

Editorials

Talking's Over

Although this is being written before the voting actually takes place, it anticipates the relief many are feeling on this Nov. 7, one day after election 1984.

Frankly, it is difficult to editorialize at a time like this. Unable to write about the facts that the whole world will be discussing when the paper comes out, the editorialist is left trying to come up with something smashing.

It occurred that it would be a good idea to write two "if" editorials and ask the reader to ignore the one concerning the loser.

voicing hope on the abortion issue but concern over the plight of America's impoverished. If Walter Mondale pulled an upset, the editorial might dwell on possibly brighter chances for a break in the nuclear stalemate or for the restoration of some governmental support programs for the very young and very old; the abortion picture would be seen as less than promising.

In truth, such ploys are easily eschewed; the wicked world is providing us with its usual plethora of editorial fodder.

Among possible topics are the assassination of Indira Gandhi, the slaying of Father Jerzy Popieluszka, the famine in Ethiopia, the apparent budding controversy over the restoration of the Tridentine Mass, the upcoming of the U.S. bishops with emphasis on the economic pastoral, the worsening situation in South Africa (amazingly almost completely ignored in the presidential campaign), and those issues mentioned earlier which were aired during the campaign.

Whoever won the nation yesterday faces a myriad of problems today. The talking is over and action must be resumed. The rest of us also must pick up the tools provided by the democracy and let our presence be known. In addition, we must pray for our president; he, the nation and the world need all the spiritual support possible.

and Opinions

Khmer Rouge Responsible

EDITOR:

John Milich in his Oct. 10 letter defended British journalist William Shawcross despite the fact that Shawcross has been an apologist for Communist genocide in Cambodia.

I would remind Mr. Milich

that it was the Khmer Rouge that murdered millions of Cambodians, not the United States.

The bloodbath which was predicted would have never taken place had U.S. military aid continued to support anti-Communist forces in Cambodia.

Adding insult to injury, John Milich wants the U.S. to send aid to these

murderers who have tortured our prisoners of war and continue to imprison those not accounted for.

Robert Bart PO Box 594 Ithaca, N.Y. 14851

Editor's Note: Messrs Bart and Milich have exhausted the space available for their disagreements. We suggest that if they wish to continue they do so privately.

Meeting Questioned

EDITOR:

In the Times-Union Oct. 16 I noted there was to be a meeting Nov. 2 at Corpus Christi Church regarding the role of gays in the Church. This article was not in all Times-Union editions. The article stated that the priest conducting the meeting was doing so under the consent of a now deceased bishop of another diocese.

Raymond H. Sorg 220 Charwood Circle Rochester, N.Y. 14609

Pamphlets For Missions

EDITOR:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the foreign missions.

If those wishing to do so sends me a self-addressed envelope, I will send them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway 14 Castle St. Cork, Ireland

Why Crime Declined

EDITOR:

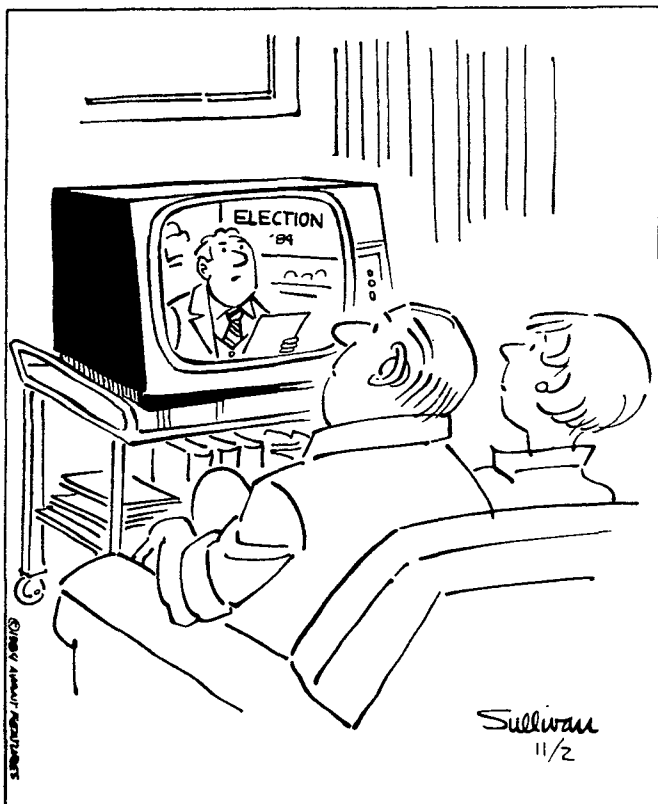
I've been reading in the newspaper that serious crime has dropped 14 percent in Monroe County this last year, after being on the increase for years.

