

Editorials

2 Great Saints: Their Lesson

Probably neither St. Joseph or St. Patrick would have believed during their lifetimes on this earth that a date many centuries later, the world would still be celebrating their existence.

And although history may be sketchy about their personalities, the impression is that they were startlingly different.

Joseph was a homebody. His trips, although historic to put it mildly, were few and far between and not really of prodigious distance.

As a carpenter, he probably worked at home and on homey things. A man devoted to family — the first family of history. He personally taught his craft to his son. Imagine them working together! Joseph's life, at once majestic and humble.

Contrast that with Patrick, who reputedly died 1,489 years ago this very year. A man who traveled afar before settling in the land of his greatest distinction — his beloved Ireland. An intellectual man of courage who spent six years as a slave and who, during that time, instead of bemoaning his plight, taught himself the Celt language and the details of Druidism both of which figure so strongly in his later accomplishments.

He escaped, deepened his knowledge and worked throughout Europe, but his dreams turned toward Ireland. Eventually he returned with homeric results.

Though the two men were remarkably unlike in external lifestyle and achievement, the fact remains that spiritually they were kin — both devoted to the same Lord, each working in his way for their common master.

There is lesson in that for modern day Catholics who, too, often seem disparate even to the point of mutual exclusion. We should concentrate on our common devotion and most of the rest will be extraneous.

Notes, Not Votes

It's hard to fathom. Maybe the community just hasn't been helping enough. Maybe not enough attention is being paid to the Easter Seal Society.

So maybe there is some rationale as to why a respectable community agency which uses the name of the holiest day of the Christian calendar should be joining with a radio station and a wine company in a promotion to name "Rochester's Favorite Bar." Sounds more like, however, the society did not think it all through.

To be clear, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with wine or radio, or with bars. And donation cannisters in bars, as public places, are another matter — using the Easter Seal Society to promote bars is questionable.

The promotion requires each person wishing to vote for a favorite bar to include a dollar with the ballot. How about anyone objecting to such shenanigans sending a dollar bill to Easter Seal Society, 55 St. Paul St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604, and include a note instead of a vote. A note saying thanks for the help for the handicapped but no thanks to promoting bars.

and Opinions

Cartoon Seen Offensive

Editor:

I cannot let the cartoon in the March 3 Catholic Courier go by without comment. It gives a totally negative and completely wrong picture of Marriage Encounter and it's not funny either. It wouldn't even be funny if it read counseling sessions instead of Marriage Encounter sessions as it probably should. What's the matter? Don't you like marriage and the family, or is it Marriage Encounter you don't like and wish to sabotage?

For 10 years, Marriage Encounter has had a positive effect on our lives, and has helped my husband and me raise our children to be sensitive and loving persons. It has deepened our relationship and our faith and done a tremendous amount of good for many people we know personally. You ought to be encouraging the movement and not putting it down. If you look into the truth about Marriage Encounter, I think you'll agree that an apology is in order.

Teresa Patti
47 Daley Blvd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Editor:

The cartoon that appeared in the March 3 edition of the Courier-Journal is extremely offensive to our Sacrament of Matrimony.

Would you print a cartoon as offensive to Holy Orders, Baptism, the Eucharist?

Why, why, why was this ever printed?

We believe in marriage!

Dick and Marcia Beck
4 Timber Lane
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Editor:

We are appalled and saddened with the humorless, in bad taste cartoon regarding marriage and Marriage Encounter in the March 3 edition.

We are surrounded by a society that mocks the sacramentality of marriage but must we be subjected to this also by our Catholic family newspaper?

To what new "lows" will we be inundated with next? What other sacraments will be ridiculed and insulted by a publication that we assumed

supported our Catholic values? Will the next sought after laugh defile our Sacraments of Holy Orders, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick?

The impression left by the cartoon is that Marriage Encounter breaks up marriages, when in truth, Marriage Encounter has been instrumental in bringing married couples to one another, to God and to His church.

Duncan and Elaine
Montgomery
80 Clarkes Crossing
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Editor:

We have just finished reading the March 3 Courier-Journal and must respond to the "cartoon" on Page 13 concerning Marriage Encounter. It was disturbing to say the least. This cartoon falsely depicts the goals of Marriage Encounter. Just recently there was an article about Marriage Encounter in the Democrat and Chronicle which also was detrimental in wording and purpose, but we expected that of the secular press. But then to find such a "cartoon" in our Catholic press, we were disappointed and appalled.

Marriage Encounter is a movement in, for and of the Catholic Church. Its purpose is to help renew the Catholic Church, the Catholic faith community through the strengthening of the marital relationship and the family. Marriage Encounter helps to promote greater love and intimacy between husband and wife.

Our disappointment comes from the fact that we can't even depend on our Catholic press to treat Marriage Encounter with respect and support...

The world is full of this type of tasteless humor, jokes, stories, headlines, so is it any wonder that in the face of neglect, lack of understanding and respect, that Catholics in general do not see their marriage as anything special? Isn't it somewhat of a paradox that we, as Church, would condemn, and in many cases,

sacrifice our lives to prevent wholesale desecration of the Eucharist; yet we allow, encourage, tolerate and tacitly approve of desecration to an equally holy sacrament?

