

**Editorials**

**Sidestepers**

Many Catholics who frequently and loudly proclaim themselves as "strict constructionists" of papal pronouncements somehow seem able to ignore the more frequently voiced pleas of pope after pope on the necessity of disarmament and the quest for world peace.

Our Holy Father, who himself has lived under the yoke of oppression, most recently reiterated his disavowal of armament and his malaise at the present set of worldly conflicts to President Reagan and thus to all of us Americans.

He repeated his condemnation of all forms of war, nuclear and conventional, and said the United States could play a key role in promoting world peace. In the

same spirit as his predecessor, Paul VI, he proclaimed that world peace "is my own greatest preoccupation."

Throughout his visit to Great Britain, despite the delicacy of his principal mission — ecumenical reconciliation — the pontiff over and over announced his displeasure with the South Atlantic war. His persistence in addressing the subject, which could have ruffled a few British feathers, reflects his depth of feeling on the subject.

He repeated such sentiment to President Reagan, not only about the Falkland Islands conflict but also about Iran-Iraq and the Lebanon invasion.

"The scale and terror of modern warfare, whether nuclear or not, make it totally unacceptable as a means of settling differences between nations."

Peace is the Holy Father's number one priority. His opposition to nuclear armament is well-documented. There is no room for quibbling, for nitpicking, for

hypocrisy. Those who drag out papal quotes from every nook and cranny to support positions less important to the pontiff should reflect seriously on such practice if they are carefully ignoring his own paramount interest.

Those who regard the pope's every utterance as of magisterial magnitude must logically conclude that his much more frequently stressed teachings on disarmament and peace must have special meaning.

Why then do we tend to sidestep such persuasion? Why do we rationalize the need for nuclear stockpiling? How can we fund nuclear submarines and bombers? Why do we ridicule an archbishop who is trying to respond to his pope's urgings?

When reflecting on the body of the Church many of us still count the toes and fingers, split the hairs, and concentrate on the pimples while the ignoring the heart and soul of the message from the Prince of Peace.

**and Opinions**

**Sisters Back Bishop**

Editor:

The Sisters Council of the Diocese of Rochester commends Bishop Clark for his statement on peace. He is one of many Roman Catholic bishops and religious leaders who have expressed concern about the arms race and nuclear weapons. We are proud of his leadership in this cause, and heed his direction to "make a commitment to these three steps: prayer, education and peace."

Voices calling for peace and a halt to the nuclear arms race are being raised in all corners of our diocese. People from all walks of life and representing all religious persuasions are joining in solidarity on these issues. We support Bishop Clark and all of our brothers and sisters and join them with our prayers and participation in their peace-making efforts.

Sisters Council of the Diocese of Rochester  
Sister Barbara Moore  
President  
34 Melrose St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14619

**Reconciliation Called For**

Editor:

Father Richard Ranalletti, CSB, Aquinas Institute assistant principal, wrote in the June 9 Courier-Journal defending the imposition of the 10-day detention on the two boys who had attended a diocesan-sponsored Jeremiah Retreat.

I would like to respond to Father-Ranalletti:

1. During one of the "structured makeup days," the boys cleaned up after the school's garage sale.
2. There is some evidence that, in fact, Aquinas boys who miss school for "family vacation" and any number of good reasons are indeed not always punished.
3. Other students from Aquinas have attended diocesan-sponsored, school-day retreats in the past. They have not been punished.
4. If Aquinas authorities really are concerned about why the diocese does not plan its teen retreats on the 185

days the kids are not in school, why have the authorities not previously brought the question to diocesan officials? Punishing students because of a gripe with the diocese does not seem like exactly the most courageous way to resolve a problem.

Hopefully, this conflict between a diocesan program and Aquinas philosophy will be resolved in the near future by the officials involved, and not in the newspaper.

Father David W. Mura  
Director of Youth Retreats  
Diocese of Rochester

**Teen Program For S. Tier?**

Editor:

The recent articles on "Toughlove" and the diocesan-sponsored alternative program were most intriguing to a baffled parent of a teenager. Unfortunately — but as usual — all the opportunities to become involved in either program seem to be available only in the Rochester area.

We stepchildren of the diocese in the Southern Tier could also use a little help to keep in step with — or one ahead of — our children. If there are any helps for us, please let us know.

Mrs. B. Dougherty  
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Editor's Note: Ron Platten of "Parents of Teens" says he is more than willing to present his seminar in the Southern Tier. All he needs is a sponsoring parish. Those interested should contact their pastors.

**Archbishop In a Cocoon?**

Editor:

Re-remarks made by Seattle Archbishop Raymond G. Hunthausen.

I can't believe that an archbishop could be that naive, unless he has built a cocoon around his little world. Apparently he has never felt the downtroddenness of Siberian winters or the spiritual winters in a Russian insane asylum; has not felt the deathliness of death of millions of victims of the

October Revolution; nor the coldblooded massacre of the Katyn Forest.

How can one be so cocksure that he would rather "be red than dead"?

And he is the pastor of souls that still inhabit the body of "free men." When he said: "The Russians may destroy our bodies, but our willingness to use nuclear weapons ultimately will destroy our souls," isn't it the other way around?

Michael M. Miller  
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Corning, N.Y. 14830

**CCC Members Sought**

Editor:

For organizational purposes, the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni is trying to locate about two million former members and persons who were connected with the CCC during the 1930s and 1940s. It is known that many of these persons reside in New York and areas serviced by the Courier-Journal.

