Editorial

Who's to Blame For Massacre?

The recent murder of civilians in a refugee camp in Beirut has joited the world conscience as no event since perhaps My Lai or even the Holocaust of World War II.

While no one can countenance such a blatant and inhuman atrocity and while it is difficult to continue to consider this carnage, some sidebar conclusions seem *** **

First as unseemly as it is that Christians were involved and while their brutality should be condemned, it should be clear that such criticism would have been far more effective if made long before the spectacle of "Christian militia" got so out of hand that it resulted in large-scale murder.

Second, the Israeli complicity was equally heinous but still it would have been more effectively denounced earlier, when they first broke international law by charging into Lebanon.

The result of all this wanton killing has been at least some vindication of Yasser Arafat, despite the fact that this criminal also has innocent blood on his hands. We do not mean for an instant to criticize the pope for meeting with Arafat; the Palestinian refugee situation cries for solution and Arafat is the only representative for them, a fact sad but true.

Perhaps what propels such a massacre into the forefront of our minds is the numbers of victims involved. But it would be wise for us to remember that when we kill one innocent life in the womb, we contribute to such violence. When we opt for execution as punishment for our societal "enemies," we contribute to the violence.

The frightening fact, and one very difficult to cope with, is that we are all involved. The Nazis, after all, were only human beings. Likewise the Christians and Jews responsible for this latest barbarism. Likewise the Americans at My Lai.

And as long as we earthlings turn to violent measures to settle our differences, or to solve the problems of our society, that long will we risk the atrocities of Auschwitz, Munich, My Lai and Beirut.

The Canada geese can be seen these days winging their way to their winter homes.

Last Saturday was the Harvest Moon, that full moon nearest the autumnal equinox.

The leaves are turning, plants are getting scraggy and the morning dew will soon be frost.

October makes it point; it quickens the realization of the order of things. Things begun in the warm rush of Spring are now slowing down to their golden period.

The poet-William Herbert Carruth must have had such thoughts when he wrote:

"Some of us call it Autumn, And others call it God."

and Opinions

Sex Education Program Hit

Editor:

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I would like to add a footnote to the excellent letter of Richard Hussar Aug. 11 on sex education, especially since the Courier-Journal reports a revised Education in Love sex education program will be implemented in Catholic schools this year. Sister Ann Michelle, SSJ, wrote Aug. 18 that the "26 Understandings" have not been changed, but the information and resources

Rochester Sex Education (Mrs.) Program declaring its Chairman Understandings do not adequately emphasize the authentic moral teaching of the Church." Despite the bishop's censure, the protests Editor's Note: Msgroof Catholic parents and their William H. Shannon withdrawal of children from responded: "To accuse a our parochial schools an unrevised Education in Love program continued to find Catholic educators in the the doctrinal and pedagogical deficiencies of Education in Love revised their program but, let it be noted, without any input from those parents

It is also of interest that Msgr. William Shannon of Nazareth College has been charged with the "conscience formation" of the sex education teachers of the program: Msgr. Shannon is known as a publicly avowed dissenter from the teaching of the Church on contraception, having, in fact, written a book in criticism of Humanae Vitae. Such reliance placed in a dissenter from Catholic moral teaching plus the doctrinal and pedagogical shortcomings of the program itself, hardly justify a vote of confidence in the revised Education in Love program.

This is interesting in view of wholehearted implementation the fact that in 1971 Bishop of Pope John Paul II's Ployd Begin of Cakland, directives on sex education at Calif., had issued a statement contained in Familiaries severely censuring

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person of being 'a publicly avowed dissenter' would put that person in a dangerously uncritical favor among valuerable position - in the Soviet Union. For the Soviet diocese. Now, it would finally Union, being a totalitarian appear that the same society, allows no departure promoters of classroom sex from the party line. Think education who chose to ignore God, the Roman Catholic Church is not a totalitarian society. It is accepted teaching in the Church that a Catholic has a right, where serious reasons are present, to dissent

teaching of the magisterium. To deny that such dissent could ever exist in the Church is to make a mockery of freedom of conscience.

"The Fathers of the Second Vatican Council wrote: 'Conscience is man's most secret core, and his sanctuary. There he is alone with God whose voice echoes in his depths. By conscience, in a wonderful way, that law is made known which is fulfilled in the love of God and of one's neighbor. Through loyalty to conscience Christians are joined to other men in the search for truth and for the right solution to so many moral problems which arise both in the life of individuals and from social relationships." (Gaudium et Spes, art. 16)

knowledge, written a book in criticism of Humanae Vitae. In 1970, I wrote a book, 'The Lively Debute. This book was a detailed study of the development of Catholic thought on contraception hich preceded Humanae Vitae, an analysis of the encyclical, and an historical survey of the responses to the encyclical that came from bishops' conferences, theologians and lay people, a large number of whom, in each category, justified a seriously reasoned out dissent from the encyclical's teaching on the intrinsic evil of contraception.

"This book carried a Nihil Obstat and an imprimatur together with the statement: The Nihil Obstat and Imprimatur are official pamphjet is considered to be free of doctrinal or moral error."

USCC Aid Clarified

Editor:

Over the years, the Courier-Journal has published many fine articles on the plight of refugees resettled in Rochester through programs at Catholic Family Center, and with the unstinting help of hundreds of volunteer sponsors throughout our diocese. We have been instrumental in integrating into our com-munity refugees from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Cuba, Poland and several other countries.

In the Wednesday, Sept. 22. Couner Journal. John Dash, captured the emotion fraught arrival of Haitian refugees from Ray Brook and detailed the continuing fears

of deportation. There was only one misconception I would like to correct. The last sentence reads: "The United States Catholic Conference will provide \$600 per month for food and housing for each Haitian while he awaits his hearing. We wish that were so! The USCC is as generous as limited funds allow, but all they grant is \$600 total for each Haitian, which is supposed to provide rent, food and other necessities until the individual secures employment and becomes self-supporting. (They also supply funding for a Creolespeaking staff person for six months.)

This limited support makes it vital for refugees to find employment as soon as

possible. Fortunately, the Haitians are ambitious, industrious and eager to work at any job which will help them to become self-sufficient. If any of your wonderful readers can help us to help the Haitians (with jobs, housing or furniture) they may call Catholic Family Center Refugee office at 546-7220.

Again, many thanks to John Dash and all of you at the Courier-Journal for helping us to tell others of the needs of our newest and most needy arrivals.

> James W. Maloney **Executive Director Catholic Family Center** 50 Chestnut St. Rochester, N.Y. 14604

Sisters Mourn Fr. Reinhart

It was with shock and regret that we heard of the sudden death of Father Joseph Reinhart. He is remembered here for his interest in and dedication to the missions, Many poor people in the mission areas never knew him, but have benefited from his dedicated to their cause. He is now receiving his reward from the One who said to go out to all the world with the Good

> The Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph in Brazil



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Wainbach, 442,0295.



October's Queen

October is the month traditionally devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and a time of October is the month traditionally devoted to the Biessed Virgin Wary, and a time of particular attention to reciting her rosary. This picture is entitled "Our Lady of Perpetual Help," thought to be painted in the 13th century. The story has it that the painting was stolen from a church on the island of Crete and hidden for many years by the family of the thief. In 1488 it was enshrined in the Church of St. Matthew in Rome, then hidden during the Napoleonic Wars, and finally given to the care of the Redemptorist Fathers who have enshrined it in their church, St. Alphonsus in Rome.

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