

Editorials



Merry Christmas From Us to You

Merry Christmas.

And without further warning, Mike Groden sends top o' the morning. And a greeting equally cheery Is penned by songstress Betty Creary.

Focus on blessings, says our Brennan, Terry And John Dash hopes you don't have a worry. That's good advice, echoes Father Hohman (You know him, he's our resident Roman).

A Yule that's happy and spiritually rich Is Joe LoGiudice's fervent pitch. For peace, Bonnie Migliore prays — And happiness, adds Nancy Hayes.

Gary Ayers wishes you a palazzo, A proper setting, says Barb Nicolazzo. From Chris Arden-Hopkins a holiday bright, Scott Schuman hopes it's out o' sight.

A joyful morn from Tony Costello, the GM, And Jim Michaelsen wishes the same for the p.m. Joan Smith reminds 'tis a season to savor, And added spice comes from Peter Fraver.

Carmen Viglucci wishes you only Good News Mike Robischon echoes his views. Denise Grimaldi draws the conclusion: May your blessings be in profusion.

and Opinions

Just Who Is The Enemy?

Editor:

One hears during emotional discussions concerning nuclear weapons, the question: "What about our enemies?" It is important, therefore, to know just who the enemy is.

The enemy sent troops into Santo Domingo during the 1960s to protect its interests.

The enemy used chemicals to burn, mutilate and destroy Southeast Asian people.

The enemy used its own citizens to experiment with the effects of radiation from atomic explosions.

The enemy bloats its nation's arms producers with trillions while the needs of the people go unmet.

The enemy makes alliances to further its own interests, not necessarily for the good of humanity.

The enemy is a military state with more money spent on weapons and instruments of force than on anything else.

The enemy supplies arms to dictators and death squads throughout the world.

The enemy enslaved a race of people and sent them into forced labor camps called plantations.

The enemy expanded its borders by massacring the native inhabitants and confiscating their lands.

The enemy was the first and only nation to drop a nuclear bomb on innocent, children, men, women.

The enemy is ready to destroy creation — but only for the best of reasons: national defense, security, profits, power, to protect its way of "life."

We have met the enemy and it is us.

Kathleen Dubel RD 1 Lowman, N.Y. 14861

Must Make Prisons Safe

Editor:

A recent report in the Correctional Associations of New York says that violence, overcrowding and enforced idleness in New York's prisons have reached crisis proportions, that "the state is living on borrowed time and cannot stop the clock."

Here are some excerpts from letters I've received from New York prisoners this year:

"It seems like something goes wrong every day. If it isn't a stabbing, it is a fire in a cell. One isn't safe here now ... the sergeant came to where the Muslims were having their religious services and started using obscene language in their mosque and they beat him up ... the same dreary corridors, passing the same barred windows, smelling the same foul odors ... This place is about to blow up and I don't want to be around here when it does ..."

"I've seen inmates spit and curse at officers ... Another kid was gang-raped ... the other day an officer and a sergeant were stabbed ... He was slow in obeying and the guard gave him a shove and told him he was locked up. He answered back and the guard hit him in the stomach ... They (guards) do not hesitate to tell you to cool out or you'll wind up disfigured or dead ..."

"(Name omitted) was found dead in his cell. They found a needle still in his arm, heroin on his desk plus a lot of cash ... There was a big bedbug and lice outbreak ... After each shakedown the metal shop ("knife factory") is the first to open up and all knives found during the shakedown are replaced ... In here it's strictly a no-win situation ... I really need psychiatric help but I need more help than this place can give me ... The Box (disciplinary unit) is full and running under conditions that are sub-human."

"Two inmates walked into the cell of (name omitted) and held a knife to his throat and said they wanted a sum of money delivered (to them) or else they (outside gang members) would hurt his wife."

"I get around it as best as I can. I'm okay but exhausted. I continue to watch many good people go down the drain. How unfair it is! And that is too simple a word to describe what is going on here."

For some time now, I have hoped that New York would request the National Institute of Corrections to study our state's prison problems and to offer guidance in dealing with them. There are no easy solutions but we still need to try to make our prisons as decent and as safe as possible for those incarcerated and employed in them.

Joel Freedman 329 N. Main St. Canandaigua, N.Y. 14424

What Is A 'Christian'?

Editor:

In Dec. 8 Equal Time, RapAround, juniors and seniors were asked: "What does it mean to be a Christian?" and of eight students, only one said "having faith in Christ."

I find this hard to believe if they are students in a parochial school. Most said believing in God, doing good works and going to church. Believing in God is necessary but many religions believe in God, like the Hindus and Muslims, etc.; the Jews believe in God.

It is believing in and having faith in Jesus Christ, Our Savior, that means we are Christians. Doing good works comes from following the example He gave us and His teachings to the apostles, the first Christians.

Of course, doing good works and going to church are

Christianomics

Annually, one of the most heartwarming things about Christmas has been the generous response of dioceses to the Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Fund.

This year, with so many more people experiencing hardships of their own through unemployment and inflation, it might appear reasonable that the fund would suffer. Not so. As the needy lines grew, so did the hearts of friends and neighbors, putting the fund far ahead of record pace at mid-campaign.

Another example of Christianomics at work.

A reminder: There is still time to come to the aid of those daily coming to the agencies of Catholic Charities seeking help at Christmastime. Contributions should go to Courier-Journal/Catholic Charities Christmas Fund, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

parts of being a good Christian. Emily Bednar 3202 Elmira Road Newfield, N.Y. 14867

Father Cuddy, Time Disagree

Editor:

I often read Father Cuddy's column. I was really surprised

to read in the Nov. 24 issue his statement that because jobs are assigned in China there is no unemployment.

Time magazine's Nov. 29 issue is in sharp disagreement. On Page 59, it lists China's urban unemployment rate at 25 percent — leading a list of seven nations.

Katherine Johnson 205 East Lake Road Honeoye, N.Y. 14471

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 S., 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.



"FIRST OF ALL, LET ME SAY THAT I WHOLE-HEARTEDLY ENDORSE THE BISHOPS' STAND ON NUCLEAR ARMS..."

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