Editorial

We're very grateful, but ...

The "St. Jude incident" of the last two weeks brought considerable discussion about the consequences of leaving envelopes filled with cash in public places. Many people expressed the feeling that leaving money orders or sending cash by registered mail would be far safer means of making anonymous donations. It seemed that the case had at least taught a lesson in practicality to those wellintentioned people who wish no

thanks for their gifts.

Yet last week, after the St. Jude case had been widely covered by the media, we learned that the lesson had not reached everyone. The receptionist in our offices was sorting the mail and came upon an envelope bearing no return address. She opened the envelope and found a \$100 bill and a handwritten, unsigned note requesting that the C-J staff pass the money on to Sister Pat Flynn of St. Michael's Woodshop, the subject of our front-page article two weeks ago.

We were incredulous. Do not misunderstand; we do not wish to ridicule this generous reader for making such a donation. But we must make clear to all of our readers the position such a donation places us in. Suppose that the Postal Service, in its unique fashion, had not delivered the envelope for several weeks. (As earlier related on this page, we once received a press release more than two months after its postmark date.) Suppose further, that the donor had called to confirm that the money had been received. Everyone on our staff at that point would have been under suspicion of having committed this simple, tempting crime.

The staff of the Courier-Journal is more than happy to act as intermediary in donations — anonymous or otherwise - to various charitible organizations, but we do not relish the possibility of becoming suspects in a crime. Please, if you wish to use the Courier as an intermediary, send or hand-deliver a money order made out to the organization you wish the money to aid. Your name does not have to appear on the money order. Or, if you prefer, call us for the address of the organization and send them a money order or cash by registered mail.

Sister Pat Flynn and the staff of the Courier-Journal extend our sincere thanks to the reader who sent this generous donation, and we hope that he or she will understand our concern.

We're facing a minor dilemma. Many, many readers have asked us to return Rap Around to the Courier-Journal. We have decided that reinstating the youth section in its entirety is not the best choice at this time. Instead we opted to pick up some of Rap Around's best features and add some new features we believe are improvements over the original.

More than a month ago, this column noted that we plan to reinstate the

"Speaking Out" youth editorial column once school resumes in the fall. It also noted that we are creating a "Youth Photo Contest" in place of the old "Winner's Circle." We have advertised that contest four times, and have even extended the original deadlines. But to no avail. The volume of entries we have received to date is highly uninspiring.

We're stumped. Over and over again, people asked us to create more features for our young readers — a request we responded to with enthusiasm. A photo contest seemed a means of getting kids actively involved in the newspaper and providing a forum for budding young pho--tographers. It seemed far more interesting than the passive game of finding one's face circled in a group photo.

Maybe there aren't many shutterbugs in our young audience. Or, perhaps with the cost of photo finishing, the prize amount we carried over from Winner's Circle isn't incentive enough.

Or is it something else? You tell us, please! If you suspect you know why this contest isn't the latest rage. please give us a call at (716)454-7050 Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; or send us a note at 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. If you have a better idea for youth, please let us

Meanwhile, we'll try one more time. For starters, we'll raise the prize amount to \$10 for the weekly contests and extend the deadlines again. We will accept entries for the first contest, "School's Out," until August 15. Submissions for that contest should "focus" on summer activities - summer camp, swimming or anything else you're doing while you're not in class. The second contest, "Backyard Sports," will close August 22. Entries for this contest can range from the usual basketball, volleyball or croquet to any crazy game you and your friends have invented for yourselves.

If this doesn't work, what will?

And opinions

Hospitality House staff prays for hope, peace

Thanks to Bishop Clark for his letter to the parishes calling for prayer, penance and witnessing for peace in this 40th year of the atomic bomb. We are indeed fortunate in the Diocese of Rochester to have leadership that is consistently and outspokenly pro-life on the range of life issues.

In this time of deepening crisis and darkness, there is yet a latent healing and salvation that waits to be tapped. In history, an affirmation of life and goodness has often appeared most powerfully and clearly in times of conflict and crisis. In the love of Jesus, obedient unto death; the experiments in non-violent truth of Gandhi; and the persevering pacifism of Dorothy Day, choosing life had little to do with the conventional wisdom of the time. Today, these witnesses to the truth teach us to speak clearly and hope all the more in times of

crisis since that is when our salvation is near.

