

**Editorials**

**CHD Appeal**

The hard-working and concerned Catholic worker figuratively scratched her head in wonderment at the generosity of people in the Rochester diocese.

"We know," she said, "that times are pretty bad. That inflation is hurting, that unemployment is high, but still they always come through."

The "they" in reference are the many diocesans who annually assist the Campaign for Human Development in its twin aims — to educate the general public on poverty and injustice in the United States and to raise money for self-help programs.

The drive was instituted by the bishops of the United States in 1970 to combat domestic poverty which today claims 29 million Americans. It has received impetus from two popes — Paul VI and John Paul II. Indeed, the motto for the drive has been provided by Paul VI: "If you want peace, work for justice."

John Paul II often has gone out of his way to stress his support for the drive. When he visited the United

States, he included a visit to CHD workers in Chicago on his hectic schedule. And when he was in Brazil, he reminded all Catholics that "only a socially just society, one that strives to be evermore just, has reason to exist. Only such a society has a future."

The pontiffs were both direct and unequivocal. Catholics have a duty to work against injustice and social maladies.

Most of us do not have the opportunities in our everyday lives to get into the field, so to speak, with uprolled sleeves and fearless phrases to help the oppressed. But the workers of the Campaign of Human Development do the job for the rest of us. We have the opportunity to participate through the annual appeal.

This year's drive assumes even greater importance than those in the past. The administration in Washington in cutting back on social services funds has predicted that the private sector will take up the slack, precisely through such drives as the CHD. We must do so or the impoverished will suffer further.

We should follow the directions of two popes; we should heed the advice of our own bishops; this year we must be alert to the sharper needs of the struggling.

Why? Because One even greater than all of these put together told us, "What you do for the least of my brethren, you do for me."

**Holiday Sense**

Holidays. Anyone who dives into them enthusiastically knows full well that the tension matches the spirit of the times. Noting this, Rochester Police Chief Delmar Leach cautions people to remember that this busy season not only increases traffic pressure but people pressure as well.

Knowing the problems firsthand, the chief has issued some holiday behavior modification tips. Kind of a common sense primer, to be sure, but nonetheless definitely apropos. Remember, he asks, to plan shopping trips well in advance; when walking, not to hide behind a pile of packages, and to cross streets only at crosswalks, and to keep alert in bad weather which causes traffic tie-ups and unsure footing.

In a more direct reminder to "over-enthusiastic party-goers," Leach reminds that alcohol slows reflexes and reduces visual acuity. Every drink reduces one's ability to act quickly or rationally. "Get a person in this condition behind the wheel of a car, add winter's poor visibility and inadequate traction and you multiply the chances of a tragic crash," he warns.

Educating drinkers against some popular misconceptions helps. Leach says that "black coffee, cold showers, fresh air or other folklore remedies don't help because time is the only answer — time for the body to dispose of the alcohol, up to several hours following several drinks."

**and Opinions**

**Attend Hearings**

Editor:

Catholic Charities urges parents, teenagers, educators, counselors, priests and Sisters to participate in the hearings being sponsored by the Coalition on Teenage Pregnancy, and particularly those being hosted by diocesan agencies.

These hearings offer all of us the opportunity to participate in talking about one of our community's most vexing social and health problems and to provide ideas to the coalition on how the problems of teen sexual activity and pregnancy can be better addressed. Witnesses will be given five minutes to make their statements.

Please sign up now by calling me (546 4894), James Maloney of Catholic Family Center (546 7220), Frank Staropoli of the Office of Family Life, (436 5450), or John Walker of the Office of Black Ministries (328 3210).

**Maurice J. Tierney**  
Director  
Catholic Charities  
50 Chestnut St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

**Offices Should Use Courier**

Editor:

I would like to commend the Office of Social Ministry for using the Courier-Journal for its forum for the publication of its monthly newsletter. I think it is a fine way to place before all the people of the diocese some very central issues.

I feel that the Courier-Journal should be used by the various diocesan offices instead of each of them publishing its own independent newsletter. I applaud this use of the Courier-Journal and hope more offices will use this means.

**Father Kevin P. Murphy**  
St. John the Evangelist Church  
549 Humboldt Street  
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

**Father Shamon Acknowledged**

Editor:

On behalf of all the readers, including myself, who are fearful of not having the proper words to say "thank you," I do say a heartfelt "thank you" for the weekly articles written by Father Shamon. As they have helped me, they must have helped many other Courier-Journal readers.

At the end of 1981 and the beginning of a new year, I say: "Keep up the good work, Father."

**Isobel McCarthy**  
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Elmira, N.Y. 14905

**Solid Advice From the Past**

Editor:

In spite of our present economic problems, the United States of America has still been truly blessed by God with the most bountiful heritage the world has ever known!

Let us for a moment meditate on the words of a great leader:

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have preserved these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own..."

"It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness. Now, therefore, in compliance with the request, and fully concurring in the views of the Senate, I do by this proclamation designate and set apart Thursday, the 30th

day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting, and prayer..." — Abraham Lincoln.

Could anyone today imagine the United States proclaiming a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer? Can this 118-year-old proclamation from one of our greatest presidents be considered outdated and irrelevant for America today, or might it possibly be an appropriate "slap in the face" in bringing us back to reality?

