

Editorials

Gratitude

Ask a number of people what they are most grateful for at Thanksgiving and chances are pretty good that a common theme would present itself — family, friends, health. These are among the choicest of God's blessings. These are also perhaps his commonest which is a reason why they are not extolled more in print, on film, in music.

It is almost platitudinous to suggest that we all should put our knees not only at such special occasions as Thanksgiving but every day of the year to thank God for such simple yet all-consuming blessings. Anyone blasé about such good fortune should ask someone without family, without friends or who has lost good health.

In a real sense, that famous Dickensian line could be applied to the present — "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times."

The general malaise of an unsettled world has been made particularly worse for many Americans who have lost their jobs, more than at any time in recent history. It takes uncommon good sense and courage to be thankful when jobless, badgered by bills and anticipating a bereft Christmas. While there always have been many people not invited to the banquet, this Thanksgiving that number is swollen.

All of this is not intended as a pitch for two very constructive opportunities to help our brothers and sisters, but the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal and the Courier-Journal Christmas Fund are indeed apropos. They represent just two of the many ways to help; others include Sunday collections, poor boxes, food shelves, etc.

When the tediousness of existence temporarily beclouds the case for gratitude, the words of a four-year-old, aspiring fisherman may help. Challenged to come up with an original prayer at grace, he calmly said, "Thank you, Jesus, for the worms."

Left Out

So, professional football is back. The millionaire owners are satisfied. The players are happy — they're getting their share.

Of course, fans were not represented at the bargaining table. Not a word of concern for the people who are supporting both adversaries. Isn't that taxation without representation?

But there was worse travesty to the whole proceedings. Looking on, something like a hungry man at the window of a restaurant, were millions of Americans who merely want the chance to earn enough money to pay bills and rear families — especially in football-rich Buffalo.

Perhaps the Buffalo team should not be singled out, but it is the most immediate organization. What do the Buffalo Bills have to be proud about when those other Buffalo bills are mounting for more and more unemployed persons?

and Opinions

Boycott Explained

Editor:

We would like to respond to some of the points raised by Mr. Frantz's letter regarding the Nestle boycott.

Mr. Frantz states that information by INFAC "is lacking in confirmation of facts and in cases absolute false statements." The day before the press conference Bishop Clark was provided with photocopies of a telex received from field personnel in Jakarta, Indonesia, and Manila, the Philippines, outlining recent violations by Nestle of the WHO code. Photocopies of labels which are in complete violation of the WHO/UNICEF code and are used by Nestle in India, Guadeloupe and Brazil also were included.

There is no substantial evidence that local consumers, acting out of conscience and refusing to patronize Stouffer's Hotel, will save the life of one baby. However, it is our hope that as we link our arms with people throughout the world, Nestle Corp. will change its policies and the lives of children in the Third World will be saved. It also is our hope that Stouffer's being "a people-oriented organization" will use all its power to persuade Nestle to change its policies. Hardships on Stouffer's families are not caused by those who in conscience feel that they should support the boycott, but by the policies of the parent company, Nestle, which alone has the power to comply fully with the WHO/UNICEF code.

Concerning the Nestle-appointed Infant Formula

Commission, it is to be noted that the WHO/UNICEF code asks for a monitoring commission to be set up but specifies that it should be a fully independent organization. NIFAC was appointed and funded by Nestle who flew at its expense all its members to Berne, Switzerland. Members were offered a salary or, in lieu of it, a donation to their favorite charities. It seems questionable that a commission funded and appointed by Nestle will be capable of monitoring the same corporation that gave it existence. Furthermore, until Oct. 1, one of the members of the commission was Bishop Ricardo Ramirez. Commission staff has had several conversations with Bishop Ramirez in which he constantly stated his support of the boycott. In a letter to INFAC announcing his resignation from the audit

commission, due to changes in responsibilities within the Church, Bishop Ramirez stated: "I support the boycott because Nestle has not given instructions at this time which implement the WHO code."

