

Editorials

Summer Quiz

Some day soon half the Catholics in the world will be living in Latin America — most of them of Spanish descent. In addition, more and more Hispanics are moving to the United States, forced to emigrate by political or economic conditions.

Hispanics were among the earliest settlers of our nation and have made many civic and cultural contributions. Still, it seems that non-Hispanic Americans are blissfully unaware of the Spanish-American presence.

Try our easy quiz, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, to test your own Hispanic consciousness.

- A. Which state has the highest Hispanic population?
B. Which state has the highest Hispanic percentage of population?
C. Which city has the highest Hispanic population?
D. Which city has the highest Hispanic percentage of population?
E. Are there more Hispanics in California or in Puerto Rico?
F. More than 27 percent of the population of Los Angeles is Hispanic. Of the 15 members on the City Council, how many are Hispanic?

G. In Illinois, there are more than 635,000 Hispanics. Of the state's 236 elected officials, how many are Hispanic?

Answers:

- A. California, 4.5 million. Followed by Texas, 2.985 million and New York, 1.6 million.
B. New Mexico, 36.6 percent (476,089).
C. If you said Los Angeles, you're wrong. New York City, 1.4 million.
D. Laredo, Texas, 93 percent (85,076).
E. You guessed it — California. Puerto Rico's population is 3.2 million, some of which are not Hispanics.
F. None.
G. See answer to F.

What's Up?

The question has to be: Is there method to Sen. Jesse Helms' madness?

First, the long-time abortion foe from North Carolina, scuttled chances for a clean, filibuster-less debate on the Hatch amendment by introducing last-minute changes to his own human life bill.

Then he kept the changes secret despite the im-

minence of debate. When he unveiled them, lo and behold, he had dropped his long-cherished principle of extending protection of personhood to the unborn under the 14th amendment. Instead he proposed permanently restricting federal funding of abortions.

And, strangest of all, he tied the abortion issue into a proposal in favor of school prayer. The Senate would have to debate both issues concurrently.

Not even the staunchest advocate of school prayer could say that it even approaches in gravity the issue of abortion on demand. How could such a proven anti-abortion advocate as Sen. Helms risk linking the life-and-death importance of abortion with any other less important measure?

Maybe he has a plan. Let's hope so.

Another Murder!

Just when everyone thought that the execution of Frank J. Coppola and its attendant publicity would deter any more murders in our country, comes news from Los Angeles that a Princeton freshman basketball player was shot and killed while sitting in a car with his girlfriend.

If that is possible, there is the uneasy feeling that other murders may have taken place since Coppola's execution gave such hope that there would be no more publicity.

Gee whiz!

and Opinions

Community Awareness

Editor:

With the naming of a special committee created by the Monroe County Legislature, the public should be well aware that a process is underway that will impact them in a variety of ways. The special committee, established in July of this year, will study the Sheriff's report recommending the construction of a new minimum security jail.

Their study could go unnoticed because it deals with a part of our community that remains invisible because of their incarceration, and yet I am urging the community to keep informed about its progress. Perhaps the public could ask itself some very key questions. Is the membership of the committee really representative of the community and of the men and women whose lives are impacted by the jail? Are the members of the committee really aware of the situations in the jail because they have a regular and visible presence there?

Jail Ministry is pleased that the committee will also study alternatives to incarceration for some men and women for

whom they would be most productive. Numerous studies, commissioned and paid for by the county, have recommended alternatives and, sadly, many of them have not been implemented. Perhaps if they had been, many of the present situations in the jail could have been avoided.

At that legislature meeting, Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry recommended that the membership of the committee be altered. It was not, but we did receive assurances that the Open Meeting Law would apply to the committee hearings. I would suggest that interested citizens call the County Clerk's office to secure the meeting times of the new committee and make an effort to come and offer their expertise. It is the intention of our agency to do just that! Too often, the most humane, inexpensive, creative and positive solutions to a problem are not the first ones we focus on. There are many questions that need to be addressed regarding overcrowding in our jail!

Sister Barbara Moore, RSM Executive Director Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, Inc. 121 North Fitzhugh St. Rochester, N.Y. 14614

'Making' Mass Meaningful

Editor:

The CJ of Aug. 11 gave me reason to respond twice. First of all I congratulate you for bringing back a movie rating system for concerned Christians. It has been a neglected area for too long.

My second need for expression is on the following comment by Father Louis Hohman, speaking of those who ask if a Saturday afternoon wedding would suffice for their Sunday obligation: "... the lament is not really directed toward the people who ask the question, but toward ourselves who simply have not fulfilled our responsibility to make the celebration of the Eucharist so beautiful and so joyful and so meaningful that people will choose to come without the constraint of law."

I've emphasized the words "to make" because as a person who loves the daily Mass, I know that a priest can not make it any of these things. No one will come to love the Mass because of a mere human element such as: dance, clown, additional ceremony or any other concept that a celebrant can devise. When people come to know Christ and concentrate on His life, they will begin to love Him. The Mass is a holy sacrifice, a love relationship, a union with Christ, a perfect offering and joy beyond comprehension. People do not need additional fanfare of any kind.

