

Editorials

Cardinal Cody

When Archbishop John R. Roach, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, says he can make "no substantive comment" on the allegations concerning Cardinal John Cody of Chicago, he is not being evasive. Not only would it be unwise to rush into print concerning any unfinished legal case but this particular one is extremely complex, involving a series of alleged findings published by a newspaper, the federal law, state law and canon law.

Eschewing the complicated details involved, there are some great overriding principles of American law involved, such as the innocence of an individual until proven otherwise and such as the freedom of American citizens and institutions from unnecessary governmental intrusion. Laws of libel and slander also may become involved.

At this point, we think the greatest principle involved is the innocence of Cardinal Cody. He deserves to be treated as such, not only in public statements but also and especially in the dark alleys of gossip and unworthy speculation.

Other innocents are involved, particularly a distant relative whom the Chicago Sun Times has said is at the core of the charges. The newspaper charged that the cardinal diverted nearly \$1 million in Church funds to her. The U.S. Attorney's office has subpoenaed certain archdiocesan records in connection.

The distant relative is described as a step-cousin, she is 74 and a woman. This latter fact has unfortunately led to mean gossip and innuendo that has nothing to do with the charges. Such surmise is irrelevant and reprehensible.

As to the actual allegations that the cardinal and thus the archdiocese has misused tax-exempt funds, Cardinal Cody has branded the charges as an attempt on the part of the Chicago Sun Times "to destroy" the Church. We think not. Eventually, we pray, they may be proven false but they are more likely misguided rather than intended to destroy.

Since under American jurisprudence, Cardinal Cody is innocent, we urge him to turn over all pertinent information to the U.S. Attorney's office. We realize that also is easier said than done; what is pertinent will rightfully be an issue.

But the archdiocese should act swiftly and cooperatively to get the whole matter cleared up. To the general public, still disillusioned and cynical from Watergate, any illusion of "stonewalling" will be

suspect. The longer the archdiocese seems to procrastinate, the more harm will be done.

Even if such delaying tactics, if they are indeed strategy, may dissuade the U.S. from following through on this obviously sensitive case — no American cardinal before has ever been so accused — ugly gossip will persist. Perhaps this would be the case regardless. Nonetheless it is incumbent for the archdiocese to do all in its power to cooperate in clearing the air as effectively as possible. And soon.

'War Is Death'

Talking to 14,000 persons just before leaving his summer residence at Castelgandolfo to return to Rome, Pope John Paul II touched on some very current events.

He recalled the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945 and said, "To remember Hiroshima is to abhor nuclear war. Since that fatal day, however, nuclear arms have increased in quantity and destructive power. Let us now take a solemn decision that war will no longer be tolerated or seen as a means of resolving differences."

"War is death," the Holy Father reminded his audience.

and Opinions

Official Backs Bond Issue

Editor:

As commissioner of the Department of Correctional Services, I must accept individuals sent by the courts. Adequate prison space must be available for all criminals for whom a state prison sentence is appropriate.

Further, overcrowded prisons are a danger to prison employees and inmates — and to society in general.

To relieve prison overcrowding, the state encourages alternatives to imprisonment, but this is only a partial solution. Even if 10 percent of today's prison population could be diverted to alternatives, we would still need more space to house the growing numbers of violent and repeat offenders not eligible for alternatives.

On Nov. 3, the people of New York State will have the opportunity to back up their demand for a tough stance on crime. Proposition One, the \$500 million Secure Correctional Facilities Bond Issue, will finance the needed expansion of the state prison system and improvements in local jails.

The Bond Issue will provide \$350 million to add more than 4,000 beds to the state prison system, \$125 million to improve local jails and \$25 million for the State Division for Youth and the State Office of Mental Health to expand their secure units.

The state's counties — facing the same increases in jail populations that are confronting state prisons — need financial assistance to provide adequate secure space. Localities must address over-crowding and improve older, existing facilities.

This work must be done if

we are able to continue to meet our responsibilities to the criminal courts to imprison those who detract from the quality of life in our communities.

By supporting the Bond Issue, the people will be sending a clear message to criminals: If they do the crime, they will do the time.

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Prison School For Criminals

Editor:

Re the Aug. 26 article, "Charities Board Slams Prison Bond Issue."

I agree with the article 100 percent and that more alternatives to prison should be used instead of sending a person off to prison.

I can't understand why the state wants to spend \$500 million of tax money to build three new maximum security prisons. This will be giving the Department of Corrections 4,000 new cells and it will be a while before they are ready for use. By the time they are ready they also will be quickly filled, once again putting us in the same dilemma.

With today's high interest rates and a 30-year payback plan, the \$500 million bond issue will eventually cost the taxpayer \$1.5 billion.

It will cost the state about \$75,000 to build just one new cell and it will cost an additional \$20,000 per year to keep a person in it.

The \$500 million bond issue will be decided on this Fall and the taxpayer will be asked to vote on it. I hope that the taxpayer will think of using more alternatives to incarceration when it comes time to vote.

