

Editorials

Christianomics

One of the reasons for the Annual Catholic Thanks Giving Appeal is to educate diocesans on the goals and work of the various divisions working under Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

And a pleasant sidebar to the process is that it gives those working in the many diocesan departments the opportunity to kind of step back and see their accomplishments delineated.

Ours has never been a lethargic diocese but with the assistance of last year's initial appeal and the promise of such future aid, it is expanding in all directions, including depth, and that is indeed good for the spirit.

To point out just a few of the many recent developments of the diocese, there has been the creation of the youth ministry, expanded campus ministry and young adult ministry, new study programs for priests, a magnet parish for the deaf, a recently opened Finger Lakes Social Ministries office, advances in planning and development and other growing services.

All of those who work diligently behind the scenes have every right to a sense of satisfaction. They may

also feel pride, not in themselves, but in the gracious and generous support of diocesans who by their contributions are transmitting a well-done.

And we all benefit from the appeal. As its coordinator, Father James Marvin, said, "By helping the bishop we are really helping ourselves. We will be obeying the mandate of Christ to help all people. We will be helping those who most need assistance."

Because of Reaganomics, those needing that assistance depend more heavily than ever on Church services. By supporting the appeal we will be doing that job.

That might simply be called Christianomics.

and Opinions

Disaster Ahead ... Unless

Editor:

The people of the world are now spending more than a million dollars per minute on armaments. If we stop preparing to blast one another off the face of the earth, we will find that we can solve the world's hunger, water, shelter and clean air problems.

Our us-vs.-them state of mind toward the Soviet Union — and, no doubt, their same attitude toward us — has created a devastating emotional and moral separateness, and so we both must hide behind a wall of nuclear weapons to, as we think, protect ourselves.

If we cannot change our outlook from us-vs.-them to we-and-them, if the human race cannot learn to get along with itself, we will soon exterminate ourselves.

Each nuclear warhead that we or the Soviet Union or anyone else builds brings us one step closer to the time when by error or design a nuclear armed missile will fly and that will be the end of civilization as we know it.

The Reagan administration is preparing for nuclear war. It is telling us that a nuclear war can be won. Would hundreds of millions killed and more millions doomed to a slow death and half the earth

contaminated by radioactive fallout be a victory?

Let us not be taken in by the Reagan administration's doomsday scenario of a "window of vulnerability" and the myth of Soviet weaponry superiority or the absurd concept that we can reduce weapons by building more of them.

Only an immediate halt in the testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons by the United States and the Soviet Union, followed by a well-planned, bilateral reduction can save us from inevitable disaster.

Adolphe and Loe d'Audiffret RR2 Naples, N.Y. 14512

Obedience The Answer

Editor:

Something missing? The quotation from Vatican II on freedom of conscience in the Courier-Journal Opinion Page (10-6-82) was used to suggest that the Fathers of Vatican II supported dissent from the ordinary teaching authority of the Church.

1. "Married people should realize that in their behavior they may not simply follow their own fancy but must be ruled by conscience — and conscience ought to be conformed to the laws of God in the light of the teaching authority of the Church..." (Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, art. 50)

2. "Religious ... Need we repeat that conscience on its own is not the arbiter of the moral worth of actions which it inspires? It must take account of objective norms and

if necessary, reform and rectify itself." (Vatican II, Evangelica Testificatio, art. 28)

3. "This loyal submission of the will and intellect must be given, in a special way, to the authentic teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff, even when he does not speak 'ex cathedra' in such wise, indeed, that his supreme teaching authority be acknowledged with respect, and sincere assent be given to decisions made by him, conformably with his manifest mind and intention, which is made known principally either by the character of his documents in question, or by the frequency with which a certain doctrine is proposed..." (Vatican II, Lumen Gentium, art. 25)

In each of these passages we see the world "must" used. St. Catherine of Siena said it in a very beautiful way:

"O delightful obedience! O pleasant obedience! Gentle obedience! Lightsome obedience, because you have lifted the darkness of selfish love! O life-giving obedience, giving the life of grace to the soul who has chosen you as bride after you have taken away the death of self-will that had brought war and death to the soul!"

Mrs. Joan M. Rand 170 Millford St. Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Fr. Reinhart Praised Further

Editor:

Recently, letters arrived from Bolivian friends commenting on the news of Father Joseph Reinhart's recent death. Dr. Jaime Rodriguez, the coordinator of Rochester's mission parish (St. Joseph the Worker) in LaPaz, wrote: "We received with great sorrow the news of the recent death of Father Joseph Reinhart, a priest who was in constant communication with us and who knew in a special way our problems, sorrows and joys. We pray that God has him at His side."

Father Jorge Jimenez, a Bolivian priest, also formerly associated with the LaPaz Mission, wrote: "How sad the news of Father Joe's death. It was a great shock to me. I think he had a very fruitful life in the work assigned him by the Diocese of Rochester and for that I thank God. He was a very kind person, a worthy servant. I owe him so much. I hope that God has him sharing the Kingdom that He has promised to those who serve Him with a sincere heart."

Father Reinhart's memory is far-reaching. Father Edward Golden Pastor St. Francis Xavier Church 34 Teresa St. Rochester, N.Y. 14605

Cdl. Mindszenty Conference

Editor:

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation is holding a one-day Conference of Challenges of Communism to Faith, Family, Country on Saturday, Nov. 20, at the Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown, N.Y.

Subjects to be addressed include disarmament, secular humanism, media influence, global influence of Soviet power and political upheaval in Central America.

