

Editorials

Our Deacons

Fitting it is that at this time of booming joy in the Church year, the first crop of permanent deacons is blossoming forth in our midst.

When these 24 men are ordained next Saturday, they will become the focal point of a truly historical moment in the history of the Rochester diocese.

Also as befits the Church eternal, the permanent diaconate, while in one sense shiny new, is equally an age-old institution — the tradition dating back to the earliest days of the Church. So when these modern apostles enter formal service within the Church they will be indeed following in the footsteps of those first disciples.

But the ordination augurs favorably in another vein. Obviously alive, well and flourishing is the Church that can produce such dedicated and devoted people, ready and willing to add long hours and serious work to their already busy schedule — most are family men with wives and children to provide for.

The director of the Permanent Deacon Program, Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi, has an apt phrase in describing the diaconate — a "street ministry." The essence of the work is serving people where they are and where their needs exist.

The joy of this first graduating class is further enhanced by the fact that the diocese will be annually blessed with further waves of such dedicated workers as the program is ongoing.

The glory is in the fact that everyone will be blessed by their presence and achievement in the years to come.

and Opinions

One Vote For Hatch

Editor:

There has been some unwarranted criticism of the Hatch Amendment, and I would like to make one small point in its favor. It doesn't matter what the final wording of the amendment is, as long as the heart of it is kept intact. That mandates that any state can legislate more restrictive measures than what is dictated on the federal level. There are around 40 states that would like to make restrictive abortion laws, but are locked in by the Supreme Court decision. The Hatch Amendment is the way out. If the Hatch Amendment ignores the "hard core" reasons it will force a lot of politicians off the fence who have been smugly saying that they favor liberal abortion laws for these same "hard core" issues. We can still work for the Human Life Bill and along the way save

hundreds of thousands of lives. I'm for it.

Tom Freeman
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Sibley's Ad Disappointing

Editor:

I was disappointed to read the Sibley's full-page advertisement in the March 24 issue. The emphasis was clear through the use of the word "status" and the non-word "status-y." To me, this presented a very un-Christ-like idea (that we should be concerned with status and self-image). I do not believe that advertisements which clearly emphasize these ideas have any place in our diocesan newspaper. I hope that in the future, your advertising department will display more sensitivity to the Christian community you're trying to serve, and the message of the Gospel.

This unfortunate advertisement, however, will make a pointed example to my Confirmation class about the obstacles we continually encounter as we try to move away from ourselves and the world and towards Jesus Christ.

Ralph A. Antonsen Jr.
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Choirs Deserve Mention

Editor:

A point of curiosity! From Mr. Dash's front-page article (March 31), Cathedral Mass Opens K. of C. Centennial, one would never have guessed that a specially-formed choir, under the direction of Mrs. Edward (Monica) Miller, and a handbell choir, under the direction of Mr. Thomas Grande, were integral parts of this liturgical celebration — much less present at the Mass. Even the post-Mass dinner at Sweet's Farm received a line of publicity, but these generous choir personnel who volunteered their services were not mentioned at all.

It was even more surprising since the choir was composed of K. of C. members (except for four), who were recruited from the area Councils (one member traveling from as far as Bath). Mrs. Miller's husband, Ed, has been a highly active knight for almost fifty years, having served in various capacities, among them Grand Knight for two terms and chairperson of the Oratorical Contest for seven years. Mrs. Miller herself, presently choir director at St. James, is a highly-respected musician, who has been in the forefront of diocesan musical events, liturgical and otherwise, for many years.

Mr. Grande's bell choir, from the Salem United Church of Christ, provided a unique musical contribution and an ecumenical touch to this special liturgy. I wonder how many in the congregation had ever heard one before? With the exception of St. Mary's (downtown), I don't know of any other Catholic Church in the diocese which is fortunate to have one.

I realize the focus of Mr. Dash's article was historical — perhaps the headline should have read differently. Lest you think this is "sour grapes," let me say that I was not a choir member, nor did I have anything to do with the event. But as a musical colleague of the directors, whom I know personally, I appreciate immensely the time, energy, hard work which go into the preparation for a festive occasion such as this. Without taking away from any of the many committees

involved in planning this 100th anniversary liturgy, I think the musical directors and their groups deserve a special commendation, along with Miss Judy Bowman, Cathedral organist, who rehearsed with and accompanied the vocal choir.

