

Editorials

Common Ideal

A prayer:

"O God, our Father, Thou Searcher of Men's hearts, help us to draw near to Thee in sincerity and truth. May our religion be filled with gladness and may our worship of Thee be natural.

"Strengthen and increase our admiration for honest dealing and clean thinking, and suffer not our hatred of hypocrisy and pretence ever to diminish. Encourage us in our endeavor to live above the common level of life. Make us to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never to be content with a half truth when the whole can be won.

"Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is noble and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy.

"Guard us against flippancy and irreverence in the sacred things of life. Grant us new ties of friendship and new opportunities of service. Kindle our hearts in fellowship with those of a cheerful countenance, and soften our hearts with sympathy for those who sorrow and suffer."

This prayer may deserve thoughtful consideration

in these days of polarization between the rising pacifist movement and those who believe in a strong military. It is a prayer that should appeal to those in both camps and as such underlines the commonality, rather than the differences, of those involved in the debate. The concluding paragraphs will identify the prayer and we wonder how many would have ascertained its source.

"Help us to maintain the honor of the Corps untarnished and unsullied and to show forth in our lives the ideals of West Point in doing our duty to Thee and to our Country.

"All of which we ask in the name of the Great Friend and Master of men. Amen."

Bias Survives

Discouraging comment. Mathew Ahmann, the Catholic layman who shared the podium with the Rev. Martin Luther King at the famous 1963 march on Washington, and who dared those present to believe that the U.S. could end racial discrimination in two decades, says this nation has fallen short of that ideal.

"There have been some significant changes for blacks since the march — improved access to public transportation and lodging, and voting," he said. But, he added, "some basic problems have not changed in the past 20 years. Blacks are still not

allowed a full economic role. The economic situation, in fact, is getting worse for minorities." In 1963, Ahmann was the director of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice and he is now an associate director of the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

Twenty years ago, he was the only designated Catholic among the 10 main speakers. Some members of the hierarchy, headed by Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle, took part. This year, the U.S. Catholic Conference is among several organizations of our faith calling for wider Catholic participation. Such would be gratifying, but the numbers of blacks not swarming to the Catholic Church in the U.S. is indication that the Church did not do much more than the nation at large in making Ahmann's prediction of two decades come true.

Where There's Smoke

Headline: Lung cancer in women up 450 percent since 1950.

Gist of story: Since joining the work force in greater numbers, women have also taken up some of the poorer habits of their male counterparts, including smoking.

Will such a development deter that cigarette company from its appeal to women, "You've come a long way, baby"?

and Opinion

Prayer Urged For Peace

Editor:

The virtue of patriotism means that as citizens we respect and honor our country; but, our very love and loyalty makes us examine carefully and regularly its role in world affairs asking that our country live up to its full potential as an agent of peace with justice for all people.

Our willingness to destroy life everywhere for the sake of our security as Americans is the root of many other terrible events in our country. Once we have agreed to this destruction, whether vocally or by our silence, all other evil seems minor by comparison.

We must take responsibility for what is in our own backyard and when destruction is being prepared in our names, we must speak plainly.

Since July 4, some of our sisters have gathered in Romulus to offer a non-violent presence of opposition to the nuclear weapons being stored in our backyard; to call for a dismantling of weapons that terrify the imagination.

The Roman Catholic Church has, in the past, supported and given encouragement to those seeking peace and justice through non-violence.

Our prayers are with the women campers. Many,

moved by faith, participate in the encampment as a sign of their suffering love and hope for the future.

Our prayers are with the local people. Our prayers are with those responsible for civil and military law enforcement. Our prayers are for ourselves also for we must sort out all of our fears and discover the true focus of our concern.

Our prayer is that mutual acceptance and understanding will prevail in these difficult times. We pray for dialogue pursued with love. We pray for a new vision that sees a nuclear free world where our security as a people of faith rests not in demonic weapons that threaten all life on earth, but, in a loving, caring God.

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(Editor's Note: This letter was also signed by seven other staff members of the Office of Social Ministry.)

Pastoral Undercut

Editor:

In Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," Marc Anthony, in his oration at Caesar's funeral, while praising Brutus and his supporters, subtly endeavored to cut the ground from under their

reasons for assassinating Caesar.

In a recent column, a writer attempted to do the same thing by praising "the bishops' wonderful pastoral on war and peace." He also endeavored to subtly emasculate the entire pastoral. It was an effort to confuse those whom he could not convince that the bishops were wrong.

Nowhere in his article is the word nuclear used. Yet that is the prime reason for the bishop's pastoral. They wanted to point out that while the justice of a conventional war may be debatable, the justice of a nuclear war is not. Even "the quest for nuclear superiority must be rejected," say the bishops.

A nuclear war would be a crime against God, for it would destroy all that he created. Who gave us that right?

Since nuclear war is strictly offensive warfare, we cannot even justify retaliation as self-defense. To take deterrence beyond bluff could not be justified either.

To those who say, "better dead than Red," I would point out that Catholics, clergy and laity, in Russia, Poland and other satellite nations don't feel that way. If they did, they would be calling for violent revolutions now.

Don't we pray for and believe in the promise of Fatima, "the conversion of Russia?" With faith, prayer, propaganda, non-violent struggle and patience, in time we shall overcome.

Walter O'Hagen
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Report Lauded

Editor:

In a month of many articles on the Women's Peace Encampment, it was a pleasure to read John Dash's perceptive Aug. 10 article in the Courier-Journal.

My own brief visit to the encampment, participation in the Aug. 6 Hiroshima march and prayer with the men and women of Catholics Against Nuclear Arms (CANA) filled me with hope. So did Dash's account of the peacemaking efforts of the permanent residents and campers.

What are the gifts God wishes to share through women and men of faith? I pray that the God of peace will open our hearts to the call that comes in this time when so many voices are calling for an end to violence.

Sister Susan M. Schantz, SSJ
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They Need Used Stamps

EDITOR:

With so many people going hungry and so much concern about where and how to dispose of waste materials I would like to apprise your readers of how they can turn "waste" into valuable help for the missions and poor people around the world.

If they would save their canceled stamps, especially foreign and commemorative ones, but all stamps, and send them to Oblate Stamp Bureau, c/o Charles



"YOU'RE SO CALM ABOUT IT, I THOUGHT THAT CONFESSION WOULD KNOCK YOUR SOCKS OFF!"

Malachosky, 1669 Merriline St., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221, we Oblates of Mary Immaculate can sell them and raise thousands of dollars for the missions.

Father Daniel Crahen, OMI
Oblate Stamp Bureau
1669 Merriline St.
Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

Mother Angelica Commended

EDITOR:

The opinion of Constance Hoffman expressed in the July 20 issue, "Don't Ignore Mother Angelica," is certainly shared by me. (And it would be interesting to know, how many others?)

I likewise wonder at the lack of enthusiasm to incorporate this network as part of the Catholic communications system.

It seems Mother Angelica's teaching is truly orthodox. She appeals to the charismatics and the marian devotees. What better could we have for this day and age?

I would like to add the name of Father Robert J. Fox, national columnist, to the list of notable names in Ms. Hoffman's letter.

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 1½ 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.

Cartoon Criticized

EDITOR:

Re: cartoon on Page 13, Aug. 3, Courier-Journal. It is against God's word to participate in fortune telling, seances and any occult practice. See Scriptures, Deut. 18:9-12; 1 Sam. 28; 2 Chron. 33-6, Acts 16. God clearly says these things are an abomination to Him.

For the paper to print cartoons such as these implies ignorance of Bible truth. It also promotes an insidious approval that this is a practice to be taken lightly.

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