

Editorial

The Spirit Of the Missions

"It takes faith, I know, to put a portion of your salary into the basket on Mission Sunday and allow the Society for the Propagation of the Faith to distribute the funds where most needed."

Those words were spoken last year as Mission Sunday approached. They were said by a man who dedicated his life to the missions. They were spoken by a man no longer sharing our earthly existence — Father Joseph F. Reinhart who died in August.

Father Reinhart headed the diocesan missions effort since 1969 and all who knew him in that capacity agreed "he was the perfect man for the job." Dedicated to his responsibility, loyal to our missionaries, indefatigable in his efforts, a fine administrator and a sensitive and urbane spokesman, he was indeed the right man in the right place.

This year as Mission Sunday once more approaches,

it is impossible not to think of Father Reinhart. We are sure many will have him in mind when they make their contributions. And if the drive were to hit new heights, be assured that it will bring that familiar smile to Father Joe's face. It also would be a fitting tribute to his continuing stewardship.

"Just wait a minute, friend, may I make a suggestion?"

"Why, sure, Father Reinhart, go ahead."

"Please explain where the money goes. Accountability, you know."

"All right, Father."

The collection is divided to cover the world. Forty percent remains in the United States to be distributed by the American Board of Catholic Missions in needy areas in our own country. Nine percent is distributed by the Catholic Near East Welfare Association — and no one should need reminder of the excruciating need in that part of the world right now, especially in Lebanon. The other 51 percent is allocated by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith as basic support for the Church in the missions.

"Eh, what's that, Father Reinhart? A little deeper explanation of just how the funds are used? Sure."

They go to helping dioceses, with some 897 receiving aid. A bishop in Ghana reports that "we could open 10 new parishes if only we had the means!" Mission Sunday helps supply the means.

Christian communities and parishes are helped. For instance, a priest in Thailand says that non-Christians often question him about why priests and religious come, work and suffer with the refugees. His answer: "We can preach Christ, but we want to SHOW you Christ."

The funds support seminarians. There are 9,644 major seminarians in mission areas and 35,159 younger students in minor seminaries. Marked increases are reported in many areas, including Colombia, Bangladesh, Gabon and Zaire. "Vocations are increasing," said an Indonesian seminary rector, "but our funds are distressingly inadequate."

And the money is used to educate catechists. A quarter of a million men and women take a leadership role in catechetical programs around the mission world. The "Prop" office provides funds for their education and for their full-time or part-time service.

"Er, ah, how's that, Father Reinhart?"

"Not too bad. Carry on, friend."

and Opinions

Submission: A 2-Way Street

Editor:

This is in answer to the woman who heard Jerry Falwell say that women should submit to their husbands, but doesn't feel that she can.

Submission is a biblical principle.

Ephesians 5/22-24: "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, even as Christ is head of the church, and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."

I Peter 3/1: "Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives."

But the husband has his part to play also!

I Peter 3/7: "Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honor unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered."

Ephesians 5/25: "Husbands love your wives as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it."

Ephesians 5/28-29: "So

ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife, loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own body, but nourishes it and cherishes it, even as the Lord the church."

Also read Colossians 3/18-20, for the whole family.

So you see, the Lord didn't make it a one-way street. As in every other area of life, if we paid attention to the admonitions of the inspired writers of the Bible, what a wonderful thing marriage would be.

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Political Ad Criticized

Editor:

I found the paid political ad by the friends of Lewis Lehrman in the Oct. 16 issue of the Courier-Journal disgusting. How anyone could place such an ad against Mario Cuomo being in favor of abortion and suggesting that one should not vote for him on that issue while Lew Ehrman is an advocate of the death penalty is hypocrisy at its best. I also wonder how much of the seven-plus million dollars spent on his campaign came from the sale of contraceptives and other over-the-counter birth control devices sold by the Rite Aid Corp.

Do the Lehrman people think that the electric chair or gas chamber is any less of a

murder than abortion? They are both issues that politicians should not have the right to decide on who lives and who dies.

I personally feel very strongly opposed to both abortion and the death penalty but I intend to support Cuomo based on his entire record.

Shary J. Zifchock
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Blessed Mother Told Us How

Editor:

To celebrate our 40th anniversary, we recently visited the holy shrines at Lourdes and Fatima — something we have always wanted to do. To say the least, it was a most inspiring and wonderful trip filled with many joyful spiritual experiences.

We came away fortified in our belief that the underlying key to peace and justice in the world lies in the messages that our Blessed Mother gave us at both Lourdes and Fatima. These messages were to pray, to say the rosary, and make sacrifices for the conversion of Russia and for the conversion of sinners.

This letter is written in the hope that more people will realize that our Blessed Mother has already given us the direction to solve the problems existing in this world. The onus is upon all of us to carry out what she has asked for at Lourdes and Fatima.

