

Editorials

Pope Again Pleas: Curb Arms Race

Some harrowing facts from Vatican Radio:

"Out of 60 million people who die each year (in the world), it has been estimated that about 40 million, including 15 million children, owe their deaths to illnesses caused by malnutrition."

Think of that — two thirds of all the deaths in the world are related to hunger.

Furthermore, Vatican Radio cites United Nations figures which show that 500 million people, whom we figuratively call "our brothers and sisters," are suffering from hunger.

The report gets more distressing: "To save the lives of all those people in danger of death from malnutrition, it would suffice to have five percent of the money spent each year worldwide on armaments."

Don't go away, there's more:

"The sum of all the Food and Agriculture Organization's regular budget from 1945 (when the agency was established) to today equals 59 percent of the cost of a single nuclear submarine."

Please, read that again and consider it.

No wonder, Pope John Paul II in a message to FAO urged "action toward a new international order" to guarantee everyone's "fundamental right to nourish himself."

The Holy Father once again put the blame squarely on "excessive spending on armaments."

This he has often done.

But who will listen?

A Different Ear

While mankind in general, including even Roman Catholics, seems to ignore the pope's pleas for an end to the arms race, Archbishop John R. Quinn of San Francisco has directed his appeals to another source.

According to Religious News Service, the archbishop has joined church opposition to Reagan

administration efforts to step up production and deployment of nuclear weapons.

But he did so with unusual flair; he has invoked St. Francis of Assisi, his city's patron saint, to halt the nuclear arms race.

"For the people of our consumer and nuclear age, Francis is again a prophet of poverty and peace," the archbishop said, noting that this year marks the 800th anniversary of the saint.

"His Christian example reminds us of our critical need for a clear moral perspective on what is unquestionably one of the greatest life or death issues threatening us today: the weapons of nuclear power and our escalating race to produce them."

Saying he has reached the "inescapable conclusion that ... nuclear weapons and the arms race are essentially evil," Archbishop Quinn called on Catholics to write legislators in support of efforts to develop "creative proposals for converting military weapons technology to civilian production use."

He said Catholics should join the movement demanding a freeze on further development or deployment of nuclear weapons by the United States or the Soviet Union.

But who will listen? St. Francis perhaps.

and Opinions

Trust in Lord, Not Ourselves

Editor:

After reading many editorials, letters and a number of opinions concerning which religion is the "true" religion, etc., I've grown weary, including listening to myself. So I went to our Lord and asked Him. Matt. 7:7: Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you.

Here is my answer that I believe came from the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13, 14):

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member but many."

Thank you, Lord.

Also given to me was Eph. 4:31, 32.

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice, and be ye kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Praise the Lord!

After meditating on those scriptures — in my mind's eye I saw ole slewfoot, our oppressor, Satan himself, watching all this bickering and shouting, hate and division of Christians, thrilled with his victory. Because of our judging one another, we have lost sight of Jesus, our focus is on man! Forgive us, Lord! Eph. 2:14 says, "For He is our peace, who hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.

Oh, people, Satan has us just where he wants us, divided and not totally focused on our true foundation, Jesus Christ, who sets us free.

Remember Prov. 3:5, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding." Then go to your brother and sister, take their hands and read Eph. 3:16-21 together,

then get on your knees and PRAY and stand steadfast in the Lord all the days of your lives.

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Books: A Plus And a Minus

Editor:

Congratulations to Father Cuddy for criticizing so emphatically Andrew Greeley's "The Cardinal Sins." It is the first criticism of this nauseating book I have seen. Millions of people are reading it, judging by its having placed high on the best-seller lists for several weeks. Those millions are getting an entirely erroneous impression of our dedicated priests and bishops, leaving them exposed to possible scandal. How the author could so foully portray his fellow priests is unbelievable.

Morris West's "Clowns of God," on the other hand, leaves his readers with a warm pride in the Church's leaders. It portrays the forcibly abdicated pope as a courageous human being willing to fight for what he believes in. He felt he should tell of his vision that the Second Coming of Christ was imminent so the world could be prepared.

Morris West is to be praised for his distinguished work. As for Andrew Greeley, the only Christian thing to do is pray for this man with a supposedly brilliant mind but who has stooped so low.

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Getting Facts Straight

Editor:

We would like to make an important clarification and to correct an error in Father Paul Cuddy's column (CJ 10/21/81) entitled "Attacking Women Religious."

By way of clarification, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious is the organization which brings together the major superiors of women's religious congregations in the United States and is the group officially recognized by the Sacred Congregation of Religious. Official communications from the Sacred Congregation come to American women religious through LCWR.

To correct the error, Father Cuddy referred to Sisters who "although they do not follow traditional religious life, have a valid religious life ... for example our own Bethany House and Melita House communities." Although these houses were initially established and staffed by women religious, presently there are no Sisters at either of them. They are now operated entirely by Catholic Worker lay staff.

The InterCongregational Council: Congregational Administrations of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Mercy, and School Sisters of Notre Dame

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.

See The Joy Of Your Thanks Giving

First Annual Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal

Diocese of Rochester
November 1-30, 1981

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Invest To Find Your Life

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 25:14-30, (R1) Prv. 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31, (R2) 1 Thes. 5:1-6.

It has to be providential that the readings on this Sunday — designated by our bishop for his Annual Thanks Giving Appeal — are all about investments. They say loud and clear, "Invest, everyone, invest!"

Perhaps one of the most fascinating places to visit in New York City is the Stock Exchange, often called "Wall Street." It has a special visitors' gallery and guides who explain the workings of the Exchange. The "floor" of the Exchange is huge and can accommodate more than 1,000 members who are on their feet every day from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

On the front wall are two illuminated ticker tapes: one showing price changes of stocks on the "Big Board" (NYSE); the other for the second largest exchange, the American Exchange. On

one side is a tremendous board on which numbers flare; there, numbers "page" members telling them to go to their posts or to answer their telephones. The members seem to mull around, making finger signs to other members, jotting down things on bits of paper or in notebooks.

As one looks down on the scene from the visitors' gallery, one is engrossed in the excitement of it. One gets the feeling that this is where the action is. And indeed it is! The market controls in some way the heartbeat of America. To some degree, everyone is affected by "the market." This was dramatically demonstrated in 1929 when the market collapsed and the Depression followed.

Life revolves around investment; you might say investments are what life is all about.

The Sunday liturgy substantiates that. Two of the readings are about investing.

In Proverbs, a woman is praised for investing herself in her family; and, in the verses omitted between the

selected ones (16-18), she dabbled a bit in real estate and in marketing.

In the Gospel parable of the silver pieces, the two men who invested were commended; the one who did not was condemned. The message is that we cannot, we must not, sit on whatever God has blessed us with.

Some people God has endowed with great financial managerial abilities. Only by sharing these, as the leaders of the Bishop's Appeal are, will one be blessed. The Gospel put it this way, "If you try to save your life, you'll lose it; if, however, you 'lose' (invest) your life, you shall find it."

To all of us here in America, God has given much materially. Only by sharing will what we give be doubly returned. "Those who have will get more until they grow rich."

Truly, we all ought to be happy that our Bishop has offered us the opportunity to give him in the name of Christ something of our substance. Why do you think God has given us so much? Is it not that we might have much to give, the opportunity to give Him thanks by giving, so that He might continue to give to us still more. It is a law of the spiritual life that we must invest our "silver pieces" to get more silver pieces to invest. How truthful the words of Shakespeare: "One good deed dying tongueless slaughters a thousand others waiting upon it."