It had to happen! Catholic people are returning to saying the rosary and the "eclipse" of devotion to God's mother after Vatican II is starting to reverse itself.

As Father Patrick Peyton, that wonderful "rosary priest" who is doing such marvelous things all around the world, said so beautifully, "When the mother goes away, the house is in disorder. When she comes home, she puts everything to right again."

Welcome back, dear Blessed Mother.

Arlene O'Connor 214 Haddon Road Rochester, N.Y.



APPARENTLY RELIGION IN POLITICS WAS A VITAL CONCERN FOR MANY JUDGING FROM THE THOUSANDS OF WRITE-IN VOTES FOR GEORGE BURNS.

2 Martyrs

They came from opposite sides of the world but their roles resulted in martyrdom which will live on to trouble the causes of those who murdered them.

Terrorists continually play into the hands of those they would destroy. The Sikh extremists who assassinated Indira Gandhi have caused the deaths of thousands of their less violent co-religionists in retribution while another Gandhi takes over the leadership of the government.

Back in the Western Hemisphere another group of fanatics, these in the uniforms of Communist oppressors, murdered, apparently by Communist simple priest, Father Jerzy Popieluszko. The terrorists snuffed out one tiny human voice which will now grow into a powerful wind instilling new spirit into Solidarity and threatening the very house of the perpetrators.

When will they ever learn?

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Life Is Changed

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 25/1-13. (R1) Wis. 6/12-16. (R2) 1 Thes. 4/13-18.

Next Sunday's second reading belongs to the first writing in the New Testament. Paul's Epistle to the Thessalonians was written about 50-51 A.D., hardly 20 years after our Lord's Ascension.

Thessalonica was for all practical purposes the capital of Macedonia. It was named after the half-sister of Alexander the Great. Her husband, Cassander, a general of Alexander, built the city in 316 B.C. and named it after his wife. (Just an interesting side note: Thessalonica comes from the Greek word "nike," meaning "to conquer.") Thessaly was conquered by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. On the day of its conquest, Philip's daughter was born; so he called her Thessalonica — Thessaly conquered.

Paul brought the faith to the Thessalonians around 49-50 A.D. At that time both he and the other apostles believed that the parousia, or second coming of Christ, would occur during their lifetime.

The words of Jesus, like "a little while you shall not see me and again a little while and you shall see me" led them to think that the risen Christ would come in their lifetime. And so they led others to believe. When some of the Christians of Thessalonica had died before this coming, their friends wondered of the dead would be at a disadvantage at the Lord's coming.

It was to allay this anxiety that Paul wrote the passage that is Sunday's second reading.

"We would have you be clear about those who sleep in death." Paul speaks of Christian death as a sleep. So did Jesus. "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth," he said, when He meant Lazarus had died. Hence Lazarus name their burial places

"cemeteries" — from the Greek word for "dormitories."

Paul calls death a sleep because there will be a rising. As Jesus died and rose, so shall all who believe in Him rise after death.

"Otherwise," Paul concludes, "you might yield to grief like those who have no hope." Paul here is not speaking of human grief. Not to grieve over the death of a loved one would be unnatural and inhuman. Even Jesus wept over Lazarus. No, Paul is speaking of pagan grief. The poor pagans — the Greeks and Romans — who had no hope in a resurrection, how terrible must have been their grief!

Having no belief in a resurrection, the pagans had recourse to one of two philosophies: Stoicism or Epicureanism. The stoic simply suppressed all sorrows. Or else the baser pagans resorted to Epicureanism, the playboy philosophy of ancient Rome: "Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow you die." For them, death was a cul-de-sac, a dead end street (no pun intended, an end of everything — period!

For the Christian, death is a beginning: "life is changed, not destroyed." So the dead will be at no disadvantage. They are with Christ, and they will come with Him when he comes to judge the living and the dead. Therefore, wrote Paul "console one another with this message."

November is the month of the poor souls in purgatory — the month to remember our dead. For those who are too good for hell and too bad for heaven, there is purgatory — a place to finish the business unfinished on earth. It is a place of intense suffering, as can be any separation from a loved one. But we can hasten the purgatory work by our prayers and sacrifices and Masses.

"Have pity on me at least you my friends for the hand of the Lord has touched me." We loved them in life, let us not forget them in death.

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