

**Editorials**

**Keeping the Faith**

It is probably no surprise to our readers that the Courier-Journal is now going through a difficult period. Staffing changes, media reports, rumors and the reduced size of the newspaper have caused concern among some subscribers that the Courier-Journal is not what it used to be nor what it ought to be.

Please, give us time. We are aware of your concerns, and we are working on them.

We know, as you know, that a diocesan newspaper has an important role to play in the community. It should be the voice through which the bishop communicates with his people; the source of information on community events; a forum for discussion of Church issues; a means of keeping up-to-date on the activities of other parishes, schools and groups; a teacher and an entertainer; among others. For many, many years the this newspaper has provided these services and more.

Yet, before the Courier-Journal can resume this role, we must rebuild and put our house back into order. This is not an easy task, for it entails a complete restaffing, in both the editorial and business departments.

Despite the obstacles, we are confident that the Courier-Journal will once again be a vibrant force in the Diocese of Rochester. New staff members are being added, and we are planning for the future. With your help and patience, we look forward to years of service and improvement.

**Close the Book**

Children are not the only ones to enjoy a good comic book. Take, for example, the film "Star Wars" and its sequels. People young and old stood in seemingly endless lines to see the Jedi knights battle the evil empire.

Adventures of this sort are fun, and the good guys never get hurt. Flattened by steam rollers, blasted

with lasers, or crushed in falls from tall buildings the heroes always get up.

But it is time for adults to realize that the real world is not so simple. It is time for us to accept that "Star Wars," when used in reference to a futuristic method of disarming nuclear weapons, isn't good, clean fun. It's deadly business.

In such a business, the "bad guys" are not the only ones who can get hurt; everyone can suffer.

In an April 9 speech to the National Catholic Educational Association, physicist Carl Sagan said that nuclear war could end all human life on Earth and, echoing the words of Pope John Paul II, called nuclear war "the ultimate crime against creation."

Sagan said: "There is no doctrine, no religion, or politics or anything else that is worth the extinction of the human species."

In order to prevent such a tragedy, we must discuss nuclear war and its consequences in concrete, human terms — not the trivializing jargon of science fiction. It's time for the grown ups to leave the ray guns to Han Solo and face reality.

**and Opinions**

**Questions On Abortion**

EDITOR:

In this world where there is so much concern and involvement with the issue of animals being used for experiments in labs, I cannot believe that there are people who are so willing to ignore what is happening to human babies during and after an abortion. Pro-abortion groups would have you believe that abortion is the ultimate in birth control methods. Their arguments for the "cause" are full of euphemisms, half-truths and a glossing over of the reality that is abortion. They don't want to talk about what happens during and after an abortion. "The Silent Scream" has prompted them to come out with their own film and panel of experts to

dispute the agony of abortion on a baby.

Forty of the 4,000 abortions a day are of babies from five to nine months developed. Does their panel of experts claim that these abortions are painless to the baby? What of the babies who survive abortion? What sort of humane measures are taken to make their death "painless"? Or are these unfortunate survivors of the knife simply shipped to medical labs where their agony just begins?

I wonder how much a woman is told before her abortion about the many possible after-effects to her body and mind? Are abortion chambers counseling women of the many other options available to her other than abortion, or are they presenting abortion as the only option? It would serve their profit-making status to

make abortion the be-all and end-all.

I wonder which segment of society will be the next victims of this culture with so little regard for its own kind that unborn babies are considered a disposable money-making venture. God help us (PLEASE).

Mary Ellen Frisch  
2 Blossomdale Circle  
Hamlin, N.Y.

**Contras Need Aid**

EDITOR:

Critics of Nicaraguan freedom fighters are quick to spread stories of atrocities that would discredit this democratic force.

The FDN, the largest of the three major armed resistance forces fighting the Sandinistas, are for the most part, victims of Communist disinformation.

It is obvious that the Soviets want their client state to eliminate all political rivals and thereby consolidate a Marxist government similar to Fidel Castro's Cuba.