I feel it would be more

beneficial to put offenders into worthwhile programs. Using such alternatives as probation, community service sentencing, restitution and earlier parole when the individual merits it, would be a lot less expensive than building new prisons.

Alternatives to imprisonment are far cheaper than sending a person off to prison which can only be considered a graduate school for future criminals.

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Difficult Directive

Editor:

The message of Bishop Leroy Matthiesen to the Amarillo (Tex.) Diocese may very well be the hardest and most courageous epistle in the history of the nuclear arms struggle.

The people of his diocese are left with a clear directive. It urges on moral grounds that workers consider resigning from the Amarillo Plantex Plant, the final assembly point of U.S. nuclear weapons.

It's easy for us, here in Rochester to verbally denounce the stockpiling of death. The Catholics of Amarillo are asked to not only talk and behave like Christians but to live as Christians. Bishop Matthiesen and his people need our prayerful support.

Carol Crossed
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Eavesdropping On Confessions?

Editor:

Violations of the seal of the confessional, have always filled Catholics with horror. St. John Nepomuc died a martyr rather than reveal a confession to the King of Bohemia.

The chaplains of Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland have suspected that British officials were eavesdropping on confession with listening devices. Recently a Sunday Times reporter claimed that he had seen a transcript of the deathbed talks between Father John McGee and the dying hunger striker Bobby Sands.

This outrage exceeds even the harsh penal laws which at least had the decency to be an open attempt to prevent Catholics from worship. To avoid further sacrilege, Father Denis Faul, the prison chaplain, now hears confessions in the midst of Mass-gods who are urged to talk in loud voices in the chapel while penitents whisper their confessions in the priest's ear.

Sin is progressive and those who have inflicted the extreme suffering and humiliations that Irish nationalist leaders have had to endure have reached the ultimate evil of interfering with the spiritual rights of their victims. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has self-righteously declared, "A crime is a crime is a crime." She should reflect that sacrilegious abuse of power at Long Kesh is a sin is a sin is a sin.

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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.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Power Within The Rosary

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 21:33-43. (R1) Is. 5:1-7. (R2) Phil. 4:6-9.

October is the month of the rosary. Oct. 7 is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. For centuries the peoples of Europe looked with anxiety toward the East. They feared Islamic invaders as much as Europe today fears communist aggression. Often at critical moments, Christian Europe was saved from Islam by victories ascribed to the protection of the Mother of God.

Selim the Sot, inflated by the powerful army and navy that his father Suleiman the Magnificent had left him, threw caution to the winds and sought to invade Europe by sea. At Lepanto (near Corinth in Greece) on Oct.

7, 1571, the much smaller fleet of Don Juan of Austria, comprised of Spaniards, Venetians, and Vatican forces, dealt a stunning blow to the invaders. Pope St. Pius V ascribed the victory to the fervent praying of the rosary. In thanksgiving, his successor established the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

In 1716, the Turks once again sought to invade Europe — this time by land. At Petrovaradin (Yugoslavia) the cross once more crushed the crescent. Again, the victory was attributed to the fervent praying of the rosary. To commemorate the victory, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary was extended to the whole Western Church.

It was the fervent praying of the rosary in our day that saved Brazil from going the way of Cuba.

One of the most dramatic evidences of the power of the rosary prayer, I believe,

was manifested right in my own parish. Taylor-Brown Hospital, for eight years had been an abortion mill — 480 babies aborted a year! Right to Life had been picketing the hospital for two years. Nothing was achieved. Some of the Right to Life leaders came to me for more visible support. I told them there was one important ingredient missing in their boycott: prayer — especially the power of the rosary. I said I would give the full weight of my support if they promised to say the rosary publicly, along with their boycott. They remonstrated, saying that the boycott was an ecumenical endeavor. I insisted, "We have," I told them, "a dimension our separated brothers do not — the Mother of God and her rosary! We must pray it!"

Well, we compromised; they promised to say it when they finished picketing — if others of other faiths wished to join, they were invited. So the Monday we started, the picket lines doubled — our parishioners were there to pray. After picketing for one hour, we all stayed to pray the rosary publicly. The first day, the police were called and we were told to leave the premises of the hospital. That angered us. So we went to the mayor and asked if we

could use the public park on Routes 5 and 20, on Main Street. Permission was graciously granted. So, every Sunday at 2 p.m. we gathered in Lafayette Park and prayed the rosary publicly. No sooner did we do that, then the lid blew off. The state suddenly stepped in to investigate some deaths and suspended all surgical operations at the hospital. The rest is history. The abortionist doctors all resigned. On July 16, 1981, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the board of directors of Taylor-Brown Hospital announced, to the joy of the entire community, that no more abortions would be performed at the hospital.

Great ideas are simple ideas. Singer invented the sewing machine by simply turning a needle upside down. Our Lady promised that a solution to all the world's problems and our salvation is really a simple one: praying the rosary, daily and devoutly. For no one can long meditate on the mysteries of the rosary without putting on the mind of Christ. And isn't that the essential gospel: metanoia, repentance or changing our minds to conform with Christ's?

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