

More Opinions

From Page 13 Must Face Moral Issues

Editor:

I have just read the article about the Seneca Depot. I grew to admire Father Albert Shamon through the Cursillo movement as a very prayerful apostle of God. I feel sad that while he has a right to his own views, he is so uncharitable to the prophetic views of other Christians. Christians, who after much prayer and the guidance of three popes, have taken a stand against the nuclear arms race. It takes courage to stand up for human life — be it anti-arms race, anti-abortion or anti-capital punishment. They are the jobs of any person of God. They are not, as Father Shamon implied, leaving their calling and having liberty. Our only real liberty will come when all forms of anti-life are discontinued!

We love our country, but surely our faith and the morals it teaches comes first. Christian people from Paul to Francis to Bonhoeffer in Germany have dared to speak out against their governments on moral issues. As has our Church in Poland and El Salvador.

Perhaps my greatest sadness came from the statement that "high echelon" officials of his parish run the depot. There are high echelon members of parishes who are on the board of Planned Parenthood and some who are involved in organized crime. Should this be criteria for not defending human life? Will we ever learn the lessons of history?

We cannot stand back, Father Shamon, while our present administration cuts aid to the poor and elderly and adds funds to the immoral arms race. A few lost jobs in any community are no comparison to perhaps millions of lost lives from nuclear holocaust.

Three popes cannot be wrong!

Jean Premo
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Music Integral To Wedding

Editor:

The 1982 wedding supplement appearing in the February 3 Courier-Journal seemed complete in almost all aspects of the wedding day. However, the subject of music for the marriage ceremony was not discussed in any article: to my knowledge, it was not mentioned at all.

As an organist, I have received considerable first-hand experience with weddings; unfortunately, many of these experiences have been unfavorable. Every organist probably has at least one wedding "horror story." There are many instances in which the organist is misinformed about the details of the wedding, is given adverse conditions in which to play, and is poorly compensated. If there were more information given to the couple to be married and if there were better communication between the couple and the organist, many of these problems could be avoided.

The organist should be consulted with respect to the music chosen and the organ on which it is to be played. Some music can not be played on some organs, yet most people do not realize this. The organist must also be made aware of the format of the ceremony, especially if it is complex or if there is some variation from the typical ceremony. If the organist is a different denomination, this would present a problem.

I feel it is an insult to the skill of the organist if the payment for wedding music is less than \$25. Some churches have set wedding fees for their own organists and these usually range from \$35 to \$45. If the organist must travel to a distant church or must prepare specific music requested by the bride, a higher fee would be in order.

Few would argue that music is not an extremely important part of the wedding ceremony. Yet, it is seldom given the amount of attention commensurate with its importance. Whether it involves the organ, or some other instrument, it should be remembered that a person makes the music and that person deserves proper respect and consideration.

Thomas J. Donahue
72 South St.
Auburn, N.Y. 13021

The Plight Of Prisoners

Editor:

Your readers who saw the recent "60 Minutes" broadcast on Amnesty International may be interested to know that there is an opportunity to participate in this work of mercy in our diocese.

Within the International Justice and Peace Commission, the Human Rights task force works to introduce Amnesty International's Inter-Religious Urgent Action Network (IRUAN) into parishes, schools, colleges, religious communities, professional groups and prayer groups.

Currently there are more than a dozen such groups of lay people in addition to a group of 35 priests and some retired Sisters who agree to respond quickly, through letter writing, to the plight of prisoners all over the world who are in need of immediate medical care, are facing torture, have "disappeared" or are facing execution.

While it is vitally important to the prisoner concerned, the work of IRUAN requires only a minimum of structure and organization. Anyone wishing further information is invited to phone the International Justice and Peace Commission office at 328-6400.

Sylvia Thompson
Parish Service Coordinator
International Justice and
Peace Commission
750 Main Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14611

Devotion To Fatima

Editor:

So often we are confronted in person or in the press with the question, "Why have

devotion to Our Lady of Fatima?" Strictly speaking, we are not commanded to believe private revelation as such. On the other hand, in the case of Fatima, we might be overlooking and avoiding an apparition that is very much in tune with our present day events. Many today have the false impression that the Fatima events have long ago lost any real significance for themselves or the world at large. Perhaps now is the time, during these long winter months, for those who have faint recollections to reacquaint themselves with the fundamental facts of what actually happened to those little children in Portugal more than 60 years ago.

In his first audience, after the attempt on his life, the Holy Father remarked that the attempt on his life had taken place on the anniversary of the first apparitions of Our Lady Fatima and that throughout that entire day he experienced an extraordinary manner or sense of a special presence and protection of Our Lady.

These words of our present and those of past popes should lay to rest the controversy over the authenticity of these past events. Perhaps the Mother of God is trying to reawaken a sleeping world to the importance of her words spoken at Fatima.

Mrs. Robert Leahy
20 White Birch Circle
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

No Time For Paisley

Editor:

The Rev. Ian Paisley is an anti-Catholic rabble-rouser in his native Ulster. In the 18th century, a similar bigot appeared in England. He was Lord George Gordon. Angered when the British Parliament passed the first Catholic Relief Act in 1770 and frustrated by House of Commons refusal to accept his petition, he inflamed his followers to attack and murder Catholics and to destroy Catholic properties. From June 2 to 9, London was ravaged by Gordon's mobs. The king's troops end the rioting. Do we want Paisley to repeat his bigoted speeches and cause public disorders in our country?

John J. Overlander
201 Wimbledon Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Crucifix Above Law

Editor:

A most sincere thank you for printing and bringing us that prayerful letter on Jan. 27, titled "She Missed Crucifix." That outcry from a hurting heart spoke for many of us. Our Catholic Church should never be without a crucifix at any time — canonically required or not! Our crucified Lord means a lot more to us than just a Church law.

Thank you so very much again and may the crucified and suffering Christ in our Church today bless you richly in your good work.

Rose Wolf
181 Harwick Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Deaths

Sister Marie Bernadette Reidy, SSJ

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Marie Bernadette Reidy of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Motherhouse chapel Feb. 6. Sister Marie died Feb. 2, 1982, following a 21-year illness.

Msgr. William H. Shannon celebrated the rites. Father Peter T. Bayer was present.

Sister Marie was born in Elmira and entered the congregation from St. Mary's Parish there in 1928. She was a graduate of Arnot Ogden Hospital where she

earned her RN in 1918. She also graduated from Nazareth Normal School with a teacher's certificate in 1946.

Sister Marie's ministry included stints at the congregation's infirmary, St. Mary's Boys Home, St. Agnes Institute, St. Mary's School in Dansville, Holy Trinity School in Webster and several other institutions. She retired to the congregational infirmary in 1961.

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