

Editorials

Multilateral Disarmament

Naturally, most of the attention in the nuclear disarmament debate centers on the world's two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union. However, it is extremely important that all be aware that they are not the only nuclear powers in the world. Many other nations have nuclear capabilities and still more are working toward that goal.

Former President Richard Nixon said recently that he feels that both the U.S. and Russia will use restraint in the possible use of nuclear weapons. But he said what gives him nightmares is imagining such leaders as Libya's Khadafi with a nuclear bomb at their disposal.

Recently, Dumisani Kumolo, an exiled South African journalist, visited Rochester and informally talked on prospects for racial war and threats to peace in southern Africa. He also raised this same sort of fear in regard to South Africa. He contends that the U.S. is supplying the kind of materials needed to produce a nuclear weapon and since the knowhow of such production is no longer the deep,

dark secret it once was, it is possible for South Africa to join the nuclear club.

He correctly warned that it will take only one nuclear bomb detonated at the right place to touch off the holocaust we all fear. And it probably will not matter from where it comes. Indeed, any nation wishing to use to its own interest the distrust between the two superpowers might have misguided reason to sabotage the tenuous peace now keeping the world together -- perhaps with the insane hope of picking up the pieces.

It is time to forget the debate between the unilateral and bilateral concepts and to begin considering multilateral nuclear disarmament.

and Opinion

'The Day After' Applauded

EDITOR:

Congratulations to ABC television for presenting The Day After. The staged account of a nuclear holocaust made real, for one night at least, the horrendous powers by which man can bring down civilization and life on our beautiful planet.

In devastation of world and spirit, the film parallels the test of We of Nagasaki, a book available in the Tompkins County library. It was edited by a Japanese physician who, like others whose accounts he recorded, was a short-term survivor of U.S. atom bombing.

A group of 20 viewers in Trumansburg is very grateful the day after, Thanksgiving week, 1983, for last night's experience. And more hopeful. We experience hope through a renewal of resolve to recover responsibility and initiative for our own lives, the lives of our children and for future life.

Also applause for Dr. Carl Sagan who gave the most intelligible, realistic arguments for nuclear-freeze, nuclear-reduction and survival.

Thank you for many informative news items and features on disarmament and peace throughout the Summer and Fall seasons. They how your sensitivity to the profound interests, concerns and yearnings of people everywhere.

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Peace Takes Hard Risks

EDITOR:

Father Cuddy wonders "if our pacifists realize what they are advocating" (Nov. 23). I have not been so freed in Christ, in my response to His

love, that I can call myself a pacifist. I find it very difficult to turn the other cheek. There are other hard sayings of Jesus that are equally difficult to live. But His counsels should remain a goal for anyone who chooses to follow Him.

In "Choices of the Heart," an enthusiastic Jean Donovan tells Father Crowley, "I want to change the world but I don't want to give up anything to do it." But finding Him (Jesus) suffering in the poor children of El Salvador, she would return there to give up everything; to die with Him. The pacifists that I read advocate that spirit, the spirit of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They tell me that for His sake and the sake of His kingdom, we must be prepared to risk something. Indeed, the parables of Jesus tell us that we must be prepared to risk everything. The pacifists remind me that no follower of Christ could press the nuclear button. They tell me that our nuclear silos and the Russians' too are Towers of Babel, gods of metal, powerful enough to destroy us all but too weak to accomplish any good. But like the Tower of Babel in the OT their very presence makes it impossible to communicate, bringing "The Day After" much closer.

President Reagan claims that "The Day After" tells us nothing we didn't already know. Hopefully, he learned something. Hopefully, never again will his administration tell us that if we have enough shovels and enough dirt we will make it through a nuclear war. Hopefully, Americans will ask themselves if we are safer now than we were four years ago. Are we closer to world peace? To brotherhood? To the unity Christ call us to? Is the world any better off under his policies? Does might really make right? Or are we in fact controlled by

the gods we worship? Will we be called to judgment as we worship at the altar of nuclear silos? Under his foreign policy can we see the beam in our own eye? Is there any place for the beatitudes? For the kingdom? For Christ Himself?

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The Best Gift For Jesus

EDITOR:

God's laws and His requests are always for the benefit of mankind. Angels had to abide by the laws of their maker. Some rebelled and chaos resulted, a literal "Hell." The fallen angels in their rebellious hearts would not serve their God. How can we say we are much better? He sets his laws in motion for mankind to serve Him. We rebel, "I will not serve," we say. God sends His holy mother to teach us to say the rosary for peace. Again, we say we will not obey.

The wars, the famines, the evils of our days are from lack of prayer and sacrifices. This is the message of Fatima. Yet so little take heed to it.