Phil and Brockmyre
21 Hill Point Trail
Fairport, N.Y.

Editor's Note: Cartoonist Ed Sullivan wishes to assure Courier-Journal readers that he did not intend to disparage marriage or Marriage Encounter. "I meant the cartoon in an innocent way with no malice intended... I am usually careful not to offend anybody." Ed and his wife, Gerry, have been happily married for 12 years. The cartoon is syndicated in 35 Catholic newspapers.

Disappointed On Stand

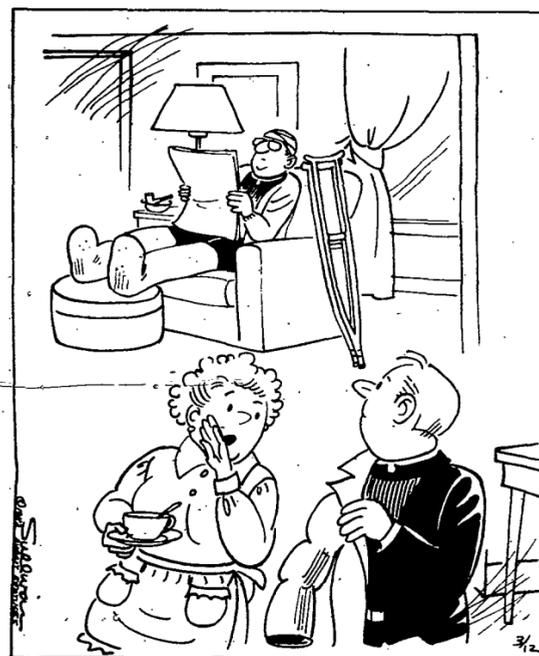
Editor:

After reading your article in the Courier regarding Reagan for his stand on San Salvador, I am disappointed with the Catholic Church. I thought the Church maintained the right of persons or nations to defend themselves against destruction. It seems the Church has changed its mind. Why?

Before Cuba was taken over by the communist regime headed by Castro, I remember the Church was for Castro. He was a big religious hero. That time the Church was wrong. Instead of the people earning freedom, they earned bondage under a different master. Were they better off? No, and they are worse off than before.

Now the Church is repeating the same mistake by rapping Reagan and upholding guerrilla warfare. These people have been agitated into revolting by communist infiltrators, who will aid and abet them, then take over the country for Russia.

Reagan is trying to keep San Salvador out of the Russian communist bloc, by aiding its government. Maybe it isn't the best government but, in my opinion, it would be better than being under communist rule. Does the Church want to see the Russians rule in San Salvador?



"THANKS BE TO GOD FOR THAT SKI TRIP...THE POOR MAN'S KNEES WILL GET A REST FOR AWHILE!"

We have a president who is trying to protect our freedom. Members of one of the largest churches are against letting him do his job as he sits fit. If we trust in God, shouldn't we trust our president?

There must be other ways for the Church to help the people of San Salvador without aiding and abetting communism. Do members of the Church want the United States under communism? Do they want Russian rule here?

If you were being attacked by a killer, would the Church blast anyone coming to your aid? Should a nation have the same prerogative?

Without our help San Salvador will be following the same suit as Cuba. I could never understand why our country tolerated a communist Cuba in the first place.

Helen B. Cunningham
Beaver Dams, N.Y.

A Verse Of the Times

Editor:

I submit the following with the hope that you see fit to publish it by St. Patrick's Day 1982. I'd like to dedicate it to all who think of the day of the patron saint of Ireland as merely a day to wear green and go to parties. It was written by a young man called Gerry who is a prisoner in the

infamous H-Block of Long Kesh in Northern Ireland.

We ask for equality.
You gave us oppression.
We asked for justice.
You gave us torture.
We asked for freedom.
You gave us slavery.
Did you not know
You were planting
the seeds of revolution?

We protested for equality.
You battered us.
We protested for justice.
You interned us.
We protested for freedom.
You murdered us.
Did you not know
You were strengthening
the revolution?

We rise then,
No more do we ask
or protest.

We fight.
We will remove
sectarianism
With our strength
and peace of mind.
We will destroy oppression
With our bombs.
We will smash slavery
With our guns.
Then we will reap
the benefits of equality,
justice and freedom.
For these are the glorious
fruits of revolution.

Let us all pray for peace with true justice on St. Patrick's Day 1982 so young people like Gerry no longer will be forced to write such caustic thoughts.

Dick Mullaney
39 Sunnyside Lane
North Chili, N.Y. 14514

Educational Programs On Hatch Amendment

March 14 — St. Mary's Ontario, 7:30 p.m.

March 21 — St. Mary of the Assumption, Scottsville, 3 to 5 p.m.

March 31 — St. Jerome's, East Rochester, 8 p.m.

Lenten Regulations

Today, Ash Wednesday, is a day of fast of abstinence from meat. Good Friday is the only other day of both fast and abstinence.

Other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

The fast is defined as one full meal a day, with two lighter meals. It is required of those 21-59 years of age.

The prohibition against meat on Fridays applies to those 14 years of age and older.

A Catholic should not lightly excuse himself from these practices.