Concerning the recommendation of the United Methodist Infant Formula Task Force, it is questionable that it acted with the impartiality that Mr. Frantz asks us to have on this issue. The chairperson of this task force is Mr. Philip Wogaman, who also is treasurer of the Nestle Infant Formula Audit Commission. Similarly, Ms. Mildred Randall also is a member of both the United Methodist Task Force and NIFAC. Couldn't this create some conflict of interest? Further, the General Council on Ministries and the church of the United Methodist

Church has never endorsed the boycott. It was the Board of Global Ministries and the Board of Church and Society together with 34 regional conferences that have endorsed the boycott and to date remain solidly behind it.

Mr. Frantz states, "A task force of the Episcopal Church has also recommended their national church not to support the boycott." We have contacted Bishop Robert Spears, the Episcopal bishop of Rochester, and he is not aware that there is any such task force or that any such recommendation is being recommended to the national church. We wonder where Mr. Frantz got his information?

We are aware of the new guidelines that Nestle announced at its press conference Oct. 14 and view them and the formation of

the Audit Commission as positive steps in trying to address the issues raised by the boycott. We are firmly committed to monitor constantly Nestle actions and announce the end to the boycott as soon as it complies in spirit and fact with the guidelines set in the WHO/UNICEF code. As Bishop Clark said in his statement of Oct. 27, "It is our hope and prayer that Nestle would soon recognize the importance of its strict compliance to the WHO/UNICEF Code and announce and carry out policies which would become life-giving instead of life-taking."

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Photo Seen In Poor Taste

Editor:

I'm writing to protest the use of the photograph depicting the Sisters in Avila, Spain, climbing over a wall to get a better view of the pope on his recent trip to that country. I feel that it is in the very poorest of taste and I also wonder if anyone at the Courier took the bishop's pastoral on women very seriously. Both the photograph and the headline "Upsy Daisy" are demeaning of the women who serve our Church.

As a member of the bishop's Advisory Committee on Communications I am embarrassed at such a childish reference to adult women religious and what that communicates to the people we serve and to the world in general concerning a quality of Catholic presence in the print media. As someone who wants to support communications to the world via the media, the image of a Church that affirms the dignity and the integrity of all people, I cannot support a Catholic newspaper that is insensitive to that idea.

As a graduate of the Master of Fine Arts program in photography at RIT I know

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good photojournalism in the tradition of American photography is to be found and used to promote dignity and uplift the spirit of a world in need of healing.

There is no excuse for publishing such an outrageous photograph when there is a wealth of creative activity in the Church today and plenty of quality photographs available that portray human struggle and joy in a Church that has the richness of God's creative Spirit reflected in each member.

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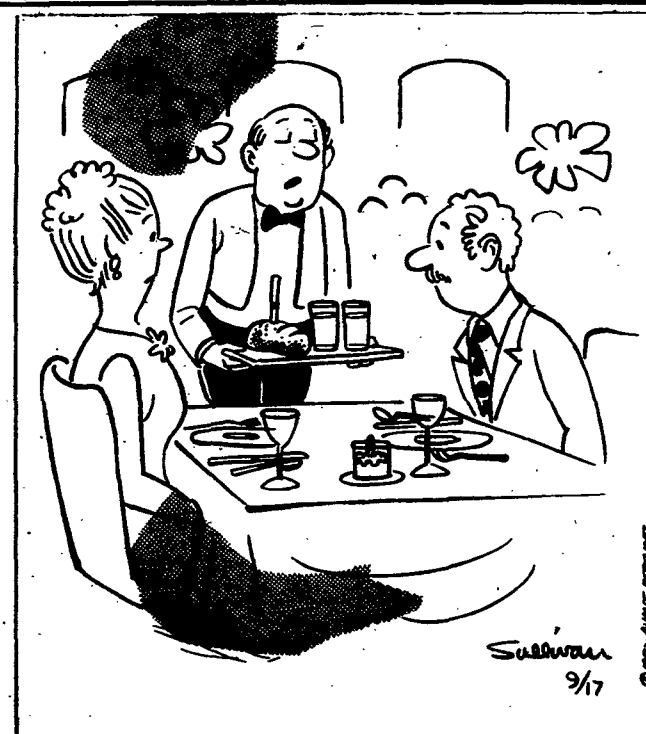
Editor's Note: The Courier-Journal does indeed take the bishop's pastoral letter on women seriously. For that reason, readers may find the column "Fire in the Thornbush" on Page 4.