If everyone understood the real presence in the Eucharist of the Lord who made the heavens and earth, they would gladly come and adore Him. The greatest mistake is in neglecting to instill respect for the presence of God in the Blessed Sacrament. Adults as well as children have come to casually gather in His Holy Temple to fulfill an obligation, yet they do not recognize Him. People have idols in rock

singers, in TV characters, in movie stars, in baseball players, etc., but the Creator of all life who would daily nourish us with the Bread of Life that makes us victors over death, is ignored.

Psalm 4:7 — There is more joy in the Lord than mortals find in an abundance of grain and wine.

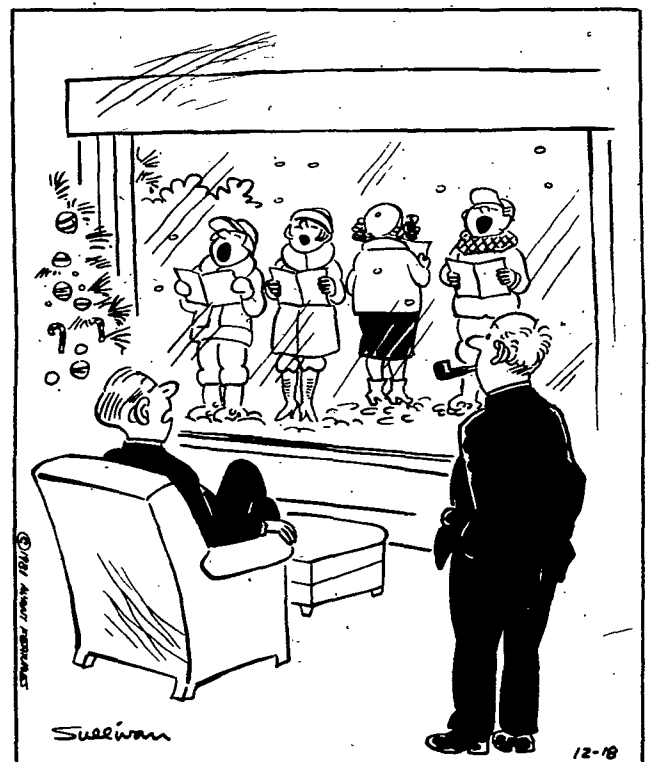
Barbara A. Fischer 77 Harwick Road Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Fatima Misunderstood

Editor:

The mother of Christ launched a new crusade at Fatima but its tremendous significance has been little understood by the world at large. She predicted the ultimate success of the crusade, indicating, nevertheless, that much bloodshed and suffering would precede that success. Just what does this crusade of Our Lady consist of — 1. consecration to her Immaculate Heart — not just a passing prayer but a deep and determined commitment to Mary, a perfect renewal of our baptismal vow. As Mary did everything for the greater glory of God, our good works passing through her hands acquire an unexplainable increase in merit and intercessory value. A true consecration of ourselves to Mary will also surround us with a protective shield against the fearsome assaults of Satan so active in our society today.

2. Daily recitation of the rosary. The rosary being a series of meditations on the life of Christ is a perfect study of the gospel and model for a true Christian life so sorely needed in our selfish and permissive world. 3. Penance in the form, principally, of a genuine care to do well the duties of our state in life. This is what Christ meant when He said that we must take up our



"MRS. DELAHANTY IS STILL MAD AT ME FOR MY LAST SERMON!"

cross daily and follow Him. Thus the formula for peace outlined by Our Lady of Fatima can not only save the world from war, revolution and anarchy, it is an extremely easy, streamlined method of accomplishing this. Let us begin today to answer this need by starting with ourselves and encouraging others to join this crusade of prayer and penance in their own parishes and local communities.

Mrs. Robert Leahy 20 White Birch Lane Rochester, N.Y. 14624

'Peace Academy' Questioned

Editor:

"Peace Academy, Subject of Talk for Pax Christi" (CJ, 7-28-82) raises some interesting questions. The goal of the peace activists with participation by Pax Christi is undoubtedly well intentioned. In this newly-controversial area it is well to establish safeguards so that goals do not conflict with the papal teachings concerning moral issues involved, including the moral obligation of self-defense.

Perhaps the safest guidelines to follow would be found in the "House of Prayer and Study for Peace," established by Cardinal Cooke. The cardinal has placed this establishment under the supervision of the Vicar General of the Military Vicariate, Bishop John J. O'Connor who will also serve as chairman of the board. Cardinal Cooke, in his Dec. 7, 1981 message states, "... the hallmark of the House of Prayer and Study will be the maxim of Pope Paul VI: 'If you wish peace, defend life.'" In this message, Cardinal Cooke outlines briefly the official Church teaching on peace. The cardinal further states, "A much fuller treatment is found in Bishop O'Connor's book, 'In Defense of Life,' which I recommend for the guidance of our people." (Available from the Daughters of St. Paul.)

Any basis for study which originates in the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute should be carefully scrutinized and submitted to proper authority for evaluation.

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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.

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