

Editorials

Wrong Side?

News item — Bishop Joseph Gossman of Raleigh, N.C., agrees to introduce Father Daniel Berrigan for a talk at North Carolina State University.

The local chapter of the Knights of Columbus takes a full-page ad in the local newspaper urging Catholics to boycott the talk.

Bishop Gossman explained that he does not endorse Father Berrigan's methods but that "I must as a citizen and as a bishop add my voice to his and all those

scientists, statesmen and ordinary people who deplore the policies of nuclear proliferation."

The president of the local chapter, David R. Raber, explains his side: "We are against him coming to Raleigh. Why should we support this guy who has been in jail for what he has done in the past?"

We wonder if Mr. Graber is aware that many other Christians have spent time in jail for what they have done, for instance, the apostles Peter and John. We wonder if Mr. Raber is aware of what a man named Gamaliel advised the council of his day concerning these apostles — "If what they have planned and done is of human origin, it will disappear; but if it comes from God, you cannot possibly defeat them. You could find yourselves fighting against God!"

Refugees in Need

The Haitians being detained at the Ray Brook facility near Lake Placid are facing a long and frigid winter and will have trouble adjusting from their tropical background.

All individuals or agencies able to donate winter clothing, such as long underwear, socks, knit caps, blankets, are asked to contact John S. Walker at the Pastoral Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester. 14624, telephone (716) 328-3210.

The clothing must be for males, most of whom average between 5 feet 6 and 5 feet 10 and weigh between 135 and 190 pounds.

Mr. Walker will be leaving Nov. 10 to once again visit the detainees and can take the clothing to them at that time.

and Opinions

Anti-Catholic Answered

Editor:

My letter regarding the Eucharist appeared recently in the Courier-Journal. Exactly one week later I received in the mail numbers one, two and three of the notorious hater of Catholicism, Keith Green. (His "Catholic Chronicles" supposedly "explain" the Catholic Church to people — they are viciously anti-Catholic). Seeing that there was no return address, it seems as though this is the only way for me to reach the sender, as he or she obviously reads the Courier.

I feel that the sender is either not sure if he believes obviously one-sided and unstudied "Chronicles" or he is simply very gullible. To actually read, with the intent of learning, Green's work is a very easy way to be completely misinformed. From all that I have heard and from what I can see, this Keith Green is a self-proclaimed "teacher" and quite a bigoted one! His "Chronicles" are "proven" by quotes from books and authors as bigoted against Church as he is! He himself knows not the religion he so publicly denounces.

Handwritten on "Catholic Chronicle 1" by the sender are the words: "Pray for the Wisdom and Knowledge of God." (Isa. 61:1) My answer: "Take the plank out of your eye!" "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you shall not enter the kingdom of heaven" (John 6:51-58).

Oh, I really wish that these Catholic-haters would study and pray with an open heart before they preach or write! However, there is hope, because the perfect example is St. Paul (pronounced a saint by the Catholic Church, I might add!). For years, he persecuted the early Christians (all Catholic and partaking of the Eucharist, by the way; no Christians protested any of Christ's teachings at that point). St. Paul did what he did in the name of God, until Jesus knocked him, blinded, off his horse on the way to Damascus. Jesus must have wanted St. Paul pretty badly.

How about you, sender of the chronicle? How about you, Keith Green? Think of what you could do for Christ if you accepted His holy and complete will. In the name of His most Sacred and Loving Heart, I promise I will pray every day to Him and His loving mother, spotless, sinless, immaculate Mary, for your conversion! He loves you so much! Not to mention that He could put your services to better use than His enemy!

Jean Koneazny Pollock
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Red Creek, N.Y. 13143

Editor:

This is a letter to an anonymous person who wrote

to me after reading my letter in the Courier of Sept. 16.

I am glad you are praying for my salvation because mortals never outgrow the need for prayer. The same Jesus that you speak of has been my best friend for many years!