Unfortunately, members of Congress and certain members of the clergy have swallowed the pro-Sandinista line that the Sandinistas represent the will of the Nicaraguan people.

The first year after the Sandinistas took power they executed nearly 8,000 people. This hardly reflects a government concerned with the welfare of its people.

Also the Sandinistas im-

posed an extensive informant system throughout Nicaragua, operating even in the small towns.

People suspected of anti-government sympathies are forced into the militia or labor camps where they pick coffee beans.

While the Sandinistas receive generous supplies of military hardware, the FDN, also known as the Contras, are hard-pressed for weapons.

Now that the Sandinistas have received Soviet MI-24 helicopter gunships, the plight of the FDN grows ever more desperate. These are the same gunships the Soviets are using in Afghanistan to murder off the opposition.

Unless we send the FDN comparable aid, they will share the fate of other nations abandoned by the U.S. to Communist imperialism.

Robert Bart  
Box 594  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14851

**Literature Needed**

EDITOR:

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

If those who wish to do so will send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of missionary priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway  
14 Castle St.  
Cork, Ireland



**Pope Leads Way for Us**

EDITOR:

There was a little article about wild geese in the Sunday Democrat, from which I quote: "They fly in 'V' formation to cut down on wind resistance and to make group flying easier and less trying; the leader changes often, and that one is using the most energy for the benefit of the whole group."

The Holy Father came immediately to mind. He is our spiritual leader and he is wearing himself out for the sake of the flock entrusted to

his care. He has no relief and the saddest thing of all is that the greatest "resistance" he has to struggle against is from members of his own flock.

This holy man is not the same man he was four years ago when he first assumed this crushing burden. He has aged 20 years. He is already a dry martyr and could at any moment become a red one. His courage is phenomenal!

How can we as Catholics, not support, defend and obey him?

Arlene O'Connor  
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Rochester, N.Y.

**the Saints** *by Luke*

**ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA**

ST. CATHERINE WAS THE 23RD CHILD OF A DYER AND HIS WIFE. BORN IN SIENA AROUND 1347. AS A CHILD SHE WOULD SAY THE HAIL MARY ON EACH STEP AS SHE CLIMBED THE STAIRS. AT AGE 7, SHE MADE A VOW OF VIRGINITY, THOUGH HER PARENTS TRIED TO PERSUADE HER TO MARRY. AT 15 SHE ENTERED THE THIRD ORDER OF ST. DOMINIC. SHE COMBINED A LIFE OF ACTIVE CHARITY WITH THE PRAYER OF A CONTEMPLATIVE. AROUND 1375, CATHERINE RECEIVED THE STIGMATA BUT THE WOUNDS WERE VISIBLE ONLY TO HERSELF. HER WISDOM AND ADVICE WERE SOUGHT BY CIVIL LEADERS AND EVEN THE POPE. UNDER PAPAL AUTHORITY SHE TRAVELLED THROUGHOUT ITALY, CONVERTING CITIES TO THE FAITH. THE POPES HAD BEEN LIVING IN FRANCE BECAUSE OF UNSETTLED TIMES. CATHERINE MADE A SPECIAL VISIT TO POPE GREGORY XI AND SAID, "HOLY FATHER, GOD WANTS THE HEAD OF HIS CHURCH TO LIVE IN ROME. I PRAY THAT YOU WILL GO THERE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE." AND SOON ROME AGAIN BECAME THE HOME OF THE POPES. SHE FORETOLD THE TERRIBLE SCHISM WHICH BEGAN BEFORE SHE DIED. DAY AND NIGHT SHE WEPT AND PRAYED FOR UNITY AND PEACE. SHE DIED AT ROME IN 1380 AT AGE 33. SHE WAS PROCLAIMED THE SECOND WOMAN DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH IN 1970. HER FEAST DAY IS APRIL 29.

**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.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC

**Thanks Giving**

APPEAL