

**Editorials**

**Summer Thoughts**

The Church is abloom with good ideas this summertime. Just a sampling:

**From the Military Ordinariate:** It has urged Catholic chaplains to study "The Challenge of Peace" to "see that is properly presented to, and understood by, those we are appointed to serve" (members of the armed forces). Among other things, the ordinariate said members of the military should be made aware of "some of the positions the letter does not support" despite reports to the contrary. Among them, the letter does not call for "disfavor toward, refusal to enter, or resignation from military service; disobedience to lawful orders; weakening of morally legitimate and obligatory defense of the United States," and the one item that seems to

confuse most those who have not read the letter -- it does NOT counsel unilateral disarmament.

**Keeping the dream alive:** Father Frederick Hinton, executive director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice, urges Catholics to participate in the march planned Aug. 27 in Washington, D.C., to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King's famous "I have a dream" speech. Hopefully, not only will the rank and file among Catholics honor the suggestion but some of our hierarchical types also will. It would be healthy if some of our cardinals and black bishops would join in honoring this modern day prophet and pacifist.

**The last shall be first category:** St. Francis parish in Carlton, Minn., was in need of a new rectory for many reasons but couldn't get rid of the old one. Real estate was going so slow that the parish council decided to raffle the rectory off by selling 300 tickets at \$100 each, to realize \$30,000. It took a lot of promotional know-how and effort to keep tickets going. Sales dragged on for some seven months until

the last ticket was finally sold to Mrs. Terri Thell. It turned out to be the winner, so she was happy and, more important, the parish was on the way to a new rectory.

**Clear vision:** Cardinal Corrado Ursi of Naples, Italy, has donated his eyes to the local eye bank to be used after his death. "I am happy to think I will give light to the failed eyes of a brother and that I will be able, after my death, to continue to see in this world," the 75-year-old cardinal wrote in his diocesan newspaper. The Naples eye bank was inaugurated by the cardinal and is the largest in southern Italy. But in case, anyone thinks the cardinal is only concerned with the problems of sight, it should be noted that his diocese was the first in Italy to sponsor a rehabilitation center for drug addicts. He also has opened centers for abandoned children and for the elderly and personally sheltered in his own residence a family victimized by the 1981 earthquake.

The Church, after all, is people and many of them contribute toward making this world a better place.

**and Opinion**

**S. Africa Criticized**

**EDITOR:**

The coverage that the Courier-Journal has given of the real situation in South Africa has impressed me immensely. Last year at this time, I was totally unaware of the sufferings of the blacks in South Africa. Due to lack of publicity and the selfish interest of the U.S. government in South Africa, the public papers printed limited articles of this country. It was only after meeting a black South African in college that I was made aware of the TRUE situation.

South Africa is the only country left on this world which has legalized discrimination and any country that supports the South African government supports legalized discrimination. The U.S. prides itself on the fact that it is a true believer of equality, then why does it not stand up and take notice of the Christlike suffering that blacks endure in their own land? The U.S. sends thousands of dollars to help Israel save some land and thousands of dollars and military aid to Central America to save them from another rule. But why is this stripping of human dignity in South Africa left untouched and, indirectly, supported?

The introduction of the award-winning movie, "Gandhi," was filmed in South Africa and it depicted the sufferings of Indians in that country. Through Gandhi's perseverance, he won some rights for the Indians in that country. Many people leave the movie feeling a sense of satisfaction in humankind because we won a battle against discrimination. But have we really won? In the movie, Gandhi gets thrown off the train because he is not white. Today, men, women and children who are black still get kicked off trains.

The blacks are taught to hate being black! They are forced to live in homesteads that are a far cry from the mansions that the whites enjoy; they watch censored films; they may not marry nor fall in love with a human who is privileged to have white skin; they are even taught to question the love of God for them because some preachers brainwash them to think that blacks are Satan's direct relatives. The list of their hardships is endless.

Can we feel satisfied as Christians to sit comfortably and watch our fellow brothers and sisters suffer? I

am sure if the situation existed in Christ's time, he would have added to his preaching... "When I was ridiculed, spat at, lost at freedom and stripped of dignity for my skin color... you came to my help."

Let us grow in understanding of our brothers and sisters. Let us pray constantly for the deliverance of their rightful freedom.

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**Disarmament Dangerous**

**EDITOR:**

In determining the validity of certain sections of the bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace," two issues come to mind.

The first is that of the Vietnam War.

By speaking out against our involvement and supportive military and anti-Communist forces there, the bishops entered into the immoral choice by Congress that left Indochina at the mercy of the Communists.

The resulting genocide in Cambodia, the boat people from Laos and Vietnam and the loss of freedom for all those who remained in Southeast Asia is a sad example of what happens when aggression is met with passivity.

The second issue is the bishops' opposition to capital punishment.

By refusing to deprive the murderer of his or her life, we needlessly risk the lives of those within or outside of prison walls.

Even so, I would oppose capital punishment if I were convinced that the victim and the murderer would suffer a greater spiritual loss were capital punishment to be in effect.

The spiritual aspect of nuclear conflict must similarly be addressed.

While the U.S. and the Soviets possess nuclear weapons, it is not a foregone conclusion that there will be a nuclear war.

