

Editorials

Let Freedom Replace Fear

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, in his statement last week deploring nuclear armament, spoke of civilization existing in a "locked room," similar to that place where the apostles hid after the crucifixion of Christ. The "fear-filled atmosphere" binding us, the bishop said, is that of nuclear stockpiling and the possibility of nuclear destruction.

Only God knows what subconscious effects this fear of nuclear holocaust has, not only on the world but on each of us as individuals. How many of our decisions are subtly nudged by the potential of destruction hovering over us at every instant, awake and sleeping? How many young people in making decisions affecting their futures, their careers, their relations to family ideals, must consider that long-range plans might be erased along with their environment?

The thief in the night has been multiplied a billion-fold and has become the agent of man, rather than of God.

Recently, a priest, and not a liberal, suggested that the Church should seriously consider the fact that the subliminal fear of nuclear holocaust may be so unsettling as to be a psychological reason for the annulment of marriages.

Who has proven otherwise? Why couldn't such psychological deviations be possible in a world which must live with the looming possibility of "the death of two, four or ten million civilians as an acceptable number of casualties," as Bishop Clark pointed out in his statement.

The nations, including our own, which fuel and support with prodigious amounts of money the nuclear arms race, have not set up parallel social or psychological studies of the effects of the nuclear buildup — not even speaking of the horror of nuclear warfare itself.

Who knows what fortuitous effect we may realize if it were to be announced and assured that the nuclear arms race is over; that the stockpiling would cease; that existing nuclear arms would be reduced toward zero?

Who could guess what happiness would be unfolded in the hearts of men? Who could tell what brotherhood might be evinced? Who could guess how close we have moved to the will of the Prince of Peace and what rewards he might consequently shower upon us?

Bishop Clark reminded us that "the Spirit filling the hearts of the first disciples is the same Spirit that enters and enflames our hearts. The work of the Spirit is peace."

But first we must open ourselves to the Spirit through prayer for guidance. We must replace worldly hard-nosing with reasonable and responsible supplication to the Spirit of peace.

and Opinions

Alternatives To Jails Needed

Editor:

Last November, the voters of New York State sent a message to Albany that we do not want our tax dollars spent on building larger jails to be used for the incarceration of state residents. Just voting down a proposal wasn't sufficient. The voters and taxpayers had to follow up on the issue.

The place to spend our money is right here in this community. If we can't build sound character and moral principles in our youngsters, we haven't any right to expect prison bars to do the job. It is costing state taxpayers \$38,000 to keep a child in reform school per year when foster care providers are paid less than a kennel fee for the very same job on a volunteer basis. Children need families and communities, not institutions and bureaucratic keepers who experiment with behavioral problems as with chemicals and products.

The horror stories that come out of reform schools would make the angels weep.

The place to stop the incarceration of the disadvantaged is right here in this community. Volunteers are needed to raise funds to provide a swimming pool for the kids at Industry, Rush. There is always a need for volunteer foster care

providers. Prevention is much cheaper than incarceration. The first time a kid gets into trouble with the law, every resource in this community should be tried before incarceration is even considered. Serving on the boards of local agencies can be more effective than throwing more tax dollars at an unworkable penal system. Encouraging local industry to donate resources to kids looking for work and experience is better than building new jails and reform schools.

The Junior League of Rochester celebrated its 50th anniversary by donating \$25,000 to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Monroe County's foster children to ensure the implementation of Family Court orders. Another \$20,000 went to a program for young people convicted of misdemeanors. This was money the membership earned. Changing the Industry board and adding women in a larger number will show the woman's touch can be very rewarding to any program that deals with children and crime.

Alternatives to incarceration must be tried and given time to work before we drag religion into a political hassle. These problems are not black and white. Nor are they as simple as spending more money to build new jails. Trust in God, trust in ourselves. If we value human life, our social problems will work themselves out, in time, right here in this community.

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U.S. Wrong On Argentina

Editor:

I resent the fact that the United States has chosen sides in the British-Argentine conflict. I see no reason to support England either with economic sanctions against Argentina or with "logistic" materials for the British forces. President Reagan's and Secretary of State Haig's announcements of U.S. support for the British probably ensure that Argentina and the majority of South/Central American countries will look to Russia for future security. I wonder if the Reagan decision was deliberately taken in order to force a confrontation with Russia. At best, it is doubtful that any of our Latin American neighbors will ever trust us again.

The British claim to the Malvinas is questionable because the Monroe Doctrine in 1823 forbade any Old World power to absorb terrain in the New World. England seized this area in 1833, 10 years after the declaration of the Monroe Doctrine. Further, the Reagan administration would have us believe that the U.S. has a responsibility to England because of the terms of NATO. Inasmuch as the Malvinas are 8,000 miles southwest of NATO jurisdiction, the U.S. has no responsibility to British interests there.

