

**Editorials**

# The Cardinal And the Parade

At Courier-Journal press time, Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York City was still undecided as to whether he would participate in this year's St. Patrick's parade along Fifth Avenue in New York City.

The parade which traditionally has been a tribute to the Irish patron saint and the millions of Irish people, both here and in the old country, this year is being transformed into a pro-IRA event. The cardinal bemoans this turn of events.

He not only condemned "indiscriminate violence" in Northern Ireland but he linked the Irish Republican Arm to such destruction, calling it "futile and immoral."

Church officials in New York City reportedly view this as strong disapproval of the parade committee's choice of Michael Flannery as the parade's grand marshal.

The cardinal issued a public letter appealing for reconciliation and a resolution of tensions surrounding the parade. The archdiocese had worked to prevent the choice of Flannery but once it was made took an aloof attitude until the cardinal's public appeal. Make no mistake of his feeling:

"This year a new danger has been presented in the St. Patrick's Day parade on Fifth Avenue. A parade — which is intended to be a sign of honor to the patron saint of Ireland and of New York and a celebration of the Irish heritage and contributions to America — is once again being made something which it should not be.

"There has been a claim that the march up Fifth Avenue will be a pro-IRA parade. This is being interpreted as a sign of support for the Provisional Irish Republican Army and its campaign to achieve political and social effects through indiscriminate violence."

He later added, "In the words of Pope John Paul II when he went as a pilgrim for peace to Ireland: 'Violence will only delay the day of justice. Violence only destroys the work of justice. Further violence in Ireland will only drag down to ruin the land you claim to cherish.'"

Cardinal Cooke is not the only respected Irish official to criticize sharply the choice of Flannery. U.S. Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan and former Gov. Hugh Carey have already repudiated the parade committee and have refused to participate. Would that other politicians would see the same light.

The cardinal's choice as to taking part undoubtedly will be guided by his wish for reconciliation. If he feels his presence on the reviewing stand would avert possible bloodshed, he will be there. Otherwise, he will shun such homage to violence.

The committee's choice has invited the risk of violence. It has brought embarrassment to the Church.

It has marred a joyful tradition which not only celebrated a great people but which also reflected well their contributions so that all could salute them. It has diminished a proud people.

Worst of all, perhaps, it has knelt down to violence at a time when a sore world is crying for peace. Pray that the committee members and their supporters will not have new blood on their hands after the parade.

## Frank E. Wolfe

Bishop Matthew H. Clark concluded his warm and spiritual homily at Frank E. Wolfe's funeral last week with the words, "There is not anyone here who will not miss Frank." He was on target.

Mr. Wolfe, whose career of service to his Church spanned several generations, will be remembered for decades to come, not only because of his magnificent service but also because his associates included many younger diocesans.

Mr. Wolfe was the quintessential unassuming, but richly talented and giving, layperson in Church service. Never seeking the limelight, he was nevertheless intrinsically involved in many diocesan projects. His financial acumen was deep, exceeded only by his willingness to serve.

Long retired from his career work, he devoted himself to the Church with talent, loyalty and perspicacity. The Courier-Journal was particularly blessed to have him as its treasurer for 20 years.

Bishop Clark made the fine point. He will be missed.

## and Opinions

### Don't Arm El Salvador

Editor:

"We've won," said a State Department official in the Wall Street Journal at the time of the certification of human rights improvements in El Salvador by President Reagan last July. "We've succeeded in making human rights boring."

This January a similar certification was made. As President Reagan would say, "We don't want to send the Russians the wrong kind of signal." But how will others interpret our signal? The Salvadoran government must realize that military aid will continue regardless of human rights violations, a benefit from being "in our own backyard." The campesinos, caught in the middle of the strife, see they must look elsewhere for peace that comes from justice. Hopelessly, they may never find it. And American missionaries, like the four martyred religious women, can expect their own government will continue to supply the weapons used against them and against the people they serve.

administration is renewing military aid to Guatemala, ironically, at the same time that the Catholic bishops there have used the word "genocide" to describe the treatment of the native Indian. Likewise, we are pushing for renewal of military aid to Chile at a time when recorded reports of torture are at an all-time high.

