

Editorials

Is Cuomo 'Mushy' On Abortion?

Summertime musings:

Isn't it refreshing to know that Joan Benoit first went to Mass before she went running to finish first in the women's marathon that Olympic Sunday?

The rest of the world must be impressed with the diversity of background of the American athletes -- blacks, Hispanics, Samoans and whites of just about hphenated variety, all on one national team.

Someone on our Olympic committee, probably Peter Ueberroth, deserves a truckload of gold medals for beaming so much ethnic entertainment talent in the opening and closing ceremonies at the 80 million viewers tuned in throughout the world.

Will ABC come up with a slogan -- "feeding the world" -- after its own colossal performance at the Games?

Our Sunday Visitor is on the right track when it asked President Reagan to "disown" ACTION Director Thomas Pauken for linking the Campaign for Human Development to "leftist, activist groups." An OSV editorial stated, "If it is 'left' to want to reduce poverty and to give the poor some power over the decisions that affect their lives, then CHD is 'left' -- but not by any other political, religious or philosophical definition."

Will his equivocations on abortion prove to be

Gov. Mario Cuomo's political achilles heel? If he is personally opposed to abortion, and we must accept his word that he is, then why does he persist in championing, not merely accepting, pro-choice?

Is it unfair to wonder if the governor's mother considers his position on abortion as so much polenta (corn meal mush) as she characterized Walter Mondale?

At the same time, Geraldine Ferraro, who follows the same line -- personally opposed to abortion but can't impose my will, etc., etc. -- will continue to field questions on that illogical stance, at the risk of not getting her views across on other issues. This tactic has led many another politician to the end of the vote trail.

In counterpoint, the two major presidential candidates by taking logical positions offer the voter the opportunity for clear judgment. President Ronald Reagan is personally opposed to abortion and his public actions reflect that sentiment. Candidate Walter Mondale, although disappointing pro-lifers with his pro-choice position, nonetheless has the political courage of his conviction. And that allows for clear debate and perhaps persuasion.

Incredibly, Democratic politicians continue to keep the focus on abortion, while the incumbent president rates favorably with pro-lifers, including Catholics, and thus diminish attention on other areas where Mr. Reagan potentially fares less favorably, particularly with Catholics. American bishops, individually and collectively, keep trying to remind voters that there are many other issues of concern.

The bishops point out that voters must also consider such issues as working to end the nuclear arms race, the need to help the impoverished, strong civil rights legislation at home and a just policy opposing apartheid in South Africa, responsible energy policies, opposition to U.S. military intervention in Central America -- all areas where the present administration could be found wanting.

Refreshing

As radio commentator Gabriel Heater used to say so many years ago, "Ah, yes, there's good news tonight."

And the Courier-Journal thanks Father Bill Barrett of St. Monica's for sharing, elsewhere on this page, his "good news" with our readers. It is indeed salubrious that so many have played roles in helping youngsters in a central city parish.

So often, contributions to the Opinion Page reflect the tense pros and cons of a growing Church. Thus it is indeed refreshing when a contributor reminds us that all is not tenebrous or critical or contentious. As Bishop Clark noted in his column last week, it is healthy to concentrate on our commonality rather than on our differences.

Gratitude should go to all those who work to support such inner city parishes as St. Monica's, whether within the neighborhoods or from outside. And special thanks to Father Barrett for publicly praising such efforts.

and Opinion

Abortion Key Issue

EDITOR:

An article, "Pro-Lifers Level Ferraro Criticism," in the July 18 issue of the Courier-Journal mentioned that Sister Nancy Sylvester of Network was pleased with Geraldine Ferraro's nomination. How can anyone from Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, endorse a candidate who has opposed justice for the unborn? President Reagan has promised to appoint pro-life justices to the Supreme Court as he did with the appointment of Sandra Day O'Connor. At the present time, this is the best chance we have of restoring legal protection to the unborn.

There are other important issues in this election but none as important as the abortion issue for, unlike the nuclear threat, abortion is

presently taking each year in the United States.

Lynne Buonemani 38 Holcroft Road Rochester, N.Y. 14612

Coverage Criticized

EDITOR:

Readers can quickly endorse the praise and gratitude which Anthony J. Costello gave the Courier-Journal staff and notably to Editor Carmen J. Viglucchi for their dedication and hard work in producing a professional quality newspaper (C-J 5-9-84). Costello's contributions as its successful manager and publisher are also appreciated. However, the C-J does not provide the essential elements of Catholic journalism which are necessary for the salvation of the souls of the C-J staff and its readers.

