

Editorials

Lenten Series

What has become known as the Seven Last Words of Christ on the cross has been the theme of the Courier-Journal's Lenten feature series which has appeared on Page 1 since Ash Wednesday.

As listed in the Maryknoll Catholic Dictionary, the seven last words, or phrases, are "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do; Amen, amen, I say to you, this day you shall be with me in paradise; Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother; My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?; I thirst; It is finished; Father, into your hands I commend my spirit."

Naturally, this newspaper hopes that its readers have enjoyed and benefited from the series. The seven priest-teachers have offered subjective insights into the seven last words as possible influences on our daily lives.

The Courier feels that there is reason for pride in this series, quite apart from the newspaper itself. At a time when the shortage of priests and the concomitant problems it causes occupies so much of our attention, and rightly so, it is something of a soothing balm to note that so much tender and intelligent guidance is still embodied among the corps of priests in the diocese.

It is somehow comforting to note that the priest-writers come from the far corners of the diocese — from Apalachin to Brockport; from central city Rochester to Piffard's Trappist Monastery; from

pastoral centers in Elmira and Geneva to such modern service as priests' ministry. And the perspectives offered on the final words as a man of our Savior were as widespread as the writers' locations.

The diocese and the Church in general may be going through a period of change these years — a kind of time when uncertainty and doubt may weigh against the expected deliverance. When the anxiety may sap the anticipated joy. When the mood itself may be Lenten. Thus, the wise and optimistic essays of our seven guest writers may be seen as symbolic of our Easter message, that there is indeed light amid the darkness.

The Courier-Journal, on behalf of its readers, thanks Fathers John Eudes Bamberger, Albert DelMonte, Benedict Ehmann, John Mulligan, John Philipps, Elmer Schmidt and James Schwartz.

and Opinions

'Daily Word' Heretical

Editor:

The February issue of Catholic Digest has two "highlighted" articles on cults. I bought a copy to see what it had to say about the Unity School of Christianity which has a worldwide membership of a million and is called the Queen of the Mail Order Cults. Sad to say, this cult was not even mentioned; it's sadder still, because the Unity School of C publishes "Daily Word," a monthly booklet subscribed to by thousands of Christians of all denominations including many Roman Catholics. These misguided people read the "beautiful, inspirational" tract which is sugar-coated heresy of the worst kind.

Unity jumps the Bible with Zend Avesta, teachings of Buddha, the Koran, Confucius, etc. They believe of the Trinity that the Father is Principal, the Son is the Principal revealed in the creative plan, the Holy Spirit is the executive power of both Father and Son carrying out the plan (Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, Unity School of Christianity, P. 629). They say: "God is not a person, having life, intelligence, love, powers, God is that invisible, intangible but very real something called life." (H. Emily Cady, Unity School of C, Lesson in Truth, 1925, P. 6).

They have ideas similar to Mary Baker Eddy's Christian Science regarding sin, sickness, pain, poverty, and old age. They also believe in Reincarnation as the only

reasonable solution to many insoluble problems that orthodox Christianity cannot solve and they even say the Bible supports this false doctrine in Mt. 16:17, 17:11, Jer. 9:2. Reincarnation is refuted most decisively by Jesus Christ's atonement since the doctrine of the atonement teaches that God, through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, has "purged" believers from all their sins (Heb. 1:3) and counted them righteous for the sake of His Son (II Cor. 5:21). Reincarnationists, on the other hand, claim that successive "rebirths" are the way of cleansing for the soul and so do away with the efficacy of the atonement and the very need itself of Christ's dying at all for the sins of the world.

I pray that anyone who has been receiving Daily Word will return it to the sender and pray to the Holy Spirit for guidance in these difficult days. The adversary has a long history of deceiving people and now he's working overtime because his time is short.

Mrs. Louise Aman 460 Hollywood Blvd. Webster, N.Y. 14580

Aquinas Action Deplored

Editor:

"Aquinas to Go Co-Ed." When I first read this, I was shocked. There is a lump in my throat and a strange feeling in the pit of my stomach. I graduated from the Aquinas Institute last year. I

keep close ties with the school because I am now a Basilian Associate, the first step in a long road to become a Basilian Father. I am very close to the Basilians, and I'm not sure yet on their own reactions, next to the principal, Father Joe Moffatt. But I cannot go along with ANYONE who agrees with destroying a tradition. By adding girls to Aquinas, Aquinas is no longer Aquinas. The all-male tradition has been deemed worthless by those who supported such a tragedy. It doesn't seem like things will go back to normal after four years either. That's because this "wonderful" plan also includes girls who were to be freshmen at St. Agnes next year. It seems strange that the board wants to keep together a group of girls who don't even know each other.

