

Editorial

Station identification

There once was a time when television evangelists were looked upon with some degree of skepticism — when one wondered what portion of the electronic preachers' fire and brimstone was religious devotion and what portion theatrics.

Today, the tables have been turned. Now we have a fundamentalist TV preacher telling us that an ordained Anglican bishop is a "phony." After receiving a fair amount of criticism for that remark, of course, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, Moral Majority founder who had just completed a self-appointed mission to survey South African opinion on divestment, clarified his statement. He had not intended to question Bishop Desmond Tutu's "relationship with God," only his representation of black South Africans.

Falwell claims to have found nearly unanimous criticism of the divestment movement in every segment of South African society both black and white. He plans a \$1 million campaign, including two prime-time TV specials, to encourage reinvestment in South African currency and in U.S. companies doing business in that country. Although Falwell is a staunch

Republican and Reagan supporter, even members of his own party are hoping to stop his campaign against a package of sanctions against South Africa under consideration by Congress. As Falwell has questioned Bishop Tutu's right to speak for the majority of black South Africans, 15 congressional Republicans say Falwell "cannot be allowed to speak for America."

The attention on South Africa this past week has centered on political banter — discussions of who may rightfully speak for whom and whether any given speaker says what others wish to hear. From the nothing-new speech of South African President P.W. Botha to the nonsense of Falwell, little has been said of the plight of black South Africans and what can be done to aid them. The one attempt at constructive discussion — the meeting between Botha and South Africa's religious leaders — ended with little positive result.

The time has come to recognize those, like Bishop Tutu, who genuinely represent the interests of black South Africans and who urge non-violence; to stop viewing political opponents as "the enemy;" and to initiate serious negotiations aimed at ending the oppression of apartheid.

Lay activity essential to Church vitality

To the Editor:

As the role of ministry broadens in accord with the Second Vatican Council, it is natural to see an increase in lay administration of Catholic schools. Page three of the July 31 Courier-Journal listed 13 religious women and one lay woman assigned the role of pastoral assistant, which is a position that was also probably closed to lay persons 10 years ago. Rather than "replacing" or "taking over" roles traditionally held by vowed religious, this increase in lay Catholic school administrators is another way for baptized Christians to fulfill their roles, as Lourdes Sheenan mentioned in your article of the same issue, "Workshop Presented Discusses Lay Administration of Schools"

(Page 6).

Besides indicating that Catholic school graduates are more hopeful, recent research, namely the Coleman and Greeley studies, also tell us that it is these people who are most likely to assume leadership roles in their parish communities. If these data are accurate, the role of Catholic education and its leadership become essential to the vitality of the Church.

Thank you for the supportive position on Catholic education that this article reflects. It's encouraging to a lay administrator on the West Coast.

Patricia O'Brien
Good Shepherd School
Santa Cruz, California

All faiths must join in fighting abortion

To the Editor:

"When there is moral rot within a nation its government topples easily, but with sensible leaders there is stability," Proverbs of King Solomon 28:2.

If we want to save this great nation of ours from utter ruin, must we not heed these words of wisdom of this great king?

We must be enlightened to the truth, that all Americans of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths profess to believe in Almighty God and His great 10 Commandments. And also in this profound truth.

For in the image of God, has God made man, Genesis 9:1-6. With these great truths in common, we must overlook our slight or

vast religious differences of doctrine.

The most highly important issue of life or death is at stake. Our great nation is at stake.

The fact must sink in ourselves, that our Lord's great commandment "You shall not kill" is being violated every 22 seconds by a horrendous act of abortion.

Unified, and taking action to protect the right to life of all the unborn, we people of faith can cry our anger and our outrage with one loud voice in protest against this abomination and injustice to our Lord's own creation. Then will the lawmakers in the high courts hear us.

Jean Maruko
516 Westmount St.
Rochester

Indian priest looking for inspirational books

To the Editor:

An Indian priest, Father Varghese Panagatt, is in need of inspirational books for seminarians he teaches. He is looking for almost any type of spiritual book, but especially those that tell the stories of how God touched another person in his or her life (contemporaries, saints, etc.).

I'm sure that many of your readers have such books which are no longer being used.

Father Panagatt and his seminarians would greatly appreciate them.

Readers can send these inspirational books directly to him at this address: Father Varghese Panagatt, St. Joseph School, Nathnabar P.O., Bhagalpur-812006, Bihar, India.

Father Anthony Paul Mugavero
St. Mary of the Lake Church
Waltham



ANNUAL
CATHOLIC
Thanks Giving
APPEAL

And opinions

Diocesan archivist seeks Haydock's Bible

To the Editor:

Your readers will surely remember the huge Catholic Bibles that most Catholic families used to display on the parlor table way back when. They had heavily embossed leather covers which were held closed by two nickel-plated metal hasps.

I am in search of one of these Bibles that contains, usually between the Old Testament and the New Testament, a series of color prints of the fourteen Stations of the Cross. The edition I am seeking bore on its title page the following information: Haydock's Catholic Family Bible and Commentary,

edited by George Leo Haydock and F.C. Husenbeth. The publisher was National Publishing Co. (New York?) The only dates given are those of registration with the Library of Congress: 1882 and 1884.

If any family still possesses one of these Bibles and would be interested in parting with it, I should appreciate being informed. Thanks.

Father Robert F. McNamara
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Threat of 'killer bees' less than pesticides

To the Editor:

I did read with varied reactions about the way the media covered the "killer bees" story. One heartening fact finally came, I believe, in an editorial that said what a tremendous asset bees are to us humans, not just because of honey production, but because of the pollination of the crops. The editorial said if mites came with killer bees and infected our native bees to the point of wiping them out, the crops wouldn't get pollinated.

I'd like to bring your attention to the fact that Rachel Carson, drawing on worldwide scientific research, published the findings in 1962 in "Silent Spring" what a terrible loss it will be to the world food supply when the

bees get wiped out through the indiscriminate use of pesticides and insecticides. Alas, we still use toxic chemicals, heedless of the small print on the container (required by law), even on plants bees can visit.

I say the pesticides users pose a greater danger to our native bee population than the so-called "bees from the South." This invasion happened before (20 years ago) and it was solved by nature, efficiently, because the southern bees froze to death when winter came as they do not adapt to northern winters.

Mary Rita Crowe
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Rochester



"WHEN YOU FINISH WITH THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL DISPLAY, THEY WANT YOU ON THE MAIN FLOOR TO HELP SET UP THE CHRISTMAS STUFF."

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 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 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 letter per month.