In my opinion, England is not to be trusted as an ally. English mortars were captured from the North Koreans during the Korean conflict. England violated our Cuban blockade, and the second largest merchant fleet in North Vietnam ports during the Vietnam War was British. With friends like England who need enemies?

Some British and American officials state that the Malvinas situation is a struggle between the "democratic" British and the totalitarian Argentines. History proves that all nations occupied by the Crown's forces have suffered the agony of the English jackboot. People in India, Zimbabwe, Israel/Palestine and Ireland can attest to Anglo-totalitarianism.

It is my considered opinion that it would have been prudent to the security of the United States to maintain strict neutrality between England and Argentina. To side with England is shameful and particularly insulting to Irish Americans who know and resent the long sordid history of British oppression in Ireland and elsewhere. We remember the perfidy of England in its dealings with the United States. We remember the numerous times that the "Brits" have taken advantage of the ignorance and good nature of Americans.

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Graduation: Drive Soberly

Editor:

The number of people killed annually in this country in accidents involving alcohol is estimated at a staggering 26,000; and an even more staggering 750,000 suffer significant injuries in such accidents.

Here in Monroe County, we suffer our share from such carnage. Unlike other epidemics, this one strikes primarily the young and the healthy. Also, unlike other epidemics, it reaches its peak in the summertime, in particular around this time of high school graduation.

The Monroe County Board of Health Advisory Council for the Prevention of Vehicular Fatalities is commencing its second campaign directed primarily at high school seniors and young people in general. A group of over 40 volunteer citizen and governmental members, the council is activating a program which will involve the use of donated billboards, letters to high school principals and school board presidents, TV and radio spots, the continuing presentations to high schools by members of the Medical Examiner's office, and a variety of other activities, including pass-outs by the Retail Gasoline Dealers Association, Wegmans grocery bag message regarding drinking and driving, and the annual motorcade by the RAID organization which was held on May 23.

Monroe County is becoming known for being tough on drivers who drink. The community is no longer willing to look the other way — arrests are being made, convictions obtained, and many people are serving consecutive weekend sentences. More importantly, the mood is changing. Drinking



"MOM AN' DAD HAVE BEEN FIGHTING ABOUT MOM TAKING PART IN THE LOCAL PEACE MARCH."

and driving is no longer the "in" thing to do, and is increasingly disapproved of by the public. I believe the press and public media can share in the credit for this.

Because of this, there is reason to believe that we are seeing fewer traffic deaths and injuries in Monroe County; but we still have a long way to go.

Once again, it is time to think of graduation time, with its parties and celebrations. Let's all work to try and make this graduation time indeed a time for maturity.

Gerald L. Glaser, M.D.
Chairman, Advisory Council
For Prevention of Vehicular
Fatalities Monroe County
Board of Health

Priests Inspirational

Editor:

Although a copy of the story from the Courier-Journal of April 28 did not reach me until recently, the reading thereof brought to mind many pleasant associations and renewed qualities of inspiration, initiated for me many, many days before yesterday.

Your account remarkably detailed the accomplishments of the 11 pastors who are retiring this year from their administrative posts in the Diocese of Rochester.

With one exception, the men so featured were senior to us when we came upon the scene at St. Bernard's in 1935.

Plebes, endowed at best with the rank of "non-descript," we were soon in pursuit of nothing else other

than the perfection that was essential to the performance expected of us by the gentle and benign rector, Monsignor Goggin.

Essential to our quest, and certainly consciously unknown to them, was the encouraging influence exerted upon us by the men of Bernard's who directly preceded us.

Particularly and individually did the men portrayed in your article show us the way, as unassumingly and yet most effectively, their daily life style became our purposed pattern.

Your compilation of their individual assignments and accomplishments leaves challenging wonderment: Collectively, where did these 11 priests of Jesus Christ not go in the fulfillment of their apostolates? What better appeal could there be formulated on behalf of vocations to the priesthood than their evidenced documentation of lives that have been run so well.

Presuming upon the conferral of an official imprimatur by our class spokesman, Father Jim Slattery, I happily concede that we of the class of '41 would never have attained our "greatness" had we not had the benefit of being associated with those priests whom you have presented as being so deserving of our respectful admiration.

By and in their lives, St. Bernard's of Rochester will ever live!

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Gabriele

BE LIKE THE BEE- IT DOESN'T GET ITS HONOR BECAUSE IT LABORS-BUT BECAUSE IT LABORS FOR OTHERS!