Perhaps there is a direct correlation between the gross increase in corruption, social ills, and moral decay of today, and the decline in church worship, Christian values, and the basic recognition of a real and loving God. The ruins of ancient Rome sadly reflect what happened to another mighty civilization, when it lost its national character, purpose, and need for God.

Let us humbly turn back, acknowledge, and give thanks to our God for the countless blessings and resources that He has bestowed on us. Let us once again become "one nation under God" as the Pledge of Allegiance states, and not forget where we as a nation came from and why we are so great.

Indeed, hard labor and back-breaking work are two of our most powerful trademarks, but where would we ever be without all our God-given natural resources?

Finally, let us not forget the example of a man, who, as president, could still humble himself before his nation to Almighty God — the ultimate source of all our greatness, and really give credit where credit was due.

**Michael McBride**  
81 Fillingham Drive  
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**Church Wasted Time on Strike**

Editor:

In recent weeks I have come across various news items on the efforts of the past several years to organize the workers at the J.P. Stevens Company. Substantial numbers of Catholic clergy and laity were involved in this, along with, presumably, Catholic funds. Although the

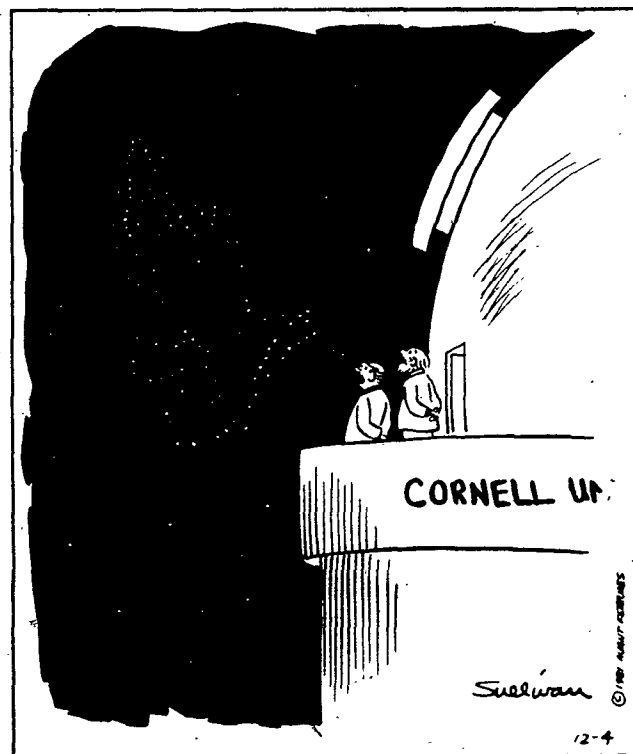
strike effort officially ended in October 1980, the matter has been in the news again in the past two months because of a worker vote taken at the Stevens plant in Rock Hill, S.C., on Aug. 28.

It is significant that since the strike ended, this plant was the only new unit at which the union felt it could call for a vote. The vote, as published in the National Catholic Register (9/20/81), was 433 to 299 against joining the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers. (National Review, 9/18/81, cited a 433 to 229 vote.) The plants thus far unionized apparently represent only a fraction of the Stevens work force, which has shown little interest in the union.

I opposed the Church's involvement with the strike, and this recent vote indicates that our involvement was a waste of time and money. More importantly, it had little to do with Christianity. In fact, the usually vicious methods that American unions use to compel worker participation are themselves contrary to the Christian ethic. I support the right of workers to organize, as does the Church, from the Pope on down. But a right to do something is not a universal commandment for all situations. — Any secular political application of morality requires judgment and discernment, and a recognition that power-hungry persons may exist on both sides of any issue. Even while endorsing workers' rights, the Pope himself has cautioned against union abuses and the politicization of unions.

It is clear, too, that the workers themselves were not enthusiastic about this strike, and that the driving force was a union move for power, coupled with considerable intellectual vanity among the lay and clerical allies. (I have been told that those American bishops who supported the strike were invited by the company to tour the plants and see the conditions for themselves, and that none accepted the invitation. Does the Courier-Journal know whether this is true?)

There is an increasing trend in some Church quarters to substitute poorly thought-out cause celebres for personal morality. The Stevens strike was one example, the Nestle's boycott another. This latter



"I'D LIKE TO HEAR WHAT CARL SAGAN HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS."

cause will probably turn out to be based as much on sand as was the Stevens business. If the Church really wants to reform institutions, it should do so by teaching personal morality and character to the individuals who make up all institutions.

**William M. Marceau**  
108 Rossiter Road  
Rochester, NY 14620

**Thankful For Support**

Editor:

Along with the World Series, the turning leaves, and the witchcraft time of late October, the 1981 election has also become history. While the memory is still fresh, I would like to thank the voters of the Town of Henrietta for electing me to the office of Town Justice.

It goes without saying that I will bring to the bench the same professional integrity and pride that I have tried to follow in 25 years as a Henrietta lawyer. I was nominated by the Republican party and ran as a Republican, but I wish to express my gratitude to the many good and sincere Democrats and Conservatives who gave me their public endorsement and their much appreciated support.

I will try to run a fair and efficient court and I will welcome any comments, suggestions or criticisms you may have that would improve our court system. I am deeply honored by your confidence.

**Joseph J. Marticelli**  
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Rochester, N.Y. 14694

**Letters to Page 16**

**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.

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