

Editorials

On the Move

The Chicago mayoralty.
The primary in Philadelphia.
The political rise of Jesse Jackson.
Blacks finally are becoming the political force their numbers should have dictated long ago. Victims of systematic injustice and facing a national administration that is at best lukewarm to their plight, black Americans seem to have hit on the right avenue out of their oppression -- directly through the ballot box. Nothing will do a better job of making those in office take notice of a group's wants and needs than organized voting clout. And nothing could be more poetically and pragmatically just than the election of qualified blacks to lead cities with large and even majority black populations.
And as black politicians continue to emerge winners in the various big cities, both North and South, the day is becoming closer when even the road

to the White House may open up to a black. That is what America is supposed to be all about.
Other minorities please note.

Jack Dempsey

The Manassa Mauler.
Damon Runyon gave that name to Jack Dempsey, the heavyweight champion of the Roaring Twenties. And rarely has a nickname better fit its subject than this one, for Dempsey was indeed ferocious in the ring, punching savagely to his own hummed cadence.
But outside of the ring, he was a gentle and considerate and modest person, ready to give credit to others. In the last couple of years, America has lost two of its pugilistic giants -- Joe Louis and now Dempsey. It should be pointed out that they were mutual heroes, each with great respect for the other. Though they made their living in one of the most primitive of ways, each was a kind and caring person away from the arena.
It was said of Louis that he was always a credit to his race -- the human race. Much the same can be said for Dempsey.



"KEEP THINKING HOW ONLY GOD CAN MAKE A TREE, POP."

and Opinions

'Creed' Recommended

EDITOR:
It is exciting to watch the interest in the Ordinary Teaching of the Bishops in regard to the pastoral letter on nuclear arms. Just this morning -- on Channel 13, Bishop Clark referred to this pastoral as a teaching document. How fine it is to read that study groups will be implemented throughout the diocese this year so that more Catholics may become aware of the necessary bilateral aspect to disarmament amid the concern for peace.

In 1968, as part of his Ordinary Teaching, Pope Paul VI announced to the world the "Creed of the People of God," -- "aware of the disquiet which agitates certain groups of men at the present time with regard to the faith" (CPG, art. 4). It is a teaching creed. In 1979, Pope John Paul II, as part of his Ordinary Teaching, issued the Apostolic Exhortation "Catechesi Tradendae" in which he identified Pope Paul's "Creed of the People of God" as "a sure point of reference for the content of catechesis" -- which means for the content of Catholic religious education (for all age groups).

Now that a truer appreciation of the Church's Ordinary magisterium is coming into view, might it not be time to highlight the "Creed of the People of God" through such means as study groups and newspaper columns? Were both the pastoral and the Creed studied, the Catholic concern for morality would again be linked with the Catholic concern for the faith -- a fine endeavor for the Year of Reconciliation.

Unfortunately, although the nuclear pastoral will be printed in its entirety in the Courier-Journal for all to read, the "Creed of the People of God" is not available locally and is not even to be found in the resource library of the religious education department of the diocese -- according to what I was told this morning when I telephoned the diocese and spoke to someone in that department. The Creed is available for a dime from the Daughters of St. Paul, 50 St. Paul's Ave., Jamaica Plain, Boston, Mass. 02130. That has to be the bargain of the century!

Order it and use it within your family!
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The Lesson From Assisi

EDITOR:
In 1982, the entire Church celebrated the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi -- not only the entire Church, but the entire world as well. One of the things we remember him as St. Francis the peacemaker, the writer of the prayer which begins, "Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace." St. Francis was indeed a peacemaker. Not only did he settle quarrels between individuals, but also, through his command that anyone who desired to follow him must not bear arms, St. Francis played an important role in ending the warlike medieval feudal system.

How did this humble poor man destroy the feudal system? What were his weapons, and how did he attract thousands of men and women to renounce the world and lay down their arms? It was the beauty of the Gospel life and of repentance which attracted men and women. It was through living the Gospel that peace was attained. The goal was not to destroy the feudal system, but, to love Him, and to bring others to know and love Him. With that priority set, the Lord, the only true Prince of Peace, was able to bring peace to the hearts of men.

Therefore, we can respond with great joy and great hope to the loving pastoral letter of the Roman Catholic bishops, knowing that when we seek first the Kingdom of God, and the incomparable treasure of His righteousness, God will be faithful to provide everything else, including the peace which we so desire.

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St. Jerome's: Up to People

EDITOR:
I have read with interest the letters to the editor from some members of St. Jerome's parish about the recent announcement of the change in the pastoral priest staff at their parish.

