Editorials

The Long Ordeal Seems Over

The ramifications may never end. But at least Pope John Paul II is back at the helm and is physically sound and capable. For that, we are thankful.

It has been a harrowing four months since that incredible May day when the Holy Father was gunned down in an act that even dismayed irreligionists.

First the agonizing initial worry, the hours of surgery, the elusive information. Eventually it all seemed to work out; God was in His heaven, the pope in Rome.

But then the rehospitalization, long weeks of consternation, new unease. Was there something being hidden? Obviously not because now John Paul II seems finally and completely recovered. As we said, the physical trial apparently is over.

Then came the Soviet Union's veiled charge that perhaps the United States and Israel were involved in the assassination attempt. Why, wondered veteran Vaticanologists, would the U.S.S.R make such a preposterous claim? What could behind it, a new, policy trying to cleave U.S. and Vatican relations?

Next came the report that the Vatican suspected the reverse, that Moscow was implicated in the terrorist's act. At this stage, it is still uncertain as to the accuracy of that report. If true, however, it explains the previous Soviet allegation.



Except for the investigation, the suspense is over. John Paul used the occasion to give us all a lesson in basic Christianity by forgiving his assailant.

In a sense, it can be said we are back to normal. The Pope has re-instituted his weekly audiences and thus this newspaper is able to resume weekly publications of papal pronouncements. We are grateful.

and Opinions

What Happened To the Church?

Editor:

The Courier-Journal of Aug. 19 provokes a great deal of thought. What has happened to the universal Church founded by Jesus Christ with Peter as the rock and each of his successors our spiritual head?

I sympathize with those who suffer the loss of church affiliation due to growing divisions caused by the hardened heart which seeks self-fulfillment first.

Two letters to the editor and Father Shamon's quote of St. Thomas Aquinas all tie in together. One letter criticizes a saint of our day, Mother Teresa, for not speaking out "against the oppression of the Roman hierarchy that denies access to the priesthood to 300 million women." Did it ever dawn on that writer that this holy woman is truly Catholic and believes in that quote I spoke of? "The teaching of the Roman Pontiff is to be accepted over that of any theologian however learned."

The other letter tells how feminists want to exclude the word "men" from the liturgy and does a good job of dismissing their case. Personally, I have never felt oppressed because God gave us different roles.

John 6:35 Jesus said, "I am the Bread of Life; he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst." The Lord is still waiting in the Blessed Sacrament and calling us to receive our daily Bread which fortifies us in soul and body with wisdom, truth, hope love, joy and peace beyond all comprehension. If women go against Papal authority to become priests then I too will suffer the loss of church affiliation, but at least I will be

aware that nothing can separate me from the love of God.

I am grateful for Father Shamon's "Word for Sunday" which remains stable and continues to make sense while confusion continues to abound.

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Correction

A typing error changed the meaning of a sentence in a letter written by reader Rose Grossi in the Sept. 2 Courier-Journal. The sentence should have read: "But this letter is

not to boost pros or cons but rather simply to try to express the sorrow of the many who see this controversy as a wedge of divisiveness in a time when our Church struggles for unity." The word many inadvertently was typed man.

Reagan Cuts Defended

Last Sunday in our parish bulletin we read an announcement about "Solidarity Day." It is a oneday demonstration against President Reagan's budget cuts that affect social programs. Our diocesan Department of Justice and

demonstration and requested parishes to advertise it.

This announcement in our. bulletin angered us. Because we don't believe that our hard-earned money that we contribute each week to our parish and diocese should be used to oppose President Reagan's budget cuts.

We support - President Reagan and believe that his budget cuts are necessary and long overdue. If his cuts eliminate social programs that are indeed vital to people, then those programs can always be restored. Our diocesan Department of Justice and Peace should give

Peace supports this the president's program a chance and even help to make that program work, rather than oppose it and use our money to help oppose it.

A question we've often asked ourselves is this: Why should we contribute to our diocese, when they are spending our money in ways we find questionable? We wouldn't think of contributing money to causes we were opposed to, yet by dropping our envelope in the collection basket each Sunday we are sometimes doing just that.

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Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Seeking The Lord

Sunday, Readings: (R3) Mt. 20:1-6. (R1) Is. 55:6-9. (R2) Phil. 1:20-24,27.

"Seek, the Lord while he may be found" — that is how Sunday's first reading begins. A few years ago, the Westminster Bookstore in Philadelphia carried a book titled "Seekers after God." A friend of mine wrote for a copy of the book. Here's the answer he got: "No 'Seekers after God' in Philadelphia: try New York.

Isaiah counseled two things; first "Seek the Lord." and second, "While he may be found."

First, "Seek the Lord." Jesus illustrated how fervent this search ought to be in the parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin. He Himself said, "Seek and you shall find;" the implication is - if you don't seek, you won't find.

Secondly, "while he may be found:" St. Paul wrote that now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation. Our Lord said that the night comes when no man can work.

God, therefore, can be sought — must be — but now, "while he may be found."

To find God; searching for Him is not enough.

In the ideal detective story, the reader is given all the clues and still fails to find out who did it. The reader may advert to each clue as it arises. All the clues needed to solve the mystery are given. And yet he can remain in the dark for the simple reason that finding. the solution is more than having all the clues. A something else is needed: a perceptive mind, like that of Sherlock Holmes, that can put the clues together to deduce the solution.

So in seeking God, it is not enough to tollow clues. A something else is needed: the grace of God coupled with good will.

In the gospels we read of seekers: all had good will to seek God; but in addition they needed God's help and it was given.

Wise men, for instance, sought the newborn King of the Jews. They did not know where to go. So God sent them a star. They followed it and they found, not a prince in a palace as they had expected, but an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. No matter, they were satisfied.

At the well of Jacob, a Samaritan woman sought which mountain she should climb to worship God properly. She found the answer to her search from a tired Jew who asked her for a drink of water. Her thirst was quenched.

On the first Easter Sunday morn, Mary Magdalen sought the body of Jesus. She did not know where they had put Him. A stranger, whom she took to be the gardener, whispered her name and she recognized Him whom she was seeking. She looked for a dead man

Seeking God is "a Jason's quest." That colorful phrase is used to express "a difficult search..." Jason was a mythological character sent by Pelias to search for the Golden Fleece. High school sophomores used to be prepared for Caesar's Gallic Wars by first reading the journey of the Argonauts ("nauta" means "sailor"). We thrilled at the adventures met with and the difficulties overcome by Jason and his sailor companions as they sailed in the good ship. Argo in search of the Golden Fleece. They found it!

Seeking God is "a Jason's quest" — a wholehearted commitment of life and effort to find God not matter the difficulties. It makes sense, too, to seek the Lord like this, for He "may be found." And He will be found, for God also is in search of us.



THAT WASN'T WHAT I MEANT WHEN I SAID I'D LIKE TO GET TO KNOW YOU BOYS BETTER