

**Editorials**

**Directions**

The local Gannett newspaper used the word "chilling" to describe the latest Soviet threat -- the one by a member of the Russian general staff that Moscow will deploy missiles within 10 minutes of the United States if we put new missiles in Europe.

So if we do and if they do, then to follow the logic at play, we will then put missiles within five minutes of Moscow and then they . . .

Even the most die-hard of nuclear arms supporters must see the madness in this. It all leads up to only one possible end -- the world's.

Isn't it about time that everybody worked for nuclear disarmament?

Let's face it, security just is not served by nuclear proliferation -- not ours, not the Soviet's and not the world's. To the contrary, it is endangered. No matter the present debate over disarmament, very few people want nuclear war. Suspicions, not without foundation, abound on either side. It is only human

to seek self-protection; to defend oneself. The Russians have done nothing to be worthy of trust; they see us the same way.

The ways of the world have taught Americans that it may be suicidal to let our guard down. The Russians have learned the same thing. With that premise, it must follow that both nations continue, as long as the world exists, to add to the numbers and capabilities of their nuclear stockpiles.

Many of the detractors of the U.S. bishops' pastoral on war and peace either have not read it or deliberately misrepresent it when they say it calls for unilateral disarmament. It does not; it very specifically calls for verifiable bipartisan action. In this sense, it may still be too narrow. The world needs total nuclear disarmament, not just by the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

Not just the U.S. bishops want this -- everyone does.

An old proverb from China (and remember that nation also has nuclear capabilities) tells us that the greatest journey begins with but a single step. But that small stride is not possible so long as the world is

in a mad dash in the opposite direction. Someone must call a halt. Someone must turn around. Someone must take that step in the opposite direction toward sanity.

Who shall it be, Lord?

**Who Said It?**

"There are no secrets and no defense despite any individual's claim to the contrary. All the information we need to discuss the arms race is in the public domain. And there is certainly no defense except through an informed citizenry acting for life, not death."

A homily from one of the American bishops criticized in some quarters as naive or living in a cathedral tower?

Hardly. The quote is from Owen Chamberlain who won the 1959 Nobel Prize for physics -- and who helped develop the first atomic bomb.

**and Opinions**

**Comparison Unfair**

**EDITOR:**

In reply to Mr. John Yukas' letter (10-12). To compare the discovery of fire to nuclear war and Attila the Hun to the nuclear arsenals of the United States and the Soviet Union is ridiculous. Neither fire or the Huns could destroy all life on earth.

As to Mr. Yukas' last paragraph, "You will live till you die, whether it is hunger, disease, abortion, old age, accidents, etc." -- it is one thing to live in the United States where the police are controlled by elected officials. And we enjoy the benefits of Medicare, Social Security, Social Services, etc. And it is something else to be in a steaming jungle in Central America, a slum in South America, a famine in Africa, a foxhole in Lebanon or a Communist-ruled country in Europe.

Clarence M. Williams  
291A Pearl St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

**Tribute To Fr. Kelly**

**EDITOR:**

St. Ambrose parish owes a debt of gratitude to God for the years He has blessed us with Father Kelly's assistance. I've written these simple words of tribute:

His is the victory;  
He worked until the end.  
He worked in spite of weakness;  
He was God's loyal friend.

He gave me more than words;  
He gave me steady, courageous example.  
He lived the faith so wonderfully,  
I found his strength was ample.

When his eyes became a problem,  
He took his magnifying glass  
And continued standing tall and firm  
As he read the gospel in the Mass.

Although he suffered minor strokes,  
He continued to be our priest.  
Courageously he worked for God  
And celebrated the Eucharistic Feast.

Now that dear man has left us,

And although our hearts weren't ready,  
We know in truth that Father Kelly  
Walked with Our Lord most steady.

Tears are shed, we'll miss him,  
But who would not let him go  
To have the joy of Jesus?  
He is happy there, I know.

Yes, his is the victory.  
Death is cheated of its sting.  
Our Father Kelly lives again  
In health -- where angels sing.

Barbara A. Fischer  
77 Hartwick Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14609

**Justice Based On Participation**

**EDITOR:**

When I first heard the bishop was conducting a "public hearing" at St. Patrick's in Seneca Falls on the Oct. 22 demonstration, I regretted not being able to attend. However, on reflection, I realized he was not conducting the hearings in order to involve us in the decision-making process, for the decision of his participation had already been made.

If the bishop were really interested in local opinion or any facts we might have to present, he would have followed the normal procedure of conducting the hearings prior to making his decision.

My only regret is that the bishop has decided to dignify the proceedings at Romulus with his presence.

Do you think the above lacks understanding of the key issue? I believe it is the key issue. Not peace . . . we all want peace. Not atomic weapons . . . we know they are the scourge of mankind. Does the bishop believe peace is achieved by making unilateral decisions without participation of his people? Is this not what he is protesting by appearing in Romulus? Does he not want to be part of the decision-making process?

Pope Paul VI formed a commission to study birth control. Granted, that while he did not accept the committee findings, at least he let the laity participate. Peace is based on justice and justice is based on participation. Peace is not achieved by unilateral decision-making, neither by the bishop, nor by his staff, nor by nations.

John C. Andrews  
101 Virginia St.  
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

**Let's Return To Rosary**

**EDITOR:**

I wonder, since I have never heard it mentioned, whether anyone else has ever noticed the coincidence of the neglect of the rosary by most Catholic people after Vatican II (who knows why?) and the simultaneous, rapid deterioration of society. Such terrible things are happening that it boggles the mind.