I firmly believe that all-male classes were valuable and beneficial because the teacher could get more done without having to deal with the boys impressing the girls and the girls impressing the boys. All-female classes are just as valuable.

And what about Nazareth, Aquinas' sister school? What are those girls to think? Will the Nazareth girls that are Aquinas cheerleaders keep their job or will they be replaced by St. Agnes girls? I wouldn't blame them for feeling betrayed because they have been betrayed.

Things will never be the same. I will never forget my years at Aquinas.

John B. Huber PO Box 40471 Rochester, N.Y. 14604

U.S. Policy Questioned

Editor:

Amnesty International, which has no axe to grind and is fully competent to judge human rights conditions in Central America, has reported to President Reagan that the pattern of "abduction, torture and murder" by the Salvadoran security forces prevails. In 1980, Archbishop Romero begged the United States to halt military assistance to the Salvadoran junta. The U.S. Catholic Conference, most mainline Protestant church groups and Jewish religious organizations also condemn the administration's human rights policies in Central and South America.

Nevertheless, the president is asking Congress for more military aid for the government forces in El Salvador

and has certified that the junta is making a "concerted" effort to protect human rights and has achieved "substantial control" over its security forces. On top of this, it is alleged, on good authority, that the president has authorized a CIA plan for subversive paramilitary activities in Nicaragua aimed at slowing aid to the Salvadoran revolution. The White House has denied this. The administration has admitted, however, that it is financing rightwing elements in Nicaragua. Where does the credibility rest?

One wonders whether the motive for our Central and South American policies, so vividly exemplified in El Salvador and Nicaragua today, is a paranoid anti-Soviet, anti-Cuba ideology (it cannot be honestly anti-communistic since we are wooing China which is far more "gard-line" and populous than the Soviet Union and its satellites) or whether it is to protect our multinational corporations from peoples' governments which might halt their greedy exploitation of the countries in which they operate.

Whatever the reason, these policies support the powerful and rich at the expense of the poor. They are not thwarting communism or the Soviet Union. On the contrary, they leave the field wide open for the Soviets and Cubans to become the champions of the poor and oppressed, a role which we should be playing.

If you believe the Reagan-Haig policies in Central America are counter-productive and morally wrong, we urge you to write your congressmen and senators and tell them so.

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret RR2 Naples, N.Y. 14512

Finds Phrase 'Disturbing'

Editor:

Father Bausch's abortion statement, "all the unborn who are never given a chance to live" is disturbing. Abortion has nothing to do with not having a chance to live but with the deliberate killing of already living human beings.

Differing from the affirmations of popes, bishops and the declaration on procured abortion that human life begins at conception, Father reflects the propaganda line (it's only a gob of tissue, not yet human)

Gabriel



We have come to expect from Planned Parenthood, National Organization for Women, American Civil Liberties Union and Catholics for Free Choice who run and disseminate pro-abortion, contraceptive and gay rights wall posters and hand out literature at the women's resource center while the CHD does its bookkeeping and funding with Catholic contributions.

Louis J. Pasqua 133 Exchange St. Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Editor's Note: In respect to Father Bausch, it must be pointed out that the phrase attributed to him in the above letter was taken out of context. He decried all anti-life activity and included the unborn. He also said, "I can proudly say that over 3,000 signatures were collected at St. Pat's at the time the Taylor-Brown Hospital abortion issue came to a head." Father Bausch is associate pastor at St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls.

LILAC Idea Applauded

Editor:

As a mother of a mentally retarded daughter, I am pleased and delighted with the fact that Catholic Charities is going to have a program for focusing on helping our disabled community. The name LILAC (Life in Institution, Loving and Caring) is very appropriate, for that is what is needed — compassionate continuing education and service to help those who cannot always help themselves.

Mrs. H. Michaloski Sr. 1741 Harris Road Penfield, N.Y. 14526

Needed: More Fr. O'Malleys

Editor:

BRAVO! Would that we had an abundance of Father O'Malleys!

Blessed are those fortunate to have and have had Father O'Malley as mentor.

Thanks to Editor Viglucci for thought-provoking reporting.

E. M. Lacey St. Bernard's Parish Scipio Center, N.Y.

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.



WE'VE GOT TO INSTILL SOME OLD FASHIONED VALUES