



Travel Plans

This map of Spain shows the sites that Pope John Paul II will probably visit during his trip there Oct. 31-Nov. 9. The pope's trip, his 16th outside of Italy, was delayed two weeks due to the Spanish elections. (NC)

Opinion

Abortions Kill Millions

Editor:

To equate the death penalty with abortion overlooks the stark reality that few are killed by the death penalty while millions are killed by abortion.

I do not favor any kind of killing. Frankly, I believe we are all sick of killing. But when a writer can assuage his or her conscience and vote for a supporter of abortion because that candidate does not support the death penalty, I can only conclude that the writer cannot count.

Jeanne D. Sweeney
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Rochester, N.Y. 14617

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.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

More Questions From Auburn

Why are there so many sermons on God's mercy and so few on His justice?

I'm not sure. We used to speak of presumption and despair. I don't think there are many afflicted with spiritual despair. The fact that confessions have dropped off so drastically makes one wonder if there isn't a lot of presumption floating around.

Anyone who takes the Gospels seriously, especially St. Matthew and the letters of St. Paul, certainly is impressed by the malice of sin and the justice of God. Consider Matthew 7:21 — "None of those who cry out, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the Kingdom of God but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. When that day comes many will plead with me, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name' ... Then I will declare to you solemnly, 'I never knew you. Out of my sight, evil doers.'"

Years ago the emphasis in preaching was on sin and fire and brimstone. Which reminds me of a story of two women in Dublin. A mission was going on in their separate parishes. One said to the other, "How is your mission?" "Ah, dull. Most uninspiring. The Jesuits are giving it and all they talk about is the love of God. And yours? How is your mission?" "Ah, it's grand!" The Redemptorists are giving it, and they roar and shout about sin and damnation as if they had been brought up on the very hobs of hell! Preachers who are silent about hell and purgatory and God's justice defraud their congregations of the Word of God. Justice and mercy are both subjects for meditation, but neither

one in exclusion of the other.

Is the rosary devotion returning?

That depends on places and people. In Webster, where I am in residence, our Holy Trinity School faculty and students are doing the rosary all during October: first owning rosary beads of their own, then learning how to use them, then using them. I think many parents are now realizing that this is a good family prayer. And I have noticed several parish bulletins with notices of October rosary devotions.

However, in the past great harm was done within the Church by religion teachers, priests, sisters and laypersons, since Vatican II. For example, a prestigious lay theologian, Dr. Rosemary Ruether wrote of Our Blessed Mother: "... I could not give allegiance to any 'jealous god' on the level of historical peculiarity ... I could not tell her (a nun) that my devotion to Mary was somewhat less than my devotion to some more powerful females that I knew: Isis, Athena, Artemis." (R. Ruether, from Journeys: The Impact of Personal Experience on Religious Thought. Paulist Press, 1976)

This same female theologian is highly regarded in some Catholic circles, especially among the radical feminists. Pope John XXIII prayed the 15 minutes of the rosary each day. John Paul I was a great advocate of the rosary. The rosary devotion is part of the daily spiritual community prayer of Mother Teresa's Sisters. It is part of the community exercises at the seminary of the Legionnaires of Christ. And in some parishes I know in this diocese (e.g., Waterloo and Marion) it is recited before Mass by the congregation, a neat form of community prayer.



Retiree Honored

Frank Basciani, director of buildings and grounds at Nazareth College for the past 33 years, was honored at a recent dinner noting his retirement. Nearly 100 members of Nazareth College administration, staff and faculty attended. During his tenure, Basciani has seen the college grow from three buildings to 15, from 52 to 75 acres and from a maintenance staff of nine to 14 housekeepers and 12 specialists in plumbing, electricity, painting and carpentry. Basciani will continue to act as consultant to the college and his successor, John S. Nelson, former director of buildings and grounds at Keuka College.

Blood Drive Scheduled

The Greece Community blood drive will be held 2-8 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 3, at St. Lawrence Church, 1000 North Greece Road, and Thursday, Nov. 4, at Mother of Sorrows Church, 5000 Mt. Read Blvd. Anyone between the ages of 17 and 66 who is in good health and weighs at least 110 pounds is eligible to give blood every two months, up to five times a year.

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