

**Editorials**

**The B1's Back**

Because President Reagan insists we need it, the B1 bomber is back in the news.

Old divisions over the necessity of this strategic warplane have already been renewed, pitting those who oppose any spending for armaments while human services are cut against those who seem to grasp almost indiscriminately at spending any amount on arms out of fear of the Soviet Union.

We advise calm deliberation of the issue, basing opinion on facts rather than emotion. May we remind all that both sides are more than capable of appealing to emotion rather than reason. Both sides will resort to distortion of figures to bolster their positions.

The Pentagon has already provided an example of this. It predicted that each B1 will cost \$280 million. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO), however, after a study, estimated that the cost will more likely be in the \$400 million range. The CBO included inflationary pressures in its reckoning and also some equipment that the Pentagon had left out in its figuring. If the CBO is correct, the B1 would be the most expensive warplane ever considered. The president obviously will have his work cut out for him in trying to convince Congress of its value.

Yes, the B1 has re-emerged as a controversy, much as it was during the previous administration when that president, not adverse to arms spending, did not think it worthy of the cost. Much will be written and spoken about the bomber. We urge everyone to get involved in the deliberation. The question is of paramount importance.

**Worker-Pope**

One of the reasons that Pope John Paul II's recent encyclical, "On Human Work," is such a valid and widely accepted document is that the pontiff himself has been a member of the working class.

This is not to say that a person with a purely intellectual or academic background could not have reached the same conclusions, but merely that the fact that the encyclical was written by a person who has known labor's callouses makes it more credible.

John Paul realizes this and as he develops his theme he often reminds his listeners that he once worked in a stone quarry and later in a chemical factory.

Recently, he told some 50,000 persons in St. Peter's Square that "work should not break up a family, but should instead unite it, help it to strengthen itself. Work must not be allowed to turn the family into a mere superficial encounter of human beings, into a transitory boarding house used only for eating and sleeping."

These words are as earthy as the realism they reveal. Somehow they leave one with the feeling that while others may share the sentiment, only someone who has been there could express the lesson so well.

And this amazing pope had more on the subject, again amplifying on the theme of his encyclical. He said it is "indispensable that the rights of the family be written into every work code, which should have man, rather than just production and profit, as its object."

That's a weighty thought, made even heavier by the fact that the speaker knows firsthand the problems of workers and their families.

**Caveat Emptor**

News item: A well-meaning group in Maine has learned that the Irish organization it had been aiding may be linked with terrorism. Lesson: This should serve as warning to good-hearted folk everywhere.

Such caution is particularly wise at this time of year when the spirit of giving descends on the land. Flimflammers, con artists, organizations with purely mercenary motives and others of that ilk know this better than anyone. They will be busy trying to separate people from their money.

We urge our readers to be on guard against this form

of stealing. Don't discuss personal finances with any stranger. Do not honor mail solicitations, even from religious organizations, unless they are familiar and honest.

Granted, we cannot know the reputation of all organizations seeking help. And without such knowledge it may be impossible to discern saints from sinners. A couple of tips, which, unfortunately do not apply in all cases: be wary if the request comes from an individual; think twice if the appeal is particularly melodramatic, using emotion to persuade.

As we said, no advice will cover all situations and we do not want to damage worthy charities.

Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of missions, offers some direct assistance. Anyone having any doubt about a solicitation, particularly in the mail, should contact his office for clarification. Write to Diocesan Missions Office, 123 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, or telephone (716) 454-2926.

**Sportsmanship**

We nominate the McQuaid Jesuit High School cross-country team and its coach, Bob Bradley, for any award given for inspiration.

The team won its first state championship recently. But it did so only because two runners, one from Corcoran High School in Syracuse, and the other the talented Grant Whitney of Penfield, strayed slightly from the course and were disqualified. If the Corcoran runner, who edged Whitney for first place, had not made a wrong turn (as did Whitney) on the snowy course with too few judges (Bradley's surmise), Corcoran would have won.

The McQuaid team met. The McQuaid team changed the inscription on the trophy to name Corcoran winner. Bradley sent it to that school.

"We keep only trophies that we win," the coach explained.

Such sportsmanship does McQuaid proud; it does the community proud; it does the rest of us bystanders in the human race proud.

**and Opinions**

**'Anonymous' Lacks Courage**

Editor:

Again, one week after my letter appeared in the Courier-Journal, I received a letter from the same anonymous "concerned" person. A 2 1/2-page letter with all sorts of biblical quotes and accusations about what we Catholics don't believe (example: Jesus Christ is Savior, rebirth and being saved only by the grace of God, etc., etc.).

I must repeat (and please bear with me, patient readers) for the (possible) sake of my anonymous concerned friend: it is so very obvious that neither you nor Keith Green know the Church (or people) you are so very "concerned" about.

Thank you, editor, for your comment on anonymous letters. I don't see how someone would bother to hand-write a 2 1/2-page letter and leave it anonymous. Not someone with the courage of his convictions, anyway.

Question for Mr.



"YOU MEAN ALL YOUR SMALL ST. CHRISTOPHER MEDALS FOR DASHBOARDS. COME FROM JAPAN OR GERMANY?"

Anonymous (alias "Sender of the Chronicles"): Is there any room for prayer and self-denial (as is the example of Christ) in your bible-quoting life? There is in ours. Muchly so.

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Editor's Note: We have advised readers in the past that opinions sent anonymously aren't worth the paper they're written on and certainly not worth the time to read.

**United Way Confusion**

Editor:

I respect Kathy Peters' confusion in deciding to donate to the United Way which channels money to Planned Parenthood (C.J. 11-4). It took me some time to realize that designating that one's donation not go to Planned Parenthood is not enough! Participating agencies in the United Way get a percentage of the total take. If you contribute to the United Way designating that your contribution is not to go to Planned Parenthood, your contribution may not go there BUT SOMEONE'S CONTRIBUTION WILL GO TO PLANNED PARENTHOOD. You are putting money into the pot, and as long as the pot is rich, each agency receives its cut. In other words, if you give to the United Way, there is no way that with your contribution you can diminish the sum Planned Parenthood will get; rather, you ensure that Planned Parenthood will get

its full percentage. This is indeed a hard saying, for there are many worthy agencies in the United Way.

When you obtain your receipt from the United Way designating against Planned Parenthood, you are one with the early Christians who obtained their "libelli" — their statements of having offered sacrifice — by offering to the pagan gods without really intending to deny Christianity. They saved their skins (and perhaps their opportunities for advancement) but they still gave scandal by doing much to further paganism. In the old days, many who had obtained libelli repented and went on to build up the Church. May the same grace be afforded those who agonize over United Way receipts. May their numbers increase!

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**Scripture And Church**

Editor:

There is an error in Father McManus' article about St. Irenaeus in your Nov. 4 issue. The statement is made that "The Church draws its teaching and the guarantee of its authenticity from the Scriptures." This may be what some Protestant groups believe but it is not Catholic teaching, which holds, on the contrary, that it is the Church which guarantees the authenticity of Scripture.

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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.