Sister Joseph Mary Zimmer, SSND
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United Way Advice

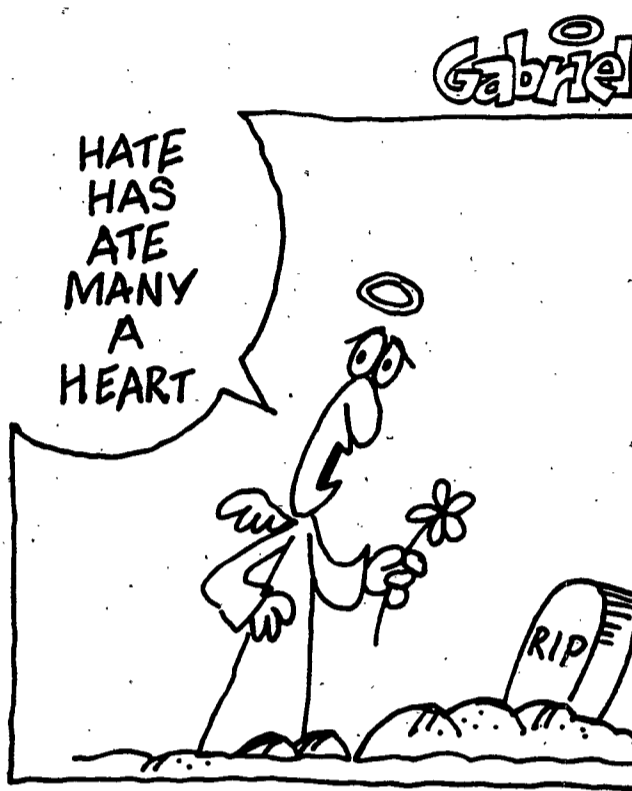
Editor:

Contributors to the United Way of Greater Rochester this year have an opportunity to exercise important options which were never before available to them.

It is now possible to let executives of United Way know how much we deplore the policies and programs of Planned Parenthood targeted for pre-teen and teen clients ... how much we deplore that organization's vicious full-page ads in the New York Times filled with specious half-lies and slick innuendo ... how much we deplore the callous greed of the professional physicians and nurses who benefit monetarily from abortion referrals ... how much we deplore the scurrilous anti-clerical and blasphemous publications emanating from the Rocky Mountain and Chicago-area Planned Parenthood organizations ... how much we deplore the tremendous spiritual, psychological and physical harm being done to pre-teens and teens who are unfortunate enough to avail themselves of the "services" of Planned Parenthood (free contraceptives, diaphragms, pills, abortion referral information, "loans" for abortions — all available without parental consent or knowledge).

Yes, these are harsh words — but the public has a right to know what is really going on. Planned Parenthood is an extremely well-financed international organization which operates in the U.S. with millions and millions of federal government and United Way dollars. It is also the No. 1 proponent of abortion on demand in this country, and has been permitted to inflict untold damage on young people in community after community across these United States. By way of example, the Washington, D.C., Planned Parenthood organization recently staged a "Condom Dance," using federal funds. In fairness, it should be noted that the Department of Health and Human Services did reprimand the organization for this unbelievably irresponsible event.

We should all respond as generously as our means allow to the United Way, especially this year since overall



community human service needs are much greater than ever before. We do not, however, have to remain silent any longer about organizations whose "services" are harmful to our young people and our community.

William F. Schmitz
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King's Site Disputed

Editor:

I congratulate John Dash for his comprehensive article "Irish Heritage: A New Pride" (C-J, March 17). The writer refers to "The Pale," an area around Dublin where a ceremonial king would preside over social administrative rituals of his office at the Ceili. I question the accuracy of this because, to my knowledge, Tara's Hall in County Meath, not The Pale in Dublin, was the residence of the Ardi-Ri or King.

Further, I wish to inform the Courier-Journal and its readers that another organization exists in metropolitan Rochester which is deeply involved in the cause for peace and justice in Ireland. That organization is the Irish Northern Aid Committee, Rochester, N.Y. Unit. It is an American-based nonprofit organization formed to aid the dependents of Irish political prisoners through An Cumann Cabrach in Dublin and Green Cross in Belfast. It highlights the colonial and sectarian nature of partition and the British occupation of Ireland as the inevitable reason for the present War of National Liberation and seeks support for a free 32-county Irish republic governed in accordance with the Proclamation of the Irish Republic on Easter, 1916.

Irish Northern Aid believes that the British control the six counties of North East Ireland

for the purpose of exploiting them as a colony. British rule is sustained by economic, political and social privileges conferred on one segment of the Irish people at the expense of another to artificially divide them from fellow Irishmen and from the natural aspiration for an independent Irish nation.

Further information on the group is available from me.

Dick Mullaney
President, Rochester Unit
Irish
Northern Aid Committee
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Kill Insects Naturally

Editor:

Insects are beset not only by viruses and bacteria but also by fungi, protozoa, microscopic worms and other beings from all that unseen world of minute life that by and large befriends mankind. The microbes include not only disease organisms but those that destroy waste matter, make soils fertile and enter into countless biological processes like fermentation and nitrification. Why should they not also aid us in the control of insects?

The first conclusive proof that an insect could be brought under control by introducing a disease into its environment came with the discovery of milky disease for the Japanese beetle, which is caused by the spore of a bacterium belonging to the genus Bacillus.

So when you have an insect problem, look around for a safe, non-chemical method of control. There are many kinds available.

Mary Rita Crowe
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"I'M SURPRISED YOUR PREDECESSOR DIDN'T TELL YOU. THIS HAPPENS EVERY YEAR AT INCOME TAX TIME."

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 S., 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.