

More Opinions

Continued from Page 13

Mother Teresa, Mary as Models

Editor:

At a time when the role of women is being questioned in society, it is also under attack in our Church. It is for that reason that Bishop Clark's Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church offers a perfect opportunity to reaffirm our roles. It must be instrumental in helping us to accept ourselves as God created us and to understand that the quality of our service to Him — and therefore, our "worth" — is in no way related to or dependent on a title or a position of power.

Surely the most valuable sections of the letter are Section I on Mary, Our Mother and Model, and Section IV on the Spirituality of Women. The messages are the same as they have been since the beginning of the Church. Mary must continue to be our model of perfect holiness, which is so beautifully described in No. 46. Certainly, she was "thoroughly possessed by God" and "belonged to Him through every fiber of her heart and soul and strength." As the bishop points out, "the holiness of God's people is not a matter of organization, title, publicity, or function."

When women in their homes (No. 51) must be reminded that they "need to be confident of their spirituality," we are saddened by the fact that such an idea should even be made an issue by a few discontented women. To say that the Church has discriminated against women and has not accepted them as "human persons" is to deny the sainthood of its holiest daughters. To say that the Church is "ruled" by men is to deny the influence of the Holy Spirit throughout the ages.

It is difficult for some women to understand the meaning of the passage (Galatians 3:28), "For you are all 'one' in Christ Jesus" (No. 41) when they try to interpret it from a secular rather than a spiritual viewpoint.

I can't help thinking that

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.

their leadership would be much more effective if, instead of marching for their "rights," they would lead our young people down the Main Street of America while saying the Rosary. Also, while I am searching my soul for my guilt for the "sin" of prejudice (or sexism), I would hope that others would come to grips with the sin of pride!

In the meantime, we women — and particularly the young ones — must be inspired to follow the example of our modern-day saint, Mother Teresa, who has completely submitted herself to Jesus Christ and the Divine Will of His Father. It is a well-known fact that the level of a society depends on the morality of its women. I am also convinced that the spirituality of the Church depends on the holiness of its women. We must use The Fire in the Thornbush to get back to the business of sanctifying the Church. Further dialogue and discussion are not necessary.

Mary L. Greisen
6283 Pittsford-Palmyra Rd.
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

Activist Bandwagon

Editor:

Catholic activists seem to be stumbling all over themselves in their scramble to be "firstest with the mostest" on the bandwagon and puffery and righteousness.

The anti-nuclear activists are the most palpably pathetic because of their inability to bury their heads in the sand as deeply as they would like.

They have prostituted a noble thought — freedom from fear of fireballs — into a demand for unilateral emasculation. Why do these activists always demonstrate at our government offices? Why not the Soviet Embassy, just for some variety? Or better yet, at the embassy of perhaps the greatest threat: some tinhorn dictatorship which is, all of a sudden, buying carloads of uranium ore?

But no. While in sackcloth and ashes, this kind of activist chastens his own government only and demands that the president, umbrella in hand, do his very best Neville Chamberlain impression (we all remember how Neville snookered Adolf Hitler at Munich and prevented another World War).

Who doesn't shiver at the thought of nuclear murder? But the solution requires universal nuclear disarmament, not just the United States carrying the olive branch into the maelstrom. So if you are going to invoke Jesus' words to condemn nuclear weapons, don't twist those words around to make His words sound as though it is "OK" to cave in and commit suicide.

But the Catholic activists who unanimously win the Cop-Out-of-the-Year Award are those who love to wring their hands and gnash their teeth over "Reaganomics."

At the risk of being flip-pant, nowhere in the Gospels do I find Christ requiring His followers to make sure that Medicaid, Medicare, Public Assistance, ADC, Social

Security, and other entitlement programs are implemented and sustained by the federal government.

Christ demanded that you — YOU — tend to the poor, the infirm, the hopeless, if you want to be His follower. It is the ultimate cop-out for a Christian to feel that, because he pays taxes, the government can then fulfill the taxpayers' Christian obligations. That is your basic Pontius Pilate approach to Christianity: pay someone else to do your duty so you can wash your hands of it. Christ did not discharge these obligations to governments, but to His followers.

So, Christians, take on the challenge and take up the slack of budget cuts; skip the "woe is me" mentality, quit grousing about the cuts and get off your sanctimonious duffs and go out and personally help your brothers and sisters as Jesus insisted.

Stephen J. Fesh Jr.
209 West Ave.
Elmira, N.Y. 14904

Obligations Take Priority

Editor:

Recently (C-J 5/26/82) you published a letter from an Aquinas student who was pleased with his experience on a Jeremiah retreat, but was unhappy that we at Aquinas made him spend some time after school for a number of days to make up for part of the school time missed. He thought it was an unjust punishment.

We would like to respond that we think it is good educational practice to provide structured make-up time for school days missed for retreats, family vacations and any number of other good reasons. A person's responsibilities are not diminished because another good action is chosen. While the student considered it a punishment, we believe that his obligations are not excused simply because he does not yet see their importance.

From another point of view, there are enough choices to be made in life without creating extra crises. We would encourage diocesan authorities to choose some of the 185 non-school days each year to schedule these retreats rather than the 180 days that the state says should be set aside for school. Intellectual and spiritual development are both important, but encouraging students to miss school is definitely not the answer. What difference will two days make? I can only ask, "How about three days, or four, or five...?"

