptizes, it is Christ who is baptizing, and when a priest gives a homily or absolution, it is essentially Christ Himself doing these things through the priest. This unity is so utterly complete that the only correct and succinct thing to say whenever we see a Catholic priest is, "There is Christ."

The Mass is a sacrifice and a sacrament, but it is primarily and eminently the former. It is not, as some so foolishly submit, merely a "meal," but the actual unbloody representation of the one Holy Sacrifice of our Blessed Lord on Calvary. Notice that at Mass the priest does not say: "This is the Body... This is the Blood of Christ," but, "This is My Body... This is My Blood." Through the priest, Christ is offering and is offered to the Heavenly Father. All our senses are capable of presenting to us is the priest. Hence, no one can dare claim a "right" to this supreme and sublime mystery. It is Christ who calls. And in nearly 2,000 years not one single woman has He called, not even His own Mother.

The third defect in their comprehension of the faith is the Papacy. Only an infantile mentality would maintain

that one could be disloyal to the Holy Father and remain a loyal Catholic. Both Pope Paul VI and Pope John Paul II have said there can never be women priests. When one refuses to submit to the Vicar of Christ, one ceases to be Catholic. As Cardinal Newman once wrote: "Like St. Peter, he is the Vicar of his Lord. He can judge and he can acquit, he can pardon and he can condemn... We must never oppose his will, or dispute his word, or criticize his policy, or shrink from his side... We must never murmur at that absolute rule which the Sovereign Pontiff has over us, because it is given him by Christ, and in obeying him we are obeying his Lord... Even in secular matters it is ever safe to be on his side, dangerous to be on the side of his enemies." (The Obligations of Catholics to The Holy See)

With all the serious matters before us, it is appalling that such energies are wasted on such trivial ventures of those whose sole philosophy of life is ego-centered rather than Theo-centered. The saints were soft-hearted only because they were hard-headed — they denied themselves but never the faith. The modern mentality mentioned in this letter is the opposite. They are hard-hearted only because they are soft-headed — they would deny the faith but never themselves. Let us follow the saints. For only then will we see sycamores and mountains being flung into the seas.

Richard V. Hussar
340 Jordan Avenue
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

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.