

COURIER-JOURNAL

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The Seven Last Words



“
Woman,
behold
your son!
... Behold
your mother!”
”

Known as the “Seven Last Words,” the final utterances of Christ as He hung on the cross provide fit and interesting Lenten meditation. Each week during Lent, a different diocesan priest will discuss each of these “last words” in the Courier-Journal. The third writer of this special Lenten series is Father James Schwartz, director of the diocesan Ministry to Priests program.

By Father James Schwartz

As a hospital chaplain, I often had the experience that the last words of a person be extremely significant. A dying person often would share a message from his heart to the people who were closest to him.



Fr. Schwartz and John, the disciple whom He loved.

This certainly was true in the last words of Jesus. At the cross were two of His closest followers by blood and by faith — Mary, His mother,

In the act of dying, one can be excused for thinking about oneself. Yet the words of Jesus indicate the fullness of His love. Even as He is dying, He is anxious to provide for His mother and for John.

Jesus had given to John and the apostles His teachings, His time, His whole life. On the cross, He now gives John His own mother. Equally, He was concerned that His mother not be left alone. He asked John to take her to his home as an expression of his love for Him.

These words of Jesus indicate how His followers were to be in relationship with each other. Because of their relationship to Jesus, Mary and John

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200 Catechumens Move Closer to Communion

Nearly 200 persons who have taken instructions in the Catholic faith during the past year were formally presented to Bishop Matthew H. Clark last week in ceremonies both in Elmira and Rochester.

The event was the Rite of Election and was celebrated for the first time in the diocese as the new Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is being implemented here.

According to Sister Mary Ann Binsack, whose Office of Religious Education is responsible for the development, the rite signifies that “the primary instruction session is concluded and the catechumens are moving into the Lenten period of spiritual growth and enlightenment.”

The catechumens, she said, will be initiated into full communion with the Church during the Easter Vigil.

She said that in last week's events, 19 parishes were represented, with about 150 catechumens in Rochester and about 40 in the Southern



Marie Andrews of St. Charles Borromeo presented Bishop Matthew H. Clark with list of candidates from the Greece parish. In background is Father Robert Miller, Cathedral pastor.

The rites were celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira and at the Cathedral.



Guests pay tribute to catechumens at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Courier Garners 6 Press Awards

The Courier-Journal's year-long series “Focus on the Disabled” was awarded first place for Community Service for 1981 by the New York Press Association.

The award was one of six won by the Courier-Journal in the annual competition sponsored by the association which has a membership of 400 newspapers across New York State.

Photographer Terrance J. Brennan won third place for Best Sports Picture with his photo of a young boxer at the Aquinas Mission Bouts.

Brennan also was honored for Best Feature Photo for a picture of a gospel singer at the Martin Luther King celebration at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

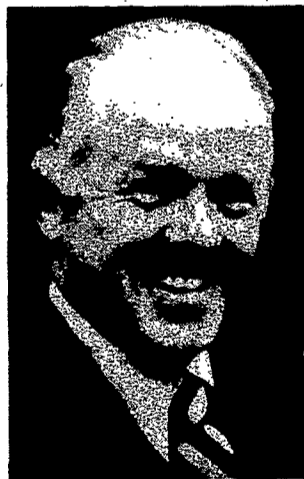
The Courier also won awards for Best Editorials, Best Front Page and Best Single Advertising Idea.

The judges, in announcing the Community Service Award, noted, “The extent of the commitment displayed by this year-long effort impels the reader to recognize both the needs and the achievements of the handicapped.”

Anthony J. Costello, publisher and general manager, said the award “was particularly pleasing because the series involved the participation of every employee of the newspaper and all can share in the honor.”

The Courier-Journal has fared well in the community service category, having been honored in the past for its annual Christmas Fund appeal and for raising funds to purchase water filters for an impoverished village in Brazil.

Editorials on capital punishment, casino gambling and Planned Parenthood brought the Courier its award in the Best Editorial competition. The Planned

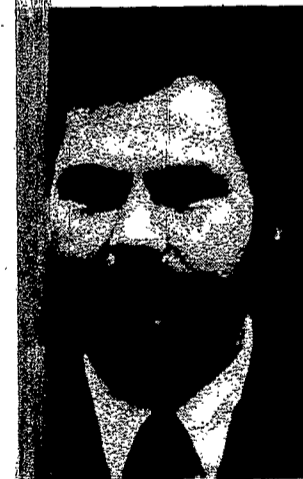


CARMEN J. VIGLUCCI
... editorial award

Parenthood editorial earlier won writer Carmen J. Viglucci an American Life Lobby award.

In the Best Front Page category, the Courier's award was given for its collage of headlines when Pope John Paul II was shot and for its full-color Christmas cover.

In the advertising portion of the awards, the Courier was honored for its bridal section and wedding guide.



TERRANCE J. BRENNAN
... photo awards

“It was gratifying to see our newspaper being singled out for these awards from an association composed mainly of secular newspapers,” Costello said.

“It was an honor for me to accept the awards on behalf of each and every person at the Courier-Journal. The honors reflect well on Catholic journalism in general and on the professionalism of our staff in particular,” Costello added.



Bernard Paley, president of the New York Press Association, presents the Community Service award to Courier-Journal publisher and general manager Anthony J. Costello for the paper's series “Focus on the Disabled.”