

Editorials

Thanks Giving

Bishop Clark, in his column on Page 3, expresses very well his personal appreciation and that of the diocese for the generous participation of diocesans in the annual Thanks Giving Appeal.

But at the risk of being repetitive, it is to be hoped that all realize the tremendous support indicated for diocesan work by the contributions totaling more than \$3 million.

This is an extremely active diocese, spiritually, educationally and in societal areas. When such involvement is undertaken on many controversial issues, it is obvious that not every position will be popular. During the past year, the diocese took a very active role in the peace movement as Bishop Clark urged support for the position of the U.S. bishops in their pastoral, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response." He spoke at the peace rally at the Seneca Army Depot, where many feel nuclear arms are kept.

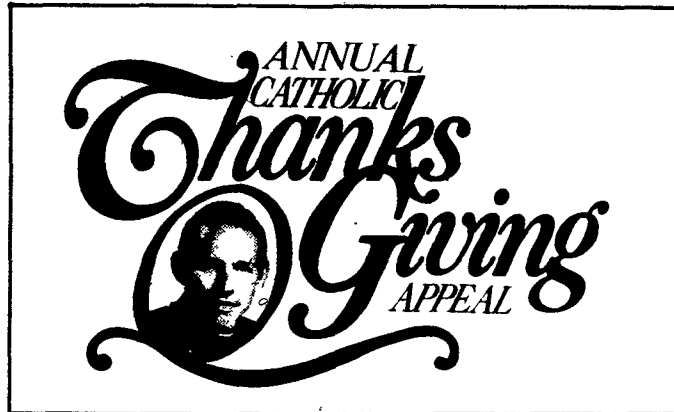
Diocesan officials, from the bishop on down, realized that not everyone would agree with the peace stance of the bishop and many other diocesans. And frankly, the effect on the annual appeal was weighed, for, have no doubt about it, the funds realized through the collection are sorely needed to continue the myriad activities of the diocese in many spheres. It was obvious that some might withhold funds from the appeal. Conviction won out. The diocese rightly decided that the issue of peace is paramount.

The rectitude of that decision has survived. Despite misgivings by some on the peace issue, the general

work of the diocese has been roundly and generously approved by diocesans.

Of course, no such appeal can be successful without the hard work of many people -- by thousands in the case of the diocesan appeal. As in the two previous successful drives, Father James Marvin coordinated the appeal, with Father Peter Bayer again the operations manager. This year's overall chairman was John Greisberger, assisted by priest regional coordinators and lay regional chairpersons. And, of course, without the grass roots support of pastors and parish committees, the campaign could not have succeeded.

The diocese once again has done itself proud.



Minority View

Minority candidates, although the phrase has a different meaning these days, are extremely important. Back when such a candidate meant a designee

of a minority party and not a member of an ethnic minority, the most formidable was probably Norman Thomas, the consistent presidential candidate of the Socialist Party. He was defamed and, many were taught, to be feared for his radical ideas.

Yet, as time has proven, his ideas were not all that dangerous and many have been sewn into the fabric of both majority parties and also have become bland components of our society.

Thus, and without intending either endorsement or non-endorsement of his candidacy, the present "minority" candidate, Jesse Jackson, is also to be welcomed, not so much for his own potential as for the possible effect he will have on the major candidates. He has already upstaged all the "heavyweights," including the defending titleholder, by his Syrian coup. His very presence means that the issue of black civil rights cannot be ignored by the other candidates. If he fulfills his promise of choosing a female running partner, then women's rights also will be a serious part of the agenda.

And his presence will be felt not only on the domestic scene, but also on the international set where, for instance, in the case of the deprivation of human rights in South Africa, the major candidates would be apt to skirt any potentially explosive issues. The Jackson candidacy makes such gandy-dancing unlikely.

It is improbable that the Rev. Jackson will even get his party's nomination, much less the presidency. But in the meantime, the other players are going to have to put more cards on the table than they might otherwise do.

and Opinions

Vocation Inspiration

EDITOR:

We continue to lament the lagging members of men and women entering priesthood and religious life. Professional analysts try to hit upon the crux of the vocation

dilemma. A most recent study suggested parents, especially mothers, as the scapegoats. True, parents have some powers of persuasion. However, successful vocations that pass the test of time are those "attracted" by the irresistible magnetism of Christ as manifested in and through

the priest or religious personally encountered earlier in life. Ask any priest or religious why they so consecrated their lives. More often than not they will remember the certain inspiring individual in diocesan or religious order who was the instrument of the Lord's attraction and personal calling.

