

Editorials

Won't Die

Lord, when will it ever end?

We mean that 10-year-old rumor that atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair is trying to ban religious broadcasting in the United States.

The report is simply not true -- as has been written and stated countless times in newspapers across the land. Still, perhaps because Mrs. O'Hair is the kind of person that people love to hate, or maybe because she inspires such distrust, the rumor keeps popping up; the Courier-Journal receives two or three petitions every year from local parishes asking the Federal Communications Commission to turn down the phantom proposal.

And now comes word that Catholic Golden Age, a 350,000-member organization based in Scranton, has been taken in. The organization recently sent a letter to its local chapter presidents and members calling for "1 million signed letters" to the FCC to protest the proposed ban. When it learned that there is no such O'Hair proposal, Golden Age immediately rescinded its letter.

But how did such a large, nationwide organization get hooked in the first place? Somebody read it in a parish bulletin.

Please, folks, let's be a little more circumspect about latching onto such rumors. And, once and for

all, let the world note that Mrs. O'Hair has not proposed such a ban to the FCC.

Liberal?

Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan offered a very incisive insight recently when he bemoaned the paradox of a modern liberal society being unable to accept Catholic schools, "a vehicle of progressive teaching."

In a lecture in Washington, sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Conference Department of Education, the New York senator made the cogent point that American politics has reached the point where although the existence of church-related schools "contributes to freedom and pluralism" and Catholic education helps poor and minority students, it is considered the mark of a liberal to oppose aid to Catholic schools.

How true!

And, hopefully without detracting from the learned senator's valuable perception, it might be suggested that he should also wonder why it is considered "liberal" to support the most regressive and reactionary element, accepted by that same modern liberal society -- abortion on demand.

Olympics

So once again the Olympics have been used for political purposes. The Soviet Union move was a transparent effort to embarrass the United States and throw a monkey wrench into the games themselves.

At least when President Carter boycotted the 1980 Olympics, he had good reason -- Soviet troops were killing Afghans in their homeland -- and they still are. And that is the point, even since Munich, the Olympics have become part of the larger battlefield -- that is unavoidable. Regrettably, there can be no heads in the sand concerning this reality.

And though the disappointment of the athletes is understandable, that cannot erase the fact that this is a big, bad world and perhaps it is time that athletes and Olympics fans come to grips with that. And maybe somehow in the long run such an honest view will lead to the end of such barbarism as the Soviets are committing in Afghanistan and the terrorism so frequent in today's real world.

In short, considering these things as well as the increasingly commercial aspect of the games, maybe it is time to consider calling an end, or at least a moratorium, to the Olympic Games.

and Opinions

Many Jobs Waiting

EDITOR:

Have you ever wanted more out of life, to make your life count for something, or to really do something that is worthwhile? Do you pray and feel no one is listening or that your prayers aren't being answered?

Well, here is some Good News! You can have that abundant life, that peace and joy that passes all understanding. You can be blessed every day of your life by being a servant of God. He is looking for yielded, willing vessels for His army. He offers top pay in the realm of blessings, those beautiful fruits of the Spirit.

God listens and always answers the prayers of his servants. You, too, can have that one-to-one loving relationship with the heavenly Father. He longs to hear your voice and comfort your soul. He truly loves being close to His people. Today, He is calling out to you, don't pass Him by. He needs you to be a laborer in the final harvest of souls. God can take the little bit that you give Him and multiply it into something big and beautiful for His kingdom. The hour is late

and many will perish. Will you help?

All it takes is to ask Jesus to fill you with His divine presence and to do His miracle work within you, enabling you to be His servant. Don't be too busy or lukewarm or feel that you have nothing to offer, because God needs you and He has a special job that only you can do. God is recruiting workers, will you offer your services to Him today? Don't put it off and miss an opportunity of a lifetime, tomorrow may be too late.

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Consecration To Mary Fine

EDITOR:

I take strong exception to the tone and content of Robert Lombino's letter of April 4 concerning the consecration of the world to Mary as "blasphemous." Balderdash! Any adequately catechized Catholic knows Mary is not a salvific supplanter. For Catholics there is no dichotomy or mutual exclusion in dedicating anything to Mary, as if there were an opposition to God.

The Act of Entrusting reads:

"We wish to UNITE ourselves WITH our REDEEMER in this HIS consecration for the world and for the human race, which, in His divine Heart has the power..." The aims of the consecration to His mother as Church are but a signal to a warring world into a union with the Son Himself! Because, uniquely, Mary is for Catholic Christianity, unlike even the various Orthodox and Protestants and Moslems, a part and parcel of the faith she functions for God as a distinctive prophetic instrument as the Church plies through the politically, spiritually -- and scripturally -- fractious latter-day. She identifies the Church as a great sign (Rev 12), at once the willing bridge but also a sister for Him. If "ecumenical" Catholics because of their Scripture knowledge find it so difficult as Catholics to apologize for Mary perhaps the failure lies in their need for more time in understanding basic Catholic apologetics.

Salve Regina!

Gene Charles
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Women Not Equal

EDITOR:

On May 2, 1984, your paper featured a front page picture of Bishop Clark ordaining a permanent deacon candidate with his wife at his side. The hierarchy of the Church has chosen to ordain a married man yet discriminate against a celibate religious merely on the basis of sex. Yet, traditionally there were both men and women as deacons in the early Church.

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female, for you are all 'one' in Christ Jesus."

I could say the Church is not an equal opportunity employer. Or I could say, "Come on, guys -- admit women or drop the program."

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"YOU DON'T HAVE TO PRAY IN SCHOOL, BUT THIS IS SUNDAY MORNING, AND GUESS WHERE YOU HAVE TO DO IT."

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

God Is Our Father And Mother

Dear Reader:

In the Sunday liturgy on Mother's Day just before the Our Father, I indicated to the people that it was scripturally proper to refer to God also as Mother and while we would pray in precisely the words which Jesus gave us, we could keep in mind that God is indeed mother as well as father. Some people were taken aback by that statement and wondered precisely what I was referring to.

It should not be

expected that in either the Old or New Testament that God would be presented as mother in view of the low esteem that those cultures had for women at least in the sense of representing godlike qualities. By godlike qualities in this case I mean power and preeminence. It would then be a surprise if we were to find God referred to as mother at all in the scripture.

However, we read in the 66th chapter of Isaiah, "For thus says the Lord: Lo, I will spread prosperity over her like a river, the wealth of the nations like an overflow-

ing torrent. As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms and fondled in her lap as a mother comforts her son so will I comfort you." vs. 12, 13.

In the New Testament Jesus, speaking of Jerusalem, says, "How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a mother bird collects her young under her wings, and you refused me!" Luke 13:34.

More than anything, we need to realize that God is spirit and therefore does not have either individual sexuality. When we use words like father and mother of God we are using them as descriptive words of qualities that are associated with those roles. While strength and providence and protection are associated with fatherhood, tenderness, forgiveness, mercy and wisdom are associated with motherhood. Therefore God could be

described very easily as either father or mother.

In biblical times the father was always regarded as the generator of life and the mother as the location in which that life was nourished and from which a child was given birth. Therefore, the role of the father was considered at that time to be much more akin to the idea of creation and beginning than was the role of the mother. It is for that reason that one might expect that God be pictured as father rather than as mother. However as I have pointed out to consider God in both roles is valid and there are compelling reasons, I believe, why we should think of God as mother as well as father. One of these would have to do with the absolute equality of the sexes. Another would have to do with the need to emphasize gentleness, tenderness, mercy and love.

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.

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