

Editorials

D-Day

D-Day. The 6th of June, 1944. Anyone who was around then will never forget it. The greatest invasion force ever assembled landed on Normandy's beaches, reversing the tragedy of Dunkirk. The complexion of the war was changed. Hitler was on the run and the newspaper battlefield maps began to sport the arrows of Allied advances, across France, up from Italy, even from the East, where Hitler had gambled and lost.

The tide had changed. We were all either heroes, or hero-worshippers. It was unanimous. From the president to Edward R. Murrow, from Gen. MacArthur to Rosie the Riveter, Americans were united in a just and honorable cause. And we succeeded.

Since then, wars have become less and less popular. This is probably due to the ever faster and more graphic news coverage of the carnage, particularly with the advent of the electronic media. In the old days, GI Joe would survive truly horrible days of death and fear and brutality and write home, "Don't worry about me, Ma, it's a picnic here. We sing around the campfire at night and the French are real nice to us." You ain't ever gonna fool Ma like that any more. Not after Korea. Not after Vietnam. Not with nuclear destruction at so many fingertips.

We must be peacemakers. In the mental footsteps of Paul VI, we must believe, "War no more."

But at the same time, we must not ever forget to honor all those, living and dead, who it made it possible for us to work openly toward world peace. This anniversary of D-Day is fitting time to look back with respect and ahead with hope.

Hard Pitch

Shame, shame on the National Catholic Register! Now just about everyone in the national publishing business knows times are tough and particularly for the National Catholic Register which must contend with Twin Circle, the National Catholic Reporter and the Wanderer for readers.

But is it really necessary to invoke the Deity and abuse sister publications in this commercial quest? To wit, from a Register sales letter sent to, of all places, Courier Journal, 114 S. Union Street, Rochester NY 14607: "If you have a zeal for Jesus Christ ... then it's time you started reading the National Catholic Register." Talk about dropping names!

Now, dear reader, barely three inches away in this sales pitch, looking for help from Courier Journal, 114 S. Union Street, comes a remarkable statement: "Let's face it, most diocesan Catholic newspapers are a snore." (This sales pitch incidentally was signed by the editor of the Register, Francis X. Maier, and he presumably sticks "Catholic" into that phrase so as not to demean newspapers of dioceses other than Catholic. Or the editor might really mean that — implying perhaps that diocesan Episcopal newspa-

pers are on the whole bright and lively and only their Catholic counterparts are sleep-inducing.)

Well, maybe, just maybe, and we know we're being over-sensitive, it might be considered in quarters other than the Register promotion department that it might be an oversimplification and maybe even a tad un-Christian to declare simply, "Most diocesan Catholic newspapers are a snore."

Editor Maier never goes beyond that terse statement to explain what research supports it. We'll have to take his word for it. For sure, he knows that diocesan newspapers not only have the obligation of writing about issues, but also on national and international news developments and most importantly on diocesan and even parish news — no one else will. That's what makes us "local" newspapers and the Register "national." And would it be a "snore" to wonder if there is room in the Catholic living room for both a local newspaper and one or more national publications.

We might mention the wealth of splendid Catholic magazines but, in all fairness, we should stick to newspapers which Maier does in his sales piece when he unabashedly declares: "The National Catholic Register is America's finest Catholic newspaper." Again, he didn't produce the research to reveal where he garnered the confidence of that declaration.

The fact, obviously, is that probably not all Catholic newspapers live up even to their own expectations. But all are trying to varying degrees of success. And one is really left to wonder why it would be necessary for "America's finest newspaper" to resort to belittling its colleagues when it seems, according to its self-assessment, to have such lofty laurels upon which to rest its sales pitches.

and Opinions

Anniversary Reminder

EDITOR:

On June 11, 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He called this consecration the "greatest act" of his pontificate. This year, June 11, 1984, marks the 85th anniversary of this historic event. Perhaps many of the readers may wish to honor the Sacred Heart in a special way to commemorate this day and also during the entire month of June dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

Another note of interest — Jan. 4, 1984, marked the 100th anniversary of the death of Father Henri Ramiere, SJ, who was responsible for the worldwide diffusion of the Apostleship of Prayer — the Morning Offering in which we offer each day through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our prayers, works, joys and sufferings in union with the Masses said throughout the world for the intentions of the Sacred Heart, etc., with which most of your readers are familiar.

All this seems to tie in so beautifully with the consecration which Pope John Paul II together with the bishops of the world made this past March to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Jacinta (of Fatima) shortly before her death exhorted Lucia to "... tell everybody that God grants graces through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, that they should ask her for them, that the Heart of Jesus wants the Immaculate Heart of Mary to be venerated alongside his own. They should ask the Immaculate Heart of Mary for peace, because God has entrusted it to her ..."

Josephine B. Churey
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Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Pro-Life Work Appreciated

EDITOR:

I would like to thank you for all of your coverage in the last year of the pro-life cause. Your coverage of the New York State Right to Life Convention, the buses to Washington, D.C., to protest



"BLESS MOM 'N' DAD, GRAM 'N' GRAN 'PA, MICHAEL JACKSON, MUSIC VIDEO, AN' THE ELVES WHO MAKE COOKIES... AN TAKE AWAY ALL THE EVIL IN THE WORLD, LIKE BROCCOLI, ZUCCHINI, AN' CAULIFLOWER..."

the Supreme Court's decision and the bishops strong-anti-abortion stand are just a few examples.

Keep up the good work!
Kathy Peters
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Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

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.



1984
Catholic
Communication
Campaign

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Double-Barrel Ministry?

Dear Father Hohman,
Is it advisable for a parish council member to take another office outside the council, such as president, treasurer or secretary of another parish group? May a parish council member have another member of the family on the council?
(Signed) M.S.

Dear M.S.

At a glance the first answer seems quite obvious. If one has the time, the energy, the ability and the inclination, it would certainly be okay. But even if that were the case there is a problem here which exists in probably most parishes.

The problem is simply that a few people end up taking care of all the ministries and jobs which a parish requires. It ends up appearing as though a clique is running the parish. And that's not the only problem. In the long run, what happens is that the parish gets to be seen as a big spiritual service station run for the benefit of the many by the few.

It is true that our parish should be a center for spiritual growth and nourishment. But the call to Christianity is not simply a call to privilege but a call to responsibility. That responsibility extends to all people of the parish.

We need desperately to preach in season and out of season that being a Christian is not simply a "getting something from Christ," but also a responsibility to carry on his mission in that time and place, as well as in

the whole world. Establishing a sense of that mission, on a broad base, is, I think, the bottom line to obtaining more volunteers.

We come from a situation in which people were so poor and downtrodden that they needed all the help and service they could get. The emphasis was almost totally on their health and welfare. That situation has changed radically in our time and we as Catholics are "sitting pretty" for the most part.

I realize that recruitment of volunteers is very difficult at best and no one has come up with any solution to the problem. But if a parish starts with the awareness that all Christians have a responsibility toward the mission and the ministries of the community, then, when those missions and ministries are presented in the concrete, there will be a somewhat greater chance of response.

In answer to your second question, many parishes have the situation where a married couple is allowed to run jointly as a single member of the parish council. There are other situations where fathers and sons are members of the parish council. I certainly approve of the husband and wife teams and see no difficulty whatsoever with the members of a family on the same council except for the possibility that they might become a dominating influence which puts the other members in an inferior situation.

However, the likelihood of that is not great and situations of that nature which do arise have to be dealt with in the light of the peculiar circumstances.