I would like to share the experience of the parish of

which I am presently co-pastor. In the past 10 years, St. John the Evangelist parish has gone through the same kind of thing that St. Jerome's is experiencing now -- only we have had it happen twice.

The reality of the situation is that it has been a very smooth transition in both cases. The reason for that -- and the lesson for the people of St. Jerome's -- is the fine spirit of cooperation with which the people have greeted both new sets of co-pastors. The key, I believe, is that the people have to realize that they are the responsible ones to insure that good ministry continues and the parish continues to grow. The people are the link between the former and the present. They are the ones who are going to provide the continuity.

It is my hope that this has shed some light on the situation for the people of St. Jerome's. Perhaps this will assist them in channeling the fear and hurt in a more constructive direction to help their parish face the present challenge.

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Bible Holds The Answer

EDITOR:
Where are priorities when we incarcerate hardened criminals at a cost that would feed a host of hungry children? How can would-be Christians dispute the word of the Bible regarding capital punishment? So explicit are

its mandates that not even accidental homicide is tolerated. It (the Bible) holds the only solution to our present economic disaster. God has not changed from all eternity. Be assured he is not about to yield to human fancies at this time.

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Let's Stop Animal Abuse

EDITOR:
I have just finished reading an article in the Sunday Democrat and Chronicle entitled "Science or Animal Cruelty?" and I was wondering where are the organizations to protect these poor abused animals?

There seems to be a never-ending amount of organizations that jump to the defense of every other type of abused species in this world so why not one formed for the prevention of this senseless and forced abuse of helpless animals? If there are any already formed I would like them to try and fight against this unnecessary abuse on animals. If there are not any formed, I would like to see as many as possible formed. With a large and widespread protest of these abuses and the corporations that condone these abuses then I'm sure that there would be a change in this cruel and inhumane policy.

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Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Bottom Line Is Sincerity

Sunday's Readings:(R-3)Lk. 7/36-8/3, (R1) 2 Sm: 12/7-10. (R2) Gal./1/16, 19-21.

Each of Sunday's readings speaks of sin and of the forgiveness of sin. Each teaches that reconciliation, or forgiveness, is always through a third party -- be it the prophet Nathan or Jesus.

David broke the Law; so did the sinful woman of the gospel. Both were, so to speak, "outlaws." But so was Jesus in a way -- the Divine Outlaw. For He loves sinners so much that he forgives them seventy times seven times a day. Why? Because love and sincerity go beyond the Law.

At the heart of Sunday's reading lies sincerity. At the heart of David's adultery with Bathsheba and his treatment of her husband Uriah is insincerity. Nathan's parable of the rich and poor man helped David see this.

In the gospel Jesus notes the sincerity and love of the sinful woman who anointed His feet with oil and He defends her extravagance on the basis of her sincerity.

Sincerity (sometimes translated faithfulness) is the bottom line in the New

Testament. Our Lord's parables nearly all deal with a person's sincerity or lack of it. Nothing so stirred up Jesus' ire as the preening and pretense of the Scribes and Pharisees. Nothing so warmed His heart as the sincerity of a Zacchaeus or the humble sinful woman who anointed His feet.

In Roman Law, building contracts had a "sine cera" clause. "Sine cera" means "without wax." Sometimes the corner of a huge block of building marble would be chipped off. Rather than suffer the loss of discarding the block, a builder would sometimes conceal the defect by filling in the corner with wax. Only after the building had been erected some time would the deception be detected by the discoloring of the wax. Hence the "sine cera" clause. Our word sincere comes from "sine cera." Sincere means to be of one consistency. Morally, it means conduct congruent with conviction.

The sincere person is one who means what he says, whose words are in tune with his thoughts and whose deeds

are one with his beliefs. Sincerity is at the heart of life. It's our toughest task. Insincerity today attacks us on every front: dishonesty in business, cheating in schoolwork, flattery in courtship, adultery in marriage, unfairness in sports, hypocrisy in religion, falsification of life in the arts, lying and gossip in social relationships.

To be sincere in life's basic moral struggle. The measure of victory in anyone's life is in terms of sincere striving. Grantland Rice, one of America's outstanding sports writers wrote:

When the One Great Scorer
Counts the marks beside your name,
It matters not if you won or lost
But how you played the game.
That is, how sincerely you played the game.

We might define the saint as the sinner who sincerely tries; and the sinner, as the one who is sincerely insincere -- or, in the words of Tennessee Williams, "has all the sincerity of a birdhunter's whistle."

Bishops' Pastoral To Be Published

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops pastoral on war and peace will be published in its entirety in next week's Courier-Journal. Extra copies will be available; see Page 9.

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.