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Halloween Has Celtic Roots

Editor:

Because All Saints Day soon will be upon us and because I'm a fourth generation Irish American of Celtic-Gaelic extraction, I wish to inform your readers of the following. Halloween is the only true Celtic holiday celebrated in modern times. It has its origin in the ancient Festival of Samhain which begins the Celtic year. This

Celtic calendar, which also signaled the end of the pastoral year, represented the struggle between the powers of growth and the powers of blight. The purpose of the Samhain Festival was to aid the dying powers of vegetation whose life was still represented in the mistletoe and the evergreen.

Sacred bonfires, which symbolized the sun, were lit to aid the powers of growth. The powers of blight were regarded as evil, supernatural forces from the Otherworld and sacrifices of animals were made to keep the hostile elements at bay.

All over the Celtic world, riotous processions took place with participants dressed in the skins of these sacrificed animals. Samhain was also known as the Festival of the Dead. It was a time when the souls of the departed were thought to revisit their old "haunts" to warm themselves by the fire and be provided with comfort and good cheer in the kitchens of their infolk ... now, that's trick or treat!

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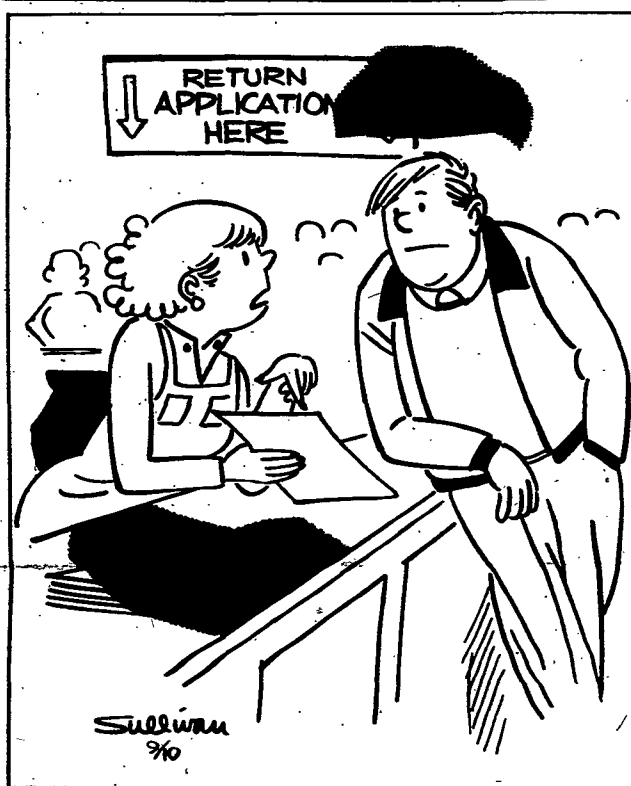
Ironies Abound

Editor:

I am responding to your editorial of Sept. 8 in which you asked your readers to put their cards openly on the table, blatantly taking unfair advantage of those who believe playing cards is sinful and frustrating those who like to play their cards close to the vest.

You ask the question, "Death, where is thy deterrent?" To which I reply: Why should the execution of five men (who had to explore every means and employ every trick of the law to insure that the legal sentence of the court was carried out) be considered a potential deterrent? A future murderer need only look to the thousands of convicted criminals, under sentence, sitting on death row for years, to assure himself that he can proceed without fear for his own life.

You maintain a freedom of choice situation — death or imprisonment. One answer for the choice made is that death



"WHERE IT SAYS 'RELIGION' ... DO YOU REALLY WANT TO PUT 'NFL'?"

who fear death. To those who believe in an Almighty God and a life everlasting (an old-fashioned Catholic concept which has been falling out of favor with the near and now generation) death can be a welcome release and even a sought-after goal.

It is said the moral basis for our Anglo Saxon legal system is the Judeo-Christian religious concepts which are supposed to be like love and marriage, one follows the other. But ... Judeo morality and sense of justice calls for an eye, whereas the Christian ethic calls for compassion and forgiveness. In this regard, you can't have the one if you have the other.

Your contention that "the recent executions in this country have all been widely and deeply publicized have persisted" reminded me of the old economic caveat "Don't worry about the national debt — we only owe the money to ourselves." Nevertheless, I do worry and experience shows that I should worry. Governments borrow our personal wealth without ever expecting to pay it back — just as criminals never expect to be caught and never expect to have to pay for their crimes.

At one time we practiced cruel and inhuman punishment in this country. The founding fathers and the 8th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution eliminated these

has brought about a situation wherein the punishment itself, for any crime whatsoever, has become cruel and inhuman.

It is time to stop the subjective and emotional debate on the relative merits of a death penalty in our criminal justice system and get on with solving the basic problem — finding a means, which we can all live with, to actually reduce and eliminate criminal acts and the criminal.

John J. Clark
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No Political Endorsements

The Courier-Journal does not print letters of political endorsement.

Where to Send Pamphlets

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines directly to the foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway
14 Castle St.

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.