On the other hand, were we to unilaterally disarm we would certainly be conquered by the Soviets.

Judging from the situation in Afghanistan and Southeast Asia a takeover by the Soviet Union would involve the loss of life not too different from a nuclear war.

So let us not invite Soviet aggression by telling the world our reluctance to use

force. Instead let us combine our arsenal of prayer and weapons in order to maintain the freedom our forefathers fought and died to preserve.

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**Editor's Note:** Readers are advised to read the pastoral letter; the bishops did not urge unilateral disarmament.

**Metro Police Political**

**EDITOR:**

I read with dismay that my Church intends to take an active position in favor of Metro Police.

Since this is essentially a governmental and even political topic, I believe that the Catholic Church should stay out of what has become a highly controversial subject.

Metro Police has already polarized our community enormously, and the entry of the Church into the discussion would only add to this polarization -- certainly not the Church's role.

The article concerning the rationale prepared by the Department of Justice and Peace was also confusing to me. I read it over four times and fail to see the logic that Metro Police would correct injustice and inequity.

The proposal was designed to aid the fiscal problem of the city of Rochester. I am unaware of any plan to redistribute monies to the unemployed or indigent as a result of the adoption of Metro Police. In fact, any fiscal benefit that would come to individuals as a result would most likely go to those living in those suburbs which now support their own police departments -- a generally more affluent group.

In addition, the increase of the sales tax would most definitely have a greater effect on the poor and those on fixed incomes than the more affluent. Although the sales tax was originally designed to apply to so-called "non-essentials," clothing, laundry items and gasoline can certainly not be called "non-essentials" for even the poor.

Since a very weak case, or no case at all was set forth in terms of applying a theological or moral overlay to this complex issue, it appears your effort to discuss this proposal from the pulpit exceeds what I perceive as the role of my Church.

For the past 40 years, business, government and political leaders have

wrestled with the concept of Metro Police, without success. Adding the Catholic Church to that list, in my opinion, is an inappropriate and damaging step backward.

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**Too Critical Of Clergy**

**EDITOR:**

When a man is about to be thrown to the lions, no one doubts his veracity. His words contain wisdom and are held with great respect and reverence. Such were the words of St. Ignatius of Antioch when he wrote to the Magnesians. Magnesia was a little place about 15 miles from Ephesus and the people were apparently giving their young Bishop Damas a hard time. With this as background, I'd like to quote a passage from St. Ignatius' letter to the Magnesians.

"You should not be less respectful of your bishop because he is so young. Instead, honor God's power in him and show him every reverence. Your priests do not take advantage of youthfulness, but, being wise in God's ways, yield to him or, really, not to him but to the Father of Jesus Christ, who is bishop of us all. Because of him who loves us, obey the bishop in all simplicity; any deceit you practice is not directed at the bishop alone but also at the invisible God he represents. Such an attempt must answer to God, who knows the secrets of the heart.

"We must, then, be Christians in deed as well as in name. Some people grant a man the name of bishop but ignore him in their actions. How can they have a good conscience when they do not gather for worship in the way he prescribes."

It has become a popular and sophisticated pastime for the laity to criticize the clergy; however, it is about the right time for the laity to use St. Ignatius' letter as a guide to examining the beam in the laity's eye before they try to remove the speck from the clergy's eyes. The clergy come from the people... what is need is a holier laity.

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**Pray for End To Abortions**

**EDITOR:**

About a year ago, an abortion clinic opened at 1800 Hudson Ave. For about two months a small group of concerned people gathered every Saturday morning outside the clinic. We prayed the rosary for an end to abortion and we carried signs to inform people passing by about what was going on inside the clinic.

One Saturday, about six weeks ago, we were very pleased to find posted on the clinic entrance a letter informing patients that the clinic was closed. We are convinced that through the power of prayer and action we helped close that abortion clinic.

Unfortunately, there are other locations in the Rochester area where unborn infants are being destroyed. We need to do the same thing at those locations. Going directly to the place where abortions are being done and praying the rosary is a powerful way to help end abortion.

At present, we are praying the rosary at 220 Alexander St. where there are several doctors performing abortions. We invite individuals and parish groups to join us for one hour on Saturdays. For more information, call me at 621-3906.

We also encourage individuals to pray daily for an end to legal abortion. Perhaps at Mass each Sunday one of the prayer intentions could be for the unborn.

Last year in our country more than 1.5 million babies were legally destroyed. As Christians we must not turn a deaf ear to what Father John Powell terms "the silent holocaust."

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**Boycott Ad Correction**

**EDITOR:**

On Sunday, July 10, an ad appeared in Upstate magazine concerning the boycott of the Rochester Plaza Hotel, a Nestle-Stouffer facility. Included in the ad was a list of other Nestle-owned products and included in that list was "all Libby's... products." This information is incorrect. Nestle had divested itself of some products under the Libby's label, therefore, we would like to let our community know that at present the list of products under Libby's label that are included in the boycott are Libby's juices and nectars, Libby's canned nectars, Libby's canned pumpkin and Libby's canned meats.

Since a local company, the S.S. Pierce Co., was the purchaser of Libby's Vegetable Division, we would like to publicly apologize to them and to the other purchasers for whatever detriment the inclusion of "all Libby's... products," as a listing of boycott products and services has produced.

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