I am sure that many of your readers have often wondered what became of the CCC. You can tell them that the CCC lives again in the NACCCA. It is a young and growing organization with chapters in many of the states throughout the nation and one of its major objectives is to reinstate a permanent CCC.

Anyone interested in the organization can write to NACCCA headquarters, 7900 Sudley Road, Suite 413, Manassas, Va. 22110-2874, for further information and literature.

Victor Vengrouskie  
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Silver Spring, Md. 10902

**Nuns Coalition Saddening**

Editor:

In the Sunday D&C of May 30, the front page headline read "Nuns Group Breaks with Church — Opposes Restrictions on Abortion." The National Coalition of American Nuns, a group of 1,800 Roman Catholic nuns, believes "abortion is a matter

of choice."

In reading the article, I went from surprise to shock and disappointment and became enveloped in an overwhelming sadness. Here are women religious who, after giving themselves and their lives to Jesus, condone the killing, putting aside, aborting, not bringing to term — whatever description has been given to the taking of lives of unborn children. Women through the centuries have suffered injustices because of their sex. They still do, but those who profess belief in God's love and are dedicated to pick up their cross and follow Him and then become blinded so by their cause is sad indeed.

"No one can truly define when life begins," says Sister Margaret Traxler. I wonder if the good Sister has ever listened to the heartbeat and felt the stirrings of an unborn child in its mother's womb? I have and I know the baby was alive. Expectant mothers know that there is life within them.

How patiently suffering God must be with His children? He commanded us not to kill but most of all He commanded us to love one another. Love never takes. Love gives. The cause of love is never justified in the taking of another life.

The freedom of choice for women and men is the choice to love or not. The Gospels tell us that we are all equal in the sight of God. Then who are we to say that the unborn child or those who are helpless at a certain period of their existence should have that existence terminated because of our selfishness or desires?

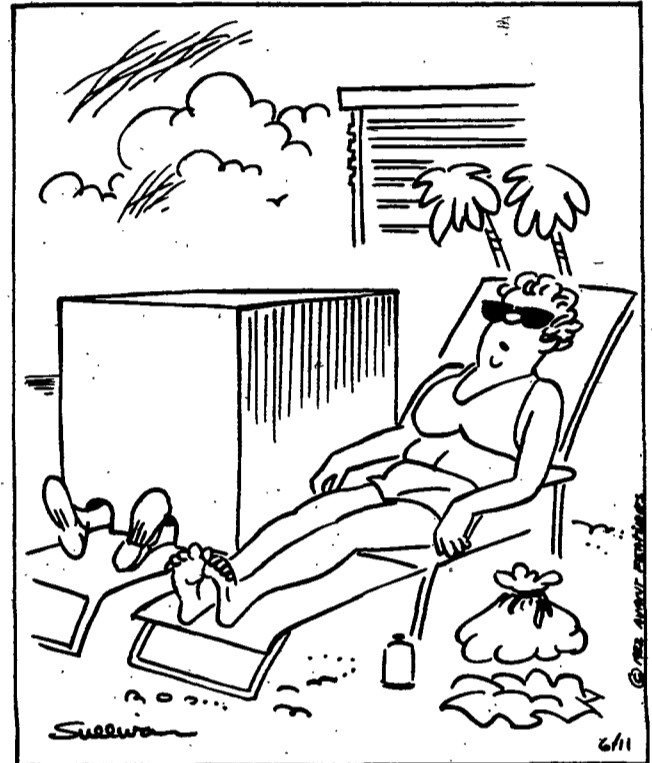
As for the National Coalition of American Nuns, we should pray that God will enlighten them.

Norman E. Dunn  
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**Generosity Appreciated**

Editor:

I wish to thank the people of the Diocese of Rochester for their continuing and generous support of the Campaign for Human Development. A check for \$58,929 has been received here at the national office. This amount is the 1/4 portion to be distributed nationally to self-help projects designed to remove the causes of poverty.



"I FIGURE GOD WANTS ME TO ENJOY HIS SUN. WHERE DID YOU GET THAT SUN BLOCK, ANYWAY?"

This year 610 funding proposals requesting \$3 million have been received. These are being reviewed and prioritized by national staff, the CHD diocesan directors, and the CHD national committee of 40 people representing all geographical locations and the ethnic/racial makeup of the United States. As usual, we will have about \$6 million to fund about 150 self-help groups. The Ad Hoc Committee of 13 bishops will meet on June 12 to give their final approval to recommendations made by the national committee.

Since 1970, the Diocese of Rochester has received 25 national CHD grants totaling \$743,600 for a return of 82 percent.

The continued generosity of the people of your diocese fulfills the spirit of the words of Pope John Paul II:

"This is the pure and simple mission of the Gospel. The Church would not be faithful to the Gospel if it were not close to the poor and if it did not defend their rights." (L'Osservatore Romano, 8/2/81)

CHD provides an opportunity for us to live as Jesus did, in solidarity with the poor, the wounded, the marginalized, and those considered "least" in our society.

On behalf of the entire CHD family, I express sincere thanks also to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and to Ms. Francine M. Patella, your diocesan director.

Father Marvin A. Mottet  
Executive Director, Campaign for Human Development  
United States  
Catholic Conference  
1312 Mass. Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005

**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.