Again, you hear, "Let us save the family!" But how? Pray! Come to the feet of your Creator, especially as a family and say once again, "I will serve, I will pray, I will obey." The most precious gift giving is right now. Give the gift of your prayers. They are so precious in God's eyes and so necessary for the salvation of mankind.

Take your children to visit Our Jesus. We are His children. Save your children with prayer. Go to Mass often. As a family, fulfill the Fatima Peace Plan. It is very simple. Say the rosary daily for peace, wear the brown scapular of Our lady of Mount Carmel, go to Mass and confession on the first Saturday of the month and keep Our Blessed Mother company while meditating for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the rosary. Give honor and reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by making the nine First Fridays. This is the best Christmas gift to Jesus.

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Proud Defends His Bills

EDITOR:

I note with interest that the extremely liberal New York Civil Liberties Union, this state's chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, last fall released their "Special Mention" list of state legislators. This assemblyman was singled out on their negative list for

sponsoring two specific bills, which were introduced at the request of residents of our 131st Assembly District.

One bill, the Minors Display Bill, would require store owners to keep out of sight and reach of children all pornographic materials. These materials, as required by law, would still be accessible to adults. My legislation would prevent children from being able to view this material in public places. This is a logical followup to the current law which makes it illegal to sell such material to minors.

The second bill takes assertive action against the increasing incidences of prostitution. My legislation calls for a mandatory jail sentence for those persons repeatedly convicted of prostitution offenses.

If passed, these bills would make New York State a better place to live, and a cleaner community in which to raise a family, I am shocked that the ultra-liberal Civil Liberties Union would so vigorously oppose these measures. Both of these proposals will protect the community, especially children, and not infringe the civil rights of any decent person.

I would like to assure the people of my district that both of these bills will be reintroduced when the Assembly meets again in Albany, January of 1984, and I will push for their passage. This assemblyman will continue to work for the best interests of the people of our community.

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Is Abortion Ignored?

EDITOR:

Over the past several months, our diocese has given a great deal of attention to the nuclear issue. The Courier-Journal has devoted many stories to it. A number of parishes have sponsored programs on the issue. Both the Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy have participated in demonstrations at the Seneca Army Depot. Catholic high schools are integrating the topic of nuclear arms into their curriculums.

It has been almost 11 years since abortion on demand was legalized in our country. Each year over one million unborn children are brutally killed. At no time during the last 11 years do we recall our diocese devoting as much effort to ending abortion as we now see being devoted to the nuclear issue.

Each Saturday morning for the past six years a group of about a dozen people have been praying the rosary out-



"NO, THE PARADISE I'M SPEAKING OF HERE IS NOT FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA."

side an office building next to Genesee Hospital where several abortionists practice. Several months ago, we sent letters to 20 parish councils asking them to communicate this activity to their parishes. We received very little response. We have written to the Sisters of St. Joseph, Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of the Cenacle. Yet not one sister has joined us. A story in the Courier-Journal about our activity generated little interest. About two months ago, we, and 20 other concerned parents, wrote to the six area Catholic high schools inquiring about the treatment of the abortion issue in their classes. One question we asked was: "Is the abortion issue treated with, at least, the same degree of urgency and importance as the nuclear issue?" Three of the six schools didn't even have the courtesy to respond.

We hope our diocese will soon devote as much effort to bringing an end to abortion as they are in limiting nuclear arms. We urge the nuns who have demonstrated against nuclear arms to demonstrate against abortion. We urge the clergy to talk about the evil of abortion in the pulpit and offer petition prayers during mass for an end to abortion. We urge Catholic schools to present the abortion issue as openly and as willingly as they do the nuclear issue.

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Woman Priest: No Basis

EDITOR:

My own reactions as a contemplative to woman ordination, as questioned in RapAround student replies of Nov. 16, is that my searching the CCD Bible has not helped me to arrive at it in conscience. Recently,

while reading of Mosaic ordination I saw that even the animals used were male. As Rome has a revealed basis for male ordination in Sacred Scripture, perhaps those interested in woman ordination can find something in the Holy Texts to substantiate it.

Otherwise, I feel it is one of those popular movements that the Church may be forced to concede to. Jesus objected to such force when He confronted the hierarchy of His day on divorce through Moses. And Miriam, the first would-be woman priests and the sister of Moses was made a leper for her envy. To use a MacArthur expression, woman may have received enough glory at Bethlehem.

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What's Context Of Quote?

EDITOR:

While unpacking my files, I came upon this quote of Cardinal Cooke: "As long as our nation is sincerely trying to work with other nations to find a better way, the Church considers the strategy of nuclear deterrence morally tolerable; not satisfactory, but tolerable. As a matter of fact, millions of people may be alive in the world today, precisely because government leaders in various nations know that if they attacked other nations, at least on a large scale, they, themselves, could suffer tremendous losses of human life, or even be destroyed..."

Does anyone know the context of this quote? It's another perspective well worth considering.

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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.