Nice to See Nuns in Habits

Editor:

What a delight to the eyes it was when I saw the photo on the Courier-Journal front page, Nov. 10, of the nuns dressed their religious habits craning to get a glimpse of Pope John Paul II. It surely made them proud to wear their religious dress in public.

It's too bad that their counterparts in American see fit to wear secular dress and not religious dress in public.



"THE CHEF'S SURPRISE IS THAT HE USED TO BE A MONK."

Two weeks ago, Pope John Paul stressed the fact that the Roman clergy start wearing the cassocks while performing their priestly duties. The same rule should apply to the religious dress of the women to show the public that they are truly ministering to the Church and God.

May St. Teresa of Avila look down on the American nuns and intercede and pray for them.

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Straightening The Records

Editor:

In looking over papers of interest to me which I have collected, I noted on page eight of Courier-Journal issue dated 11-22-68, "A Statistical Picture of Parish Beginnings," a listing of Catholic churches in Rochester and diocese, giving year incorporated and first church, present church, school opened, etc.

An excellent job was done in collecting this material, and

I can appreciate the enormity of the task, as for one year I was employed by the County Historian Office and had the job as reporter of collecting statistical information.

As descendant of an early pioneer, Fridolin Henki, I am deeply interested in the development and growth of the various Catholic churches in this community. I note other new churches and schools could be added to the 1968 list of "Parish Beginnings," and it be brought up to date: St. John of Rochester, Fairport; St. Paul; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Hamlin; etc. If and when this is done, please correct data concerning St. Joseph's first church on Franklin Street. The first little church, purchased from, I believe, the African Methodist Episcopal Society, was (according to the book, "Four Score Years, 1836-1916, St. Joseph's Church, Rochester, N.Y.") a small brick building on Ely Street, corner of Minerva Place, which the Germans had fitted up for services, and which Father Prost inspected upon his arrival (second time) in Rochester on July 10, 1836.

The German congregation which had formerly worshipped at St. Patrick's now had a church of their own, and a priest who spoke their language. So the first little church of St. Joseph's Parish was made ready for use in 1836, not 10 years later according to the statistics given in your report of 1968. This church was dedicated by

Bishop Dubois of New York during his visitation to the area in 1837.

From this little church other parishes of German speaking Catholics sprang up: St. Boniface, Holy Family, St. Peter and Paul, Holy Redeemer, St. Michael's, Holy Ghost, Holy Trinity (Webster), St. Joseph's (Penfield), St. Andrew's, etc. The Redemptorist priests serving St. Joseph's Church, like traveling evangelists, branched out into the countryside and brought Holy Communion and said Mass in homes in the outlying district.

One such home on State Road, Webster, was that of Ignatius Eichorn, who was married to a daughter of Fridolin Henki, and who was my great great aunt. Her marriage is recorded on page 206 of the above mentioned History of St. Joseph's Church. A note in the aforementioned History of St. Joseph's Church states, "Father Prost calls the church on Ely Street, St. Mary's. The German Catholics had incorporated in 1836 under the title of 'St. Mary's German Catholic Congregation.'" Referring to another section of the text, "It would appear that the church was first known as St. Mary's, but Father Prost distinctively states in his account of the dedication that the church was dedicated by Bishop Dubois in honor of St. Joseph."

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