Young people in search of meaning and purpose and expression to surfacing talents are drawn to particular professions by what they see appealing, inspiring, challenging and fulfilling in the lives of role models.

The awareness of the crucial need for ordained and vowed workers in this world seemingly headed for oblivion causes sincere, but, alas, monotonous prayer for "increased vocations." Perhaps, rather, the prayer ought to be for today's priests and sisters to be newly anointed in the fire of God's love so they begin radiating what should be obvious joy in the honor and privilege of having been "called" and "chosen." May their souls magnify the powerful attraction of the Lord. Then indeed priestly and religious vocations will increase!

Joanne Lepkowski
19 Ross St.
Owego, N.Y. 13827

would like you to have a copy of my letter.

It has been a little over a year since I wrote you on the nuclear arms issue. In the meantime, our government has gone through on its pledge to deploy Cruise and Pershing II missiles in Western Europe. At present, the USSR has walked out of the arms talks. It disturbs me to think that in our combined nuclear arsenals we have enough warheads to OBLITERATE the entire human race several times over with just one push of a red button. Since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962 we have never come as close to the brink of nuclear disaster.

What are your thoughts on the Pathways to Peace Movement. The purpose is to match a city or village here in the States with one in the Soviet Union. It lets the Soviet people learn more about us and our way of life, by the exchange of letters, photos and town or village histories. Hopefully, at the same time it lets us get to know about them. It is my sincere hope that this will be a positive step toward lasting peace through better understanding between our two great nations. God knows we need it!

Greg Horsch
117 Sansharon Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Finally, someone asked, "Elizabeth, why do we need the high chair?" In all childlike innocence, she replied, "The Baby Jesus

needs a chair to sit in at His party."

F. Cherylyn Fedinatz
3318 Rochester Road
Lakeville, N.Y. 14480

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Answering Anti-Catholics

Dear Father Hohman, Not too long ago a friend gave me a couple of 'Bible study' tapes. One was on Chapters 17 and 18 of the Book of Revelation, and the other was on Chapters 19 and 20 of the same book.

I couldn't believe what I heard. The Catholic Church and the principle Protestant Churches were identified with a harlot (Babylon) and declared to be false churches and blasphemous.

I will not go into the other details (In one place he talks about the Jesuits being trained to torture -- I didn't really understand that) but the whole thing was so obviously anti-Catholic and Protestant that I wondered if there were many more around like him. How do we deal with such attacks? What do we say in answer?

to fill them with such bitterness.

I think it is more important to look to our side of the matter. Perhaps this is a call from God for us to pay more attention to bringing people to a real personal commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Too many people in our congregations are living a culturally implicit faith, sort of riding with the tide of their Catholic Christian heritage rather than making it their own.

I realize that the renewal movements have been making major efforts in this direction, but I think it calls for a stronger and more Spirit-filled effort on the part of all of us.

Another thing I think we can do is teach the important truth that the Bible is not a compendium of quotations to prove your point but rather a history of humankind's search for God and God's own response to that search. It is God's book, inspired by Him, but calling for active, humble listening on the part of all of us. In short, it was never intended to be a book to prove "I'm right and you're wrong," but rather a call to all people to search in concert for the will and plan of God.

For an individual to find that the Catholic Church is a harlot is a kind of presumption which doesn't call for argument but sincere prayer for unity of all people in Christ.

Dear P.J. Frankly, I do not understand the phenomenon either. This individual of whom you speak is not the only one engaged in this "anti" kick. Remember the recent national publicity surrounding Jimmy Swaggart and his inflammatory statements. There seems to be a major trend in this direction. Not only do I not understand it but I refuse to sit in judgement on them. Who knows what happened in their lives



FATHER MULVANEY WANTS TO TALK TO YOU. I TOLD HIM WHAT YOU DID TO THE TELEVISION SET.

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.

Pathway To Peace

EDITOR:

Last week I wrote Sen. D'Amato about my thoughts on the nuclear arms issue. I also asked him what his thoughts are on the Pathways to Peace Movement. I



Christmas Birthday

EDITOR:

Re Mr. Jakus' letter about birthday cakes for Jesus.

I grew up in a family where we always had a birthday cake for the Baby Jesus and I have continued the tradition with my own children.

At Christmas Eve dinner, we always end with a cake, candles and singing happy birthday to the Christ Child.

Once when our daughter was three, all Christmas Eve day she kept asking someone to get the high chair out of storage.