Our Lady has come numerous times to offer us the solution to all the ills of our times. It was so simple: the daily recitation of at least five decades of the holy rosary, the performance of our daily duties in union with her Divine Son and the brown scapular.

One of the 15 promises made by Our Lady to Christians who recite the rosary is: "The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies."

I am firmly convinced that once Catholics return to the daily recitation of the rosary, society will once again become Christian.

Arlene O'Connor  
214 Haddon Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

**Local Quake A Warning?**

**EDITOR:**

The many sins which we commit every day demand the just punishment of God. But even as sin mounts up and as the time draws near when God can no longer restrain His holy hand, our Immaculate Mother, Mary, continues to obtain opportunities for us to repent.

How have we responded? At Fatima, Our Lady told us the way to peace; personal conversion from sin, prayer, sacrifice, and recitation of the rosary. She said that if these things were not done, Russia would spread her errors and provoke wars. This has happened, to the suffering of many. Mary has also said that natural disasters would come as warnings of God's justice and as a call to repentance. Many disasters have come, but too few people are aware of the message of justice and mercy they bring, and so all too few have changed their lives as Our Lady desires.

May we profit from the earthquake of Oct. 7, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, as if it were a personal message to us from God and Our Lady. Let's

heed this gentle but firm warning, because it comes from God's love, and let's change our lives as our dear mother Mary has asked us to do. Our response to God's warnings will decide whether we will experience His justice or His mercy.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Martin Lynch Jr.  
199 Penfield Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14610

**Use of Girls Maddening**

**EDITOR:**

It takes a lot to make me mad and I'm fighting mad! I just sat down to read the Courier which arrived this morning and I am appalled. On Page 2, I saw a picture of altar girls in procession and after reading article after article after article in which the pope says "no altar girls," it's a disgrace!

I sure hope our Bishop Matthew Clark respects the pope's wishes and not follow the childish wishes of these Chicago priests and their parishes who consider themselves Catholic but yet follow and make up their own set of rules.

This is a slap in the face to not only Cardinal Joseph Bernardin but our Holy Father himself. If they (Chicago) do not want to abide by this rule, how do we know what else they don't agree on.

. . . And we wonder where we mix up our Catholic people and wonder what's wrong and how we can help them.

Theresa Pierotti  
84 John St.  
Corning, N.Y. 14830

**Women Could Be Priests**

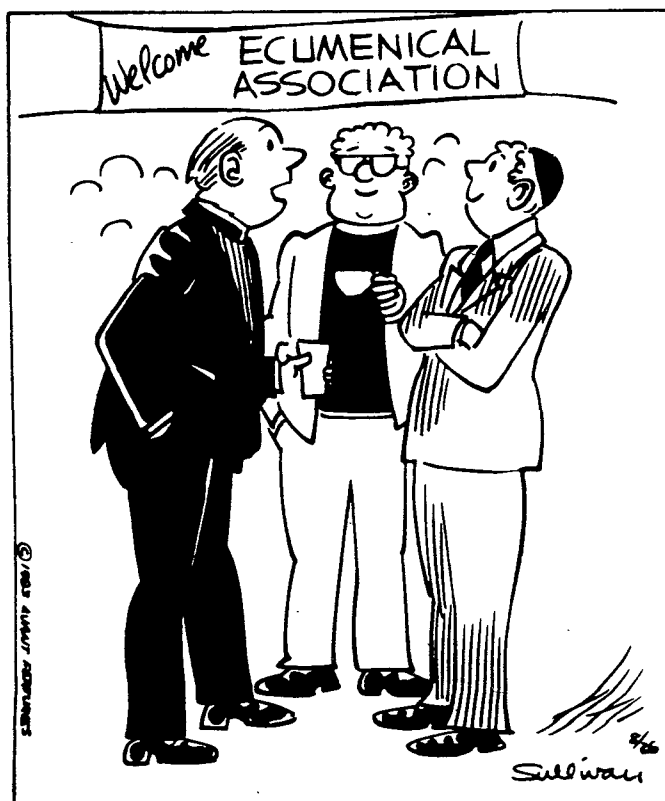
**EDITOR:**

I would like to make a few comments on Father Hogan's letter (10-5) regarding the subject of women becoming priests.

I am not advocating that they should, but I am saying that they certainly could, and I don't believe that God would mind one little bit.

If God is our Father, then He is also our Mother! We are all sons of God! There is no sex in a Spirit, only in the bodies of the sons of man which we inhabit to manifest God our Father, here on the physical plane that He created.

There are many women today that are more mentally, emotionally and spiritually evolved than a lot of their male counterparts and would



"HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN IN ORGANIZED GOOD?"

make excellent priests. This type of woman, however, is in the minority, and I believe that this is the reason the Church cannot "open the doors," but certainly not for the reasons that Father Hogan gave us as "bible-based" facts.

"The Christ" was a title Jesus was given by God because He had reached perfection. St. Paul confirms this by stating, "This same man Jesus, whom you have crucified, God hath made both Lord and Christ."

Just because the Spirit that is in Mother Teresa was born into a female body, rather than a male body, would God, her heavenly Father, deny her the title that she has rightfully earned by following the command that Jesus

the Christ gave to His disciples, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect?"

Would God hesitate to say, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," just because this son is in the body of a female? I don't believe so. So take, heart ladies! "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Your time will come . . .

Robert C. Karley  
102 Meadowbrook Farm  
North Chili, N.Y. 14514

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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.