

Editorial

Violence begets violence

"It's not the Catholics I hate, it's their bloody religion," a character told his Irish Catholic friend, Cal. That illogical statement capsulized the futility of the Ulster conflict as portrayed in the movie "Cal," now showing on cable's Home Box Office.

Cal, a tormented young man, allowed himself to be caught up in the meaningless violence of a band of young Catholic thugs who believe gruesome murders and car bombings will convince the British to get out of Ulster. Finding that he has "no stomach for it," Cal then escapes to the countryside, hoping to leave his past behind.

Despite its violence and sexual scenes, "Cal" is well worth watching. Focusing on the individual struggles of its lead character and their effect on the people in his life, the film depicts the Irish conflict in very human terms. Violence against the enemy becomes violence against the friend and, eventually, against oneself. It is impossible to protect individuals from irrational hatred of their beliefs or of the group to which they belong.

The movie ends at Christmastime with joyful music playing in the shops of Belfast, in stark contrast to the anguish of earlier scenes. Cal learns that he cannot escape what he has done and that his actions cannot be justified by the terrible harm Protestants had done to him and his father. He also must face the effect of his actions on the woman he loves, a Protestant whose husband was killed by the Catholic rebels he aided.

The lessons of "Cal" can be applied to class and religious conflicts around the world. Solutions cannot be found through violence because violence destroys everyone, not just the oppressor. Negotiation and peaceful protest are certainly difficult and painful paths, but they seem the only workable choice.

It is appropriate that Cal came face to face with his actions at the time of the Savior's birth. One hopes that this Christmas, some of those who choose violence will come to see that evil does not justify more evil. As Jesus came to show us, love and understanding are the only means toward peace.

Don't forget need to pray, obey Ten Commandments

To the Editor:

We hear much today about love of God and love of neighbor, but little any more about the original Ten Commandments, as though love of God and neighbor somehow nullifies the commandments given to Moses for us by God.

How could this possibly be? They are the blueprint that leads us to union with God, and peace and order and happiness in this world.

If we truly love God with our whole heart, soul mind and strength, as we are commanded to do and, for His dear sake, our neighbor — who is not nearly so loveable — as ourself, won't we just naturally be most eager to avoid even the slightest offense, even

the most secret one against the object of our affections and the Mystical Body of Christ, and struggle valiantly with all the means the Church puts at our disposal to keep all the commandments?

And how does one arrive at this knowledge and burning love of God? It is by prayer, prayer and more prayer, especially the rosary. Two of the many beautiful promises that go with the devout recitation and meditation of the rosary are: 1. It will set us on fire with love of Jesus Christ, and 2. It will make the practice of virtue easy.

Arlene O'Connor
214 Haddon Road
Rochester

SSJs in Brazil extend thanks, blessings to Rochester diocese

To the Editor:

As our celebration of Christmas grows near once again, we remember the proclamation of the angels who announced the birth of this Child-God to simple shepherds: "Peace on earth to all people of good will." This is our prayer for you, the people of the Rochester diocese who, with so much good will, have supported us and our work in Brazil through your prayers, interest and financial support during the past year.

This year here has been one of growing economic hardship in the midst of promises of land reform for millions of landless farmworkers, promises made by the first

civilian government in Brazil in over 20 years. Such promises have brought hope and raised expectations, and also brought fear and violence. We celebrate God's presence in our midst with joy and hope that there will be peace and justice on our earth. We continue to be grateful to you for enabling our presence here in Brazil. May you and your families be deeply blessed during the Christmas season and throughout the new year.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
C.P. 27
Cacu, Goias
Brasil

Tioga citizens form group to combat pornography sale

To the Editor:

It is with some real pride that I announce the formation of a new citizens' organization combatting pornography: Tioga Citizens for a Decent Community.

We're a solidly Christian organization, prayerfully declaring that God sees pornography with revulsion — as a seducer of children; an enslavement of youth; and a destroyer of normal sexuality, home life and marriage.

We're declaring a one-year war on pornography as of January. An anti-pornography group in Binghamton has contributed to the

reduction of X-rated theaters from three to zero, of adult bookstores from seven to three, and of stores selling pornographic magazines from 88 to 17!

Is there anybody out there that cares? Bishop Clark and the entire diocese should declare a one-year war too! It only takes a few dedicated people, and we'll help. With a persistent prayer effort, you can do it too!

Frank V. Baker
c/o St. Patrick's Church
300 Main Street
Owego

March for Life Committee offering trip to D.C. march

To the Editor:

The Rochester March for Life Committee invites all to join us in the 13th annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 22. We are organizing a bus trip for local pro-lifers who would like to make a stand for the most innocent and unprotected of all human beings, the unborn. Last year, more than 70,000 people gathered in our nation's capital from throughout the United States to listen to President Reagan's address, to

lobby their congressmen and senators, and to take part in an exciting Grand March.

The total cost for bus transportation is only \$25. Departure time is 10 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 21, following an ecumenical service. We will return late the following evening. For more information and reservations, please call Mrs. Dee Dries at (716)334-7562.

Nicholas Hober
Rochester March for Life Committee
Rochester

Doctor urges senior citizens to get pneumonia inoculations

To the Editor:

At last, there is something we can do to prevent one of the leading causes of death in people over age 65.

Pneumococcal pneumonia is a dangerous and often fatal disease, especially among senior citizens and those with certain chronic ailments. Now, through a simple vaccine, reimbursable under Medicare, this type of pneumonia can be prevented.