A few years ago, the newspapers estimated there were about 3,500 guerrillas in El Salvador. Now, after expending close to a billion dollars, there are over 40,000 noncombatant dead and 6,500 guerrillas. Archbishop Rivera Damas bemoans all foreign interventions: "They provide arms, we provide the dead." The U.S. is the biggest arms supplier. (Even the guerrilla weapons come from the U.S. via the black market or captured from the army — N.Y. Times March 5, '83.) A Salvadoran refugee put it this way, "The problem is, my country is bleeding to death and you will call it a victory over communism." The real problem is pointed out in a poem by M.J. Arce. "You will kill me a thousand times but in the long run I will always be better armed than you, if you have a gun and I only hunger."

On March 24, Christians and non-Christians will gather

Reports continue that the

in churches throughout the world in solidarity with the Salvadoran people to remember their beloved Archbishop Romero. My prayer is that Romero will prove to be a prophet as well as a martyr and the resurrection he envisioned for El Salvador will soon become a reality.

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### Convert Russia Through Prayer

Editor:

Our American bishops have expressed their desire to hear from the people on the issue of nuclear disarmament. It is our right and obligation as Catholics to state our opinions on this grave matter. Our Holy Father, John Paul II, recently stated: "The powers that confront each other must be able to go through the various stages of disarmament together, and involve themselves in each stage in equal measure. It is difficult to imagine how the problem of peace in the world could be resolved unilaterally, without the participation and involvement of all." As private citizens, we cannot thoroughly know the motivation of each nation involved. Actions often speak louder than words. We can know much of Soviet communism from those who have had encounters with her.

In 1945, following World War II, thousands of Russian prisoners of war and "displaced persons" held on British and American soil refused to return to Russia and were "repatriated against their will." ("The Last Secret," Nicholas Bethell) Many fled when possible, others committed suicide, including entire families. Alexander Solzhenitsyn met the survivors languishing and dying in Russian concentration camps. The American Col. George E. Day writes of his encounter with the Communists as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam: "For the first time, many of the imprisoned Americans understood the

meaning of tyranny... A clear and complete understanding of communism's nature was gained... We knew the Communists as Cain knew Abel. We learned how spurious was the relationship between their words and their deeds." (American Legion)

American democracy is not perfect but to many Americans it is worth defending and preferable to communism. There must be a just disarmament with the right of defense when necessary to insure the preservation of democracy. Our Blessed Mother at Fatima promised a true peace when we heed her requests for prayer and penance. Please write our American bishops asking them to lead us in hours of prayer and times of fasting knowing that the most certain means of achieving peace is the conversion of Soviet Russia.

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### Nuclear Arms A 'Blasphemy'

Editor:

George Kennan, in his book "The Nuclear Delusion," gives us a comprehensive insight into "Soviet-American relations in the atomic age." In a chapter titled "A Christian's View of the Arms Race," writing of complacency to the danger and evil inherent in the nuclear weapons buildup and the utter destruction which would follow a nuclear war, he writes:

"I cannot help it. I hope I am not being unjust or uncharitable. But to me, in the light of these considerations, the readiness to use nuclear weapons against other human beings — against people whom we do not know, whom we have never seen, and whose guilt or innocence is not for us to establish — and, in doing so, to place in jeopardy the natural structure upon which all civilization rests, as though the safety and the perceived interests of our own generation were more



"DID YOU EVER RUN ACROSS A MARRIAGE THAT WAS BEING THREATENED BY HIGH POTENCY VITAMINS?"

important than everything that has ever taken place or could take place in civilization: this is nothing less than a presumption, a blasphemy, an indignity — an indignity of monstrous dimensions — offered to God."

A reading of Kennan's book will give us a far more balanced concept of the Soviet "peril" than we get from Reagan and his propagandists.

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### Suggested Reading

Editor:

Might I suggest that Mr. Joseph Murray read "The Grand Inquisitor," Chapter 5 of Book Five in Dostoevsky's "The Brothers Karamazov." I believe he would find many ideas there with which he would heartily agree

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### 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.

## Lenten Regulations

Good Friday is the only remaining day of both fast and abstinence.

Other Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

The fast is defined as one full meal a day, with two lighter meals. It is required of those 21-59 years of age.

The prohibition against meat on Fridays applies to those 14 years of age and older.

A Catholic should not lightly excuse himself from these practices.