Earlier this year (C-J 2-5, 6-20), the successor of Peter praised Catholic journalists and communications persons on their highly revered apostolates. Among the essential elements for their apostolates are responsibilities 1. to present the truth and its errors; 2. "do not corrupt society with complacent and insistent presentations of evil, nor by performing a work of manipulation and sowing divisions"; 3. to provide content (which always is determinant in shaping communication) for developing Church formed consciences. Supernatural vision is required for these apostolates, "the primary source from which such testimony flows is the Cross."

Like many Catholic Press Association publications, and the recently banned catechetical book, "Christ among Us," the Courier-Journal frequently buries its 100 percent Catholic contents by coverages which subvert Catholic faith, its teachings, authority and disciplines.

The 3-part "Priestless Sundays" series (NC News Service, C-J 4-11, 18, 25) was not very newsworthy but spiritually destructive. It was a collection of thrusts against the ordained priesthood,

permanent commitment and celibacy, along with not so novel cluster schemes with implicit gradualism for women's ordinations. Disent against celibacy and permanent commitment was given front page coverage (5-30).

The dissident Diocesan Sisters Council achieved color-highlighted coverage of Rosemary Reuther and Women's Ordination Conference members (C-J 5-9) by sponsoring her talk in St. Mary's Church; brutal rejections of Catholic doctrine is feminist theologian Reuther's career! In the same issue, theologian Father Richard McBrien, scornor of the Church for injustice in the matter of women priests, was recommended as a speaker for enlightenment of local church ministries.

It's pathetic for readers to be frequently fed verbal and pictorial praises of individual or centerfold collections of lay-image religious. They and lay lay-image priests like McBrien and Charles E. Curran are blind leaders in their practice of McBrien's thrust for a two-magisterial Church.

The Courier-Journal can be a leader in Catholic journalism. We need the symphonic harmony of exemplary priests and religious to teach "The Credo of the People of God," "Familiaris Consortio," "Essential Elements for Religious Life," and "Humanae Vitae" in harmony with Christ and His vicar.

Joseph J. Murray 38 Wyndover Road Rochester, N.Y. 14616

School Has 'Good News'

EDITOR:

Let me share "good news" with you!

The school at St. Monica's parish has been receiving donations from the tithing committees of several parishes. As some of you know, St. Monica's educates mostly black and mostly non-Roman Catholic children (Pre K through 8) from our neighboring Christian families. When a

"parish" school becomes a ministry to the larger, local neighborhood, we make an effort to "reach out" to our Catholic brothers and sisters in this "diocesan neighborhood" for financial help in this unique project. St. Monica's, I believe, has the largest enrollment of non-Roman Catholic Afro-American children in any school in our diocesan system. Our struggles have been helped by the Diocesan Tuition Subsidy program and now we are being helped by the parishes themselves.

Thank you, St. Mary's in Canandaigua.

Thank you, St. Mary's in Rochester.

Thank you, Church of the Resurrection.

Thank you, St. John of Rochester.

Thank you all who have been generous as individuals. May I ask your prayers as we plan for a new school year. In September, St. Monica's will have a new lay principal, Mrs. Gaynelle Wethers.

It's "good news" to know



"I'M SURE CONAN THE BARBARIAN'S MOTHER MADE HIM SAY HIS PRAYERS, TOO."

that others share our belief in the need for quality Catholic education in the integrated neighborhoods of this City of Rochester.

Father Bill Barrett Pastor St. Monica's Church 34 Monica St. Rochester, N.Y. 14619

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.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Exploring The Broken Marriage

Dear Reader, In pastoral experience what are the most common causes of broken marriage? What are the things that more often than not lead to the breaking up of a marriage?

From pastoral experience alone and not from my professional research, my educated guess would be that the principal source of failures in marriage is immaturity. I am not referring to chronological age but rather to that attitudinal condition

of self centeredness rather than other centeredness. It should be pointed out that we are not talking here about guilt. In fact it is very risky to talk about guilt when it comes to marriage because I think in the vast majority of cases there is little or no guilt involved, or, if there is, no human being would be able to ascertain the guilt or degree thereof. I remember a story about Brother Leo which indicated that the point of maturity was the time at which one's inner mirror became a window. By that he meant that in immaturity we are always looking out at the world in terms of ourselves. We have no sense of what is

happening to others or in our relationship to others.

Such a totally reflective attitude makes it quite impossible for that person to love another human being. Therefore the initial onset of eros is a powerful experience of "being in love" only to be washed away in the demands and responsibilities of everyday living.

That is why in preparation for marriage we look for signs of this immaturity in attitudes toward love, money, sharing of responsibilities, and the spirit of sacrifice.

As we pointed out earlier on, the concept of covenant love involves the giving of one's own life, the breaking of the bread of one's life, for the benefit of the other.

The immature person has no sense of being able to give away his/her own life as he/she is simply not able to even understand the meaning of such love.