At St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, we are praying for light and hope in our diocese, especially at the diocesan Mass for peace on August 9. This day marks 44 years of operation of the Seneca Army Depot, 42 years since Franz Jaggerstatter was executed for refusing to cooperate with the Nazis, and 40 years since the last nuclear bomb was used in war on Nagasaki. Perhaps in this coincidence of dates there is a divine warning as well as a promise of grace if we repent and

We are very grateful for the opportunity to repent and pray for God's mercy with people throughout the diocese.

> Mark and Linda Scibilia-Carver **Martin Larch** Arthur Michelini St. Joseph's House of Hospitality

Devotion to Mary Needed in Today's Church

To the Editor:

There is a powerful element in the Church today that, to put it charitably, "fears" to give God's mother and co-redemptoress "too much honor." They seem to think that Our Blessed Lord, the most loving and respectful Son of all time, might get jealous. Or that His mother would hog all the glory for herself and not lead us to her Son and God. I never heard anything so pitiful in my whole

I remember when Mary was Queen of the Church, when it was not considered "schmaltzy" to crown Our Mother with garlands and sing, along with our bishop, simple tunes of love and devotion; when Our Heavenly Mother was not held up out of the reach of her littlest ones by those who would honor her only scripturally and intellectually; when one could attend weekly devotions in

I also remember when two pretty young girls were safe on the subways of New York City at night; when it wasn't a dirty joke for a young man to be a virgin until he married; when elderly people were safe in their homes with unlocked doors; when the Church almost had it made.

Then came Vatican II and this fanatical element used that as a excuse to banish the tenderest mother of all times from our lives.

I have heard the question over and over: "What happened to society? Something went wrong somewhere."

I'll tell you what went wrong. They took our Mother away from us, leaving us orphans, and we ran wild. Give her back to us before it's too late.

Arlene O'Connor 214 Haddon Road

Writer finds confession a rare form of friendship

To the Editor:

I would like to address those who presently make light of the gift of private confession in the Roman Catholic Church. This holy sacrament is vital to individual, spiritual growth in charity towards all-men and the growth of all the Church.

If I may borrow the words of a worldrenowned preacher and teacher, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, "Nothing so much brings one person in contact with another as the confession of sin. When a friend tells of his success, he stands at a distance from our hearts: when he tells of his guilt with tears, he is verymear."

It appears to me that those who avoid private confession do not view their priest as a trustworthy friend. How unfortunate for those persons. They'll probably never find a better friend than their priests. Do not our priests stand in for Christ? To allow someone to see us in our nakedness requires love, humility and faith in that person. Trust your priest. He wants your friendship and needs to

May Jesus Christ our High Priest be honored and adored forever and ever.

Mark A Petersheim 88 Damsen Road Rochester

Government adds to woes of Covenant House leader

To the Editor:

Father Bruce Ritter of Covenant House in New York City, which receives and tries to take care of 1,000 youths each month, said recently in a newsletter that when he started our on his God-given mission it was simple. All he had to do was take care of the kids as best he could. His enemies were pimps and predators.

Now, he not only has the pimps and predators to contend with, he also has new enemies in the New York City administration who attack him and the mission of Covenant House and threaten to cut off the minimal government funding it receives, not because its staff members are too Catholic and too

religious, but because they are religious at all because they want to do what they do because of God.

Also, the American Civil Liberties Union is "jumping up and down" on Father Ritter's back because he has been appointed to the attorney general's new National Commission on Pornography. The legislative counsel of the ACLU accuses him "of not having an open mind about pornography.' How could a Catholic have an open mind about pornography?

> John F. Starkweather 1840 Middle Road

Committee report typical of secular employee gripes To the Editor:

hearings on the role of lay ministers in the diocese, I was greatly puzzled. The report

relates only to paid, professional, full-time ministers and sounds exactly like a typical list of grievances presented to management by an employee group. In this light. I see absolutely no reason for

the committee to get involved in "the role of all baptized persons in the Church."

As the chief executive officer of the diocese, the bishop certainly can handle these grievances without the necessity of two and one-half years of hearings- and a full, two-column splash in the Courier-Journal.

And for heaven's sake, let's stop referring to these employeees as "lay ministers."

George F. Fay 55 Imperial Drive Rochester



I've been kind of bitter about love ever since leo buscaglia hugged me an broke a cigar in my shirt pocket.

Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writers' signatures, full addresses and telephone numbers. They should be sent to: Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 11/2 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 writers' own styles.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space reserved for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent to other publications or persons. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one