Father Richard Ranalletti, CSB
Assistant Principal
Aquinas Institute
1127 Dewey Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14613

Diocese Should Defend Unborn

Editor:

While I am in total agreement with Bishop Clark's advocacy of everyone being concerned with the threats of nuclear war, I would find it equally appropriate for a similar media presentation of the widespread destruction of human life which occurs daily in our own country through abortion.

More than 1.5 million children are killed through abortions in the United States yearly.

How can we expect people who feel so threatened by their own children that they would kill them in order to maintain their quality of life to be mindful of the destruction possible against would-be aggressors from a foreign land?

As Albert Schweitzer said, once man loses respect of any part of life he will soon lose his respect for all of life.

It's time the diocese spoke up loudly and proudly as a defender of our most innocent of human life — the unborn.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Finucane, RN
4845 S. Main St.
Hemlock, N.Y. 14466

King James Too Confusing

Editor:

I read with interest Mrs. Pauline Chayka's letter (C-J 5/26/82) entitled "Bible Always Relevant."

I agree with Mrs. Chayka that the Bible is relevant for all ages. I was disappointed, however, that she chose to quote biblical passages from the King James version of Scripture, a text translated into a form of English that is today highly irrelevant and burdensome. I needed to refer to the New American Bible to understand the passages she cited.

It is difficult enough for a reader to translate ancient biblical concepts into modern thought; one needs at least a minimal understanding of the history and philosophy surrounding each individual

book. Why compound this difficulty by presenting Scripture in English from four centuries past?

If we as a Catholic people are to learn the beauty and power of the Scriptures, we must begin by reading them in

Hicks
Home Heating Inc.
HEATING-COOLING
424-4848 271-4650

DISABLED!
A RECORDED MESSAGE
RIGHT TO SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY BENEFITS, CALL ANY TIME
546-7314
KENNETH B. MASON ATTORNEY AT LAW

LARGE SELECTION OF NEW ORIENTAL RUGS NOW AVAILABLE
Wanted USED ORIENTAL RUGS
WE OFFER EXPERT CLEANING REPAIRING APPRAISING
175 NORRIS DRIVE
275-9250
ARSEN SOLICKIAN
DEALER & COUNSELOR IN ORIENTAL RUGS

BAKER LIGHTNING PROTECTION
BAKER-protected homes, barns, schools, factories, motels, churches enjoy positive protection. No Baker-protected building has ever been damaged by lightning. Every job carries ULPA Certification.
Phone Bob or Jim Baker or write for full details.
BAKER LIGHTNING PROTECTION
Webster, N.Y. 14580 716/872-4008 SINCE 1919

FUNERAL DIRECTORS
THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDEALS OF THEIR FAITH CAN RELY UPON THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS LISTED TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES WITH SYMPATHETIC CARE AND ATTENTION.

ROCHESTER Ashton-Smith Funeral Home Inc. 1210-1218 Culver Road Rochester, NY 14609 (716) 482-6260	PENFIELD Nulton Funeral Home Malcolm M. Nulton 1704 Penfield Road Penfield, NY 14526 (716) 381-3900	IRONDEQUOIT May Funeral Home (Formerly Miller Bros.) George L. May Jr. 2793 Culver Rd. (716) 467-7957
ROCHESTER Corbett Funeral Home, Inc. Roger G. Blakeslee 109 West Avenue Rochester, NY 14611 (716) 235-2000	GREECE Younglove-Smith Funeral Home 1511 Dewey Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14615 (716) 458-6200	ROCHESTER Edward H. Dreier Funeral Home Edward H. Dreier 1717 Portland Avenue Rochester, NY 14617 (716) 342-8500
ROCHESTER Crawford Funeral Home Inc. R. Kenneth and David P. Crawford 495 N. Winton Road Rochester, NY 14610 (716) 482-0400	GREECE Vay and Schleich Funeral Home Inc. "Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities" 2692 Dewey Avenue Greece, NY 14616 (716) 683-5827	ROCHESTER Schwanen Funeral Home Inc. Edwin Schwanen John Michael 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, NY 14621 (716) 342-3400
ROCHESTER Younglove-Smith Funeral Home 1511 Dewey Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14615 458-6200	GREECE Thurston Funeral Home 2636 Ridgeway Avenue Greece, NY 14615 (716) 227-2700 John L. Lioi William Pomeroy Cass II	ROCHESTER Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc. 570 Kings Highway South (corner Tillis) (716) 544-2041

Stella G... Ann's... special... Michelle... The rec... Volunte... hours of... volunteer... hours.

Fr. Lo... Hohm...

The Ope...

Criti... Caus... Wou...

Dear Fat...

My 10... just retu... Mass at... After hav... altar for... service, i... hour East... he still f... serve the... He really... altar. So... through... today in... priest who... were serv... criticized... after Ma... here, of c... and his br... been in th... and for th... have seen... while on t... front of th... demoraliz... experience... whom we... to love th... priests... experience... time in the... start to thi... — when... with the m... could real... ference in... decide on... God, or... adhere to th...

Is there... priests sens...

Dear J.L.J.

I hope t... seen by the... in mind as... who hav... maintain... equanimity... faults and... boys.