Speakers will be:

Bishop John J. O'Connor, auxiliary bishop of New York City and vicar general of the Military Vicariate. He serves on the five-bishop committee preparing an official statement on war and peace. He is the author of "In Defense of Life," which sets forth the Church's teachings on just war, nuclear weapons and other areas of military concern.

Father Vincent P. Miceli, SJ, whose most widely read books are "Gods of Atheism" and "The Antichrist." He writes for the Vatican paper, the Roman Observer.

Murray Baron, president of Accuracy in Media, Washington, D.C. AIM publishes reports on media inaccuracies and files complaints with the Federal Communications Commission, and conducts media seminars.

Eleanor Schlafly will speak on "Communism is the Bottom Line."

Tickets and information are available by calling me at (716) 473-7475.

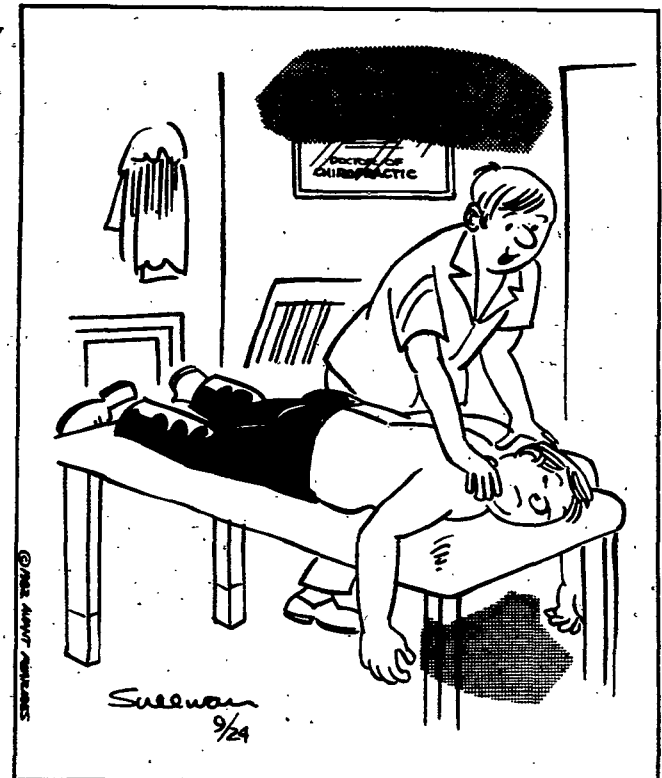
Gertrude Newberry 160 Azalea Road Rochester, N.Y. 14620

Curriculum Defended

Editor:

Recently I read a letter to the Courier-Journal which criticized the curriculum "Education in Love" and in particular Msgr. Shannon. The writer quoted Bishop Begin in stating her criticism toward the development of the 26 Understandings and their inconsistency with the "authentic moral teaching of the Church."

The principles and goals of the curriculum are based upon the biblical concept of persons, who, created in God's image and fundamentally good, are called to love and be loved in a covenantal relationship of fidelity, truth and responsibility. What a marvelous concept to be gifted to our young people. How consistent this is with the true



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aims of the Council Fathers when they wrote, "They (young people) should be helped to acquire gradually a more mature sense of responsibility toward enabling their own lives ... and toward pursuing authentic freedom." Authentic moral teaching is that catechism which charms or fascinates the person to act or opt freely with unity and consistency of values toward good.

As I listened to Msgr. Shannon develop the concepts of moral education and moral formation I sensed again a person of fidelity to truth and authentic responsibility to preach the Good News.

I am equally heartened with Msgr. Shannon and the "Education in Love" curriculum. Both are consistent with the voice of authentic teaching and moral fidelity.

Colleen Kelly Spelley 7th Grade Religion Teacher 43 N. Main St. Geneva, N.Y. 14456

Bp. Gumbleton To Speak Here

Editor:

Thomas J. Gumbleton, auxiliary bishop of Detroit, Mich., and president of Pax Christi, USA, will speak at Nazareth College at 8 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 4, as part of Nazareth's "Conference on Science and Morality." The subject of Bishop Gumbleton's speech will be: "Peacekeeping: My Responsibility as a Christian." As will all sessions of the conference, this talk will be in the Otto A. Shults Community Center and there will be no charge.

In light of the bishops' pastoral draft concerning war and, in particular, because of

the many questions about Pax Christi's goals and methods, the members of Pax Christi Rochester highly recommend that all concerned individuals attend Bishop Gumbleton's talk.

Lee Strong Spokesperson Pax Christi Rochester 13 Lamont Place Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Why Invite Sen. Moynihan?

Editor:

Of all the people St. Mary's Hospital could have invited to be the main speaker at its 125th anniversary dinner Oct. 19, why was it Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan? It is disturbing to us that a man who has voted against every piece of right to life legislation and has been given a \$4,500 campaign contribution by the National Abortion Rights Action League would be invited by a Catholic institution. To make the matter even more disturbing, the event occurred right before the election, thus providing Sen. Moynihan with an opportunity to gain more support for his re-election bid.

In our opinion, this choice by St. Mary's displays a great amount of insensitivity to the many people in this area who have been working for years in the right to life movement.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond N. Buonemani 38 Holcroft Road Rochester, N.Y. 14612

Putting Stamps To Use

Editor:

May I ask your readers to send their canceled stamps to me. The proceeds from the sale of these stamps are used for our sick and retired sisters. Sister Claire Adrian, OP St. Catharine Motherhouse St. Catharine PO Kentucky 40061

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.