You have written that "the Pope exhorts himself above everyone else." You also say that "Peter never did that and that the Catholic Church was not founded by Jesus Christ." These are indeed sad words at a time when our spiritual leader has been under attack both verbally and physically. In this day of moral decay, where is there a man who humbles himself more or stands by truth as does Pope John Paul II? Respect for the pope does not mean that we trust in him for salvation, as you imply. Obedience is taught to us by Jesus and He has given us a person to lead us to Him. He has given to me the Roman Catholic Church where I found my faith and it has been nourished and hopefully will continue to grow until the Lord calls me to eternity.

You assume that Catholics do not read the Bible, yet it is part of our daily Mass and has become strong prayer for me bringing about answers to need and great joy in communication with my Saviour.

You say, "Peter or Paul or Mary did not die for sins — trust Jesus only." I have heard words like these before, advice to forget the rosary, do not go to the saints, go directly to Jesus, but these same people say to me, "Say a prayer for me." What is wrong with asking our Blessed Mother and the saints to do just that?

There are people of every faith who do not understand the depth of God's love or the term "born again," yet it is possible through the grace of God to remain Catholic and still be a born-again Christian. It is true that the Church itself is not our salvation, but Jesus Christ, who is the foundation upon which our belief is based, is our Saviour and it is through Him that we have hope.

There is no other Church that offers me the Bread that is Christ coming to live within me (John 6:56), that calls me daily to dwell in His temple (Psalm 27:4), that re-enacts the Holy Sacrifice of Calvary every day teaching me to live for Christ by picking up my daily cross and following Jesus (Matt 10:38).

Barbara Fischer
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Editor's Note: Readers are reminded that people who have the courage of their convictions sign their letters. Anonymous letters often are the work of cowards.

Concerned About Cardinal

Editor:

Why does the Courier-Journal headline Saranac Lake and the Haitians?

The news issue the Roman Catholic people want to be informed about is our cardinal in Chicago.

Do we have to rely on the Times Union and the D and C for our news concerning this grave issue?

Margaret J. Fuller
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Issue Needs Clarification

Editor:

The letters printed in recent issues of the Courier-Journal concerning the priesthood of the faithful and the priesthood of the celebrant have presented strongly contrasting points of view on basic doctrines of our common faith. This can create a great deal of interest, but also can lead to a great deal of confusion about what we as Catholics ought to believe.

Although the purpose of an editorial page in an ordinary newspaper is merely to present varying views, it seems to me that a Catholic newspaper has an added responsibility to its readers. When an article or letter brings many responses that demonstrate interest and very different theologies, such as the "priesthood" issue, then a clearly researched article should be printed that presents a nonpartisan approach to the actual doctrine(s) of the Church along with historical or other reasons why the particular dogma(s) may be interpreted in different ways.

For example, after all the letters about priesthood, I believe the readers of a faith paper need to see a presentation of the various dogmas involved in this discussion, and particularly the vital relationship between the assembly and the leaders of that assembly.

Pope Pius XII, in his encyclical Mediator Dei (1947), states: "The rites and prayers of the Mass show... that the offering of the victim is made by the priest together with the people... Moreover, the prayers by which the divine Victim is offered to God are said, for the most part in the plural, and they more than once indicate that the people have a part in the sacrifice as being offerers of it." (Number 3851)

Vatican II, in the Dogmatic Constitution of the Church (1964), states: "Though they

differ from one another in essence and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless interrelated. Each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ." (Number 10)

"Incorporated into the Church baptism, the faithful are consecrated by the baptismal character to the exercise of the cult of the Christian religion... Taking part in the Eucharistic Sacrifice, which is the fount and apex of the whole Christian life, they offer the divine Victim to God, and offer themselves along with It. Thus, both by the act of oblation and through Holy Communion, all perform their proper part in this liturgical service, not, indeed all in the same way, but each in that way which is appropriate to himself." (Number 11)

Thus, either people without a priest, or priest with a people is a distortion of the solemn and authentic communal expression Eucharist.

Along with some explanation of Church doctrine on this particular matter, could be an open invitation to those interested in attending, the upcoming workshop sponsored by the diocesan Liturgy Office, "The Celebrating Community."

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207 S. Garfield St.
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Communists Pushing Drugs

Editor:

Father Paul J. Cuddy's column is a weekly "happy time" for many readers and I, for one, make haste to find it as soon as the Courier arrives.