I strongly urge all those over the age of 65, and those with chronic illness, such as diabetes, lung disease, heart disease, kidney or liver problems, alcoholism and sickle cell

anemia, to contact their doctors for advice on receiving this pneumonia inoculation. If someone you know fits into any of these categories, please tell them about the vaccine immediately.

Just by spreading the word, you can stop the spread of one of the nation's least publicized yet most deadly diseases. Thank you for your help.

Dr. Richard Eberle, president
Empire State Medical, Scientific and
Educational Foundation, Inc.
New York Physicians Peer Review

And opinions

Time to seek Rome's permission for intinction?

To the Editor:

(In her November 28 letter, "More instruction needed on bishop's directive") Ms. Greisen expressed concern about the words "more fully" used to describe communion under both forms. These words occur in the General Instruction on the Roman Missal (1970), but they refer to the sign value of the meal aspect, as is made very clear in the text of the article (cf. 240, 241). We should desire communion under both forms, but we "should be reminded that ... Christ is received whole and entire... under one kind only."

There is one aspect of sign value that some may be overlooking:

"We want to sit at your right hand in the kingdom."

"Can you drink the cup from which I will drink?"

"Sure!"

"You will."

In *Dominicae cenae* (1980) (esp. 4) Pope John Paul II reminds us that we must not forget the sacrifice in the sacrament. Perhaps we should begin to think of the "more fully" as our willingness to let our blood flow with Christ's for His purposes. How far are we willing to go in this oneness that we crave?

That this is also the mind of the Church can be seen from the first list of those

permitted to receive under both kinds (General Instruction, 242). Fully half of the 14 instances granted in 1970 involve occasions in which individuals are taking on greater responsibility — a greater share in the cross. Certainly these are celebrations, for sacrifice is celebration!

For the Blood of Christ to pass one's lips can be a very powerful experience, as I have found at St. Nicholas (a Melkite Catholic church, where intinction is proper).

There are still so many difficulties with instruction and obedience in our Roman Rite churches in the giving communion under both kinds that the sign value as I have described it has been for me diminished rather than enhanced. Not even the slightest whim is sacrificed to obedience, which is the sign of love! And it is going to be awhile before we know the extent of the possibilities for the transmission of AIDS through saliva. It does not seem prudent to rely any longer on old studies.

Perhaps the U.S. bishops should petition the Holy See so that we might be able to use the method of intinction, not now permitted in our rite.

Judith Echaniz
347 Barrington Street
Rochester

Criticizes bishops pastoral letter on economy

To the Editor:

The bishops' economics pastoral is notable for a most astounding aspect. It takes strongly to task the most efficient means ever known for answering people's needs — the democratic capitalism of the United States.

The American system has brought the greatest freedoms and affluence to the greatest number in world history. I believe that if there were free world migration, this country would have half a billion population by 2,000 A.D. Our educated bishops may not know, but ignorant people around the world would flock here as to a Mecca. A doctor in China said, "If the door were open, everyone would leave." For where? California, of course, which has its own liberal problems. There is no perfect system, but which comes closer?

The bishops' psycho-focus on the poor reveals little but the nostrum of welfare, which does not work. The poor need jobs, but they first need training to hold down jobs in our technological society, as well as the job opportunity. What do the bishops offer but welfare?

Recently bishops were asked factual ques-

tions about defense and economics. They flunked out. When asked how poverty increased in the United States even while the amount spent to eliminate it by the federal government multiplied several times, Bishop Peter Rosazza said, "Wow, that's a tough one!" "Wow, that's a dumb answer!"

I believe the bishops are misled by the mildness of criticism of their pastorals. Many, like myself, were brought up with almost instinctive respect for religious men and women. No more. When middle- and upper-class people find out that they are expected to unquestioningly support the unproductive poor through the expensive mechanism of inflated bureaucracy, rebellion will grow.

The bishops are rapidly spending the moral influence which is their reason for being. I believe they are the dupes of radical priests and of their own ignorance of life. The bishops deserve the future; we in the pews don't.

John F. Starkweather
1840 Middle Road
Rush

Writers submits Sister Lucia letter on world conversion

To the Editor:

The following quotation may, I hope, be of some interest to local Roman Catholics. It is a personal letter written by Sister Lucia, the remaining seer of Our Blessed Mother at Fatima, Portugal, and a Carmelite nun. It was written this past summer to her spiritual director, who has since decided to make it public. The letter has been in numerous European publications from which this is taken. I personally believe it is truly a word to the wise.

"The Lord will chastise the world soon. The punishment will be a material one, and you can imagine, Father, how many souls will fall into Hell if there is not prayer and penitence.

"Father, tell everyone that Our Lady has told me many times that many nations will disappear from the face of the earth; Godless nations will be the scourge chosen by God, Himself, for the punishment of mankind if we do not obtain the grace of their conversion, by means of prayer and the Holy Sacraments. Tell them, Father, that the Devil is launching his attack in the decisive battle against Our Lady, with the ruining of religious and priestly souls. He knows that priests and religious, when they neglect their high vocation, draw many souls down to Hell ... The Devil seeks possession of these consecrated souls. He works at corrupting them; He uses every trick, even that of

bringing the religious life up to date ... Our Lady has told me expressly: 'We are approaching the last days' and she has repeated this three times."

The above is taken from "Approaches," No. 90, 1985. Ayshire, Scotland.

Michael A. More
76 Dunbar Street
Rochester



"I GUESS I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE A GINGERBREAD CRECHE. THE DOG ATE TWO WISE MEN."

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.