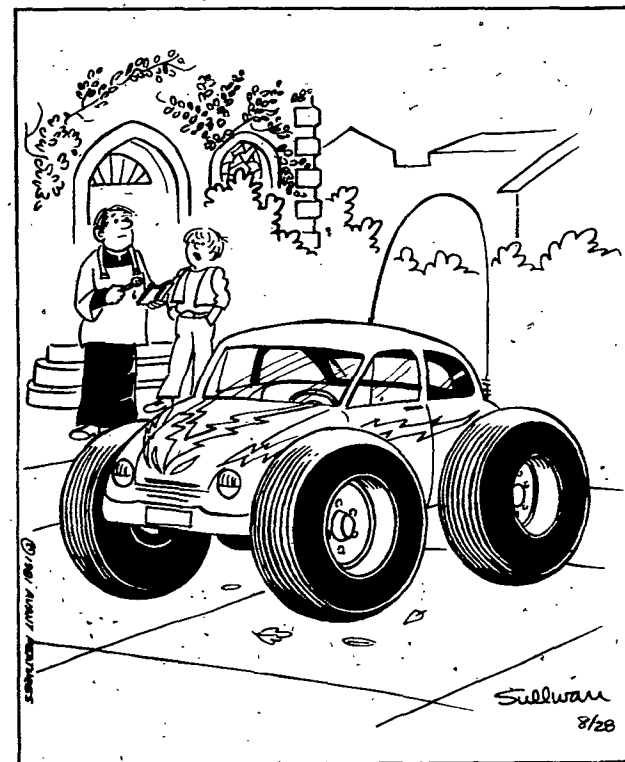
A few weeks ago, Father used a quotation from an old acquaintance of many years who had spent some time in Communist China. Father was obviously intent on proving a point which had no bearing on another part of the quotation. The source quoted expressed admiration for the ability of the Communist rulers of mainland China to stamp out the use of opium narcotics.

True, the use of narcotics was eradicated. A totalitarian state can crush the addicts, eliminating them along with domestic use.

As a famous broadcaster says, "Now let's hear the rest of the story!"

Domestic use was stopped but the cultivation of the opium poppy flourished.

A British Intelligence source, made public by Geoffrey Stewart-Smith,



"COULD YOU KIND OF LIKE LAY A LITTLE EXTRA BLESSING ON THE TIRES?"

member of Parliament, states, "The production of opium drugs for export on a global scale provides the Chinese with a valuable source of national income and a powerful weapon of subversion. The subversive aspects of the Chinese drug drive have three basic aims: to finance subversive activity abroad; to corrupt and weaken the people of the Free World, and to destroy the morale of U.S. servicemen in Southeast Asia."

In 1970, a report by the Narcotics Investigation Group of the U.S. Senate revealed that the Chinese Communists sold high-grade heroin (90-100 percent pure) in Vietnam. The price, only \$20 per ounce, compared with a U.S. price of \$4,000. Gen. Lewis Walt, USMC, is an excellent source of information based on his worldwide fact-finding trip.

Father Cuddy made mighty good points in his column which bore no relation to the foregoing subject.

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Too Much Structure?

Editor:

The headline of a front page in the Oct. 7 Courier declared, "The Church a Complex Structure." The article described an address by a canon lawyer who spoke of the complexity of the institutional Church to three diocesan committees who were gathered to define and discuss their own roles within the "structure."

I wonder... could this possibly be what the simple carpenter of Nazareth had in mind for us? How could He, who had no place to lay His head, found a Church in

which people devote their lives to interpreting rules and regulations, to forming committees, to running bazaars and bingo and building funds? He spoke to the powerless, to the poor and the persecuted and the oppressed... do we even hear His message in our stained glass surroundings as we tally up the week's collection and say our automatic "amens"?

Francis of Assisi, Teresa of Calcutta, Dorothy Day... a few of us respond and are dismissed as saints — for an entire community who senses that commitment to Jesus Christ should mean more than it does — a community of faith and simplicity with eyes to see and ears to hear.

Kathy DeMott
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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.