

C-J Opinions

Spencerport youth group responds to Father Cuddy's column on teens

To the Editor:

We would like to thank Father Cuddy for his response to our letter about youth. It has been one of the most positive things to happen in our group this year. The teens are reading the Courier-Journal weekly, especially Father Cuddy's column. As a youth leader in our parish, I am delighted these young adults have taken such a keen interest in not only the Courier, but also in our Church. Their comments and criticism should be a wonderfully refreshing welcome to our ever-growing Catholic community. I have found in my years with working with teens that they have much to offer us "oldies" if we would give them half a chance. Sometimes the basic ideas are great, but need a little gentle polishing. We need to stop stereotyping our teenagers and recognize them as the loving, sensitive young adults they are.

The 25-30 teens who meet weekly to pray, study and celebrate community offer these additional comments to those genuinely concerned about young people in our Church.

We propose to get other teens to get involved in church activities by personal contact, like calling and inviting friends. We could also have a phone-a-thon to invite kids we don't know. If other teens know someone who goes to church activities, it's easier than going alone. We need to reach out.

Father Cuddy's answer to forcing kids to go to Mass was good. Our parents promise at baptism to bring us up in the Catholic Christian community, and so it is their responsibility to see that we go to Mass.

However, if after confirmation, we become adult members of our Church, isn't it then our responsibility?

Father Cuddy's remark about "teenagers with wads of money" was prejudicial at best. Some adults we know "shell out" a lot of money for frivolous items like alcohol and fancy cars. We take our responsibility of being members of our church seriously. We may not use church envelopes regularly, but we do volunteer our time. At St. John's some of us teach CCD weekly, help at the parish festival, sing in the folk group weekly, help in the confirmation program and more. Money is important, but so is time and involvement.

As for asking questions, we do ask a lot of questions, like how to deal with peer pressure, how to say no to sexual advances, how to deal with an alcoholic father. What can we do for a friend who has had an abortion and is feeling really bad? How can we help a friend who has attempted suicide? There are many, many more social, moral questions we need answers to. How can we be like Christ to others in this world?

We think Father Cuddy should perhaps realize that we are the new generation of Christians and if the present-day group of Christians is any indication of the future, then we think it's time for a change for the better. We are ready and willing to facilitate these changes for the better, but we need understanding from older and more experienced Church leaders, like Father Cuddy. Let's work together, not against each other.

St. John's TIC Reality Group
Spencerport

Sandinista policies are just another example of treachery and deception used by communists

To the Editor:

In examining the news on the current crises in the Nicaraguan situation, I would like to project a scene in the readers' minds' eyes of what is most likely to occur if our Congress fails to grant an offer of military funds to aid the true freedom fighters, the contras.

In a scholarly, anticommunist publication, the "Asian Outlook," a pertinent article was headlined thus: "Communism Is a Lie that Was Born in HELL." This certainly applies to the communist Sandinistas as to how they deceive the liberal do-gooders among our religious and inastute congressmen. And that includes our liberal U.S. media.

As an example, in 1961, the Sandinistas were explicit communists and going nowhere. Therefore, due to their indoctrination in Cuba in 1978 by Fidel Castro, they no longer claimed themselves as communists. This is precisely what Castro lied about in 1959, passing himself off as an "agrarian reformer." The Sandinistas then arranged to join a broad coalition of 20 groups of democratic-minded people seeking to unseat Somoza and to effect said reforms. The Sandinistas promised cooperation — but as

true-to-life Reds — they lied, proving this deception when they betrayed the other 19 groups. Then they lied again, when writing to the Organization of American States, proclaiming their intent to establish a democracy. Now, the communists know full well that a lie repeated often enough will entice many a fool to begin believing it.

And, as P.T. Barnum once remarked: "A sucker is born every minute." And history has borne this out in recent years of communist deception and treachery. Witness Cuba, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Korea, Vietnam. And now Nicaragua, the next intended target of the "Lie Born in Hell," lies ready to fall victim to this Satanic deception because our own Congress is willing to believe negotiations will bring about an agreement. Where are these legislators' minds when their own Congressional Record is replete with scores of communist deceptions and treachery that verify the aforementioned warning that "Communism Is a Lie Born in Hell"?

Ray J. Guth
Long Pond Road
Rochester

Writer praises sisters for care to aged aunt

To the Editor:

This letter could be called a love letter. It is in tribute to the wonderful Sisters of Mercy who staff Lourdes Hall, Our Lady of Mercy Infirmary at the motherhouse on Blossom Road. It is a tribute to the love and tender care they give to the sisters in their care, a love that is manifested by their concern, cheerful attitude and, most of all, their smiles, no matter how unpleasant the task.

My aunt, Sister Elizabeth Helen, recently passed away in the infirmary where she had spent the last five-and-one-half years of her life. She had not walked alone in all that time, but spent most of her days in her wheelchair. She did walk with the aid of the therapist or nurses most every day. I can remember how patient the sisters and other nurses would be with her when she became

quite demanding.

Visiting my aunt as often as we did, my wife and I were most impressed by the great love that these beautiful women expressed as they administered to their patients a smile, a touch, a fluff of the pillow, a few kind words — always with patience and understanding. Their love truly mirrors the love of Christ. His love is the prime motivation for the many long and hard hours these sisters spend caring for their own.

My aunt lived and died surrounded by love, the love of Christ and of her fellow sisters. Would that all of us could be so fortunate.

John H. Meisch
St. Paul Boulevard
Rochester

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 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 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.

Praises USCC stand on military aid to contras

To the Editor:

This letter is a response to the article "USCC says no to contra aid" (C-J March 20). I work for the USCC as a volunteer with refugees from Cambodia and Vietnam, and was happy to read that the organization I work for says no to contra aid.

However, a spokesman for the USCC said that they were only opposed to military aid. To me, that makes no sense. The contras remain killers, rapers of innocent people. The reports from Amnesty International and American Watch state this over and over again. The Reagan administration simply pushes these reports aside, while calling these human rights organizations communists or allies of the communists.

In Nicaragua, (those officials of) the Catholic Church who works with the poor are not oppressed. There are still many priests who work with the Sandinistas in building up the country: building schools, hospitals, etc.

The U.S. government refuses to see this. In its eagerness to prove oppression of the Church, it refers to Cardinal Obando y Bravo of Managua. This cardinal, like the Somoza guards under the contras (56 of the

58 leaders are former Somoza guards), doesn't want to give up his privileges!

He has been supporting the contras and boycotting the Sandinistas in several ways. Every time the government wanted to send a message through the Catholic radio station, the station broke down. After numerous brake downs, the government got tired of this and closed the station down.

Many young men who were unwilling to join the army ran to the seminaries, which opened wide their gates. Ortega (Sandinista President Daniel Ortega) made these so-called "seminarians" go into the army anyway, as the army needs every young man available to protect the people against the contras.

The Sandinistas should get an honest chance without being threatened by contras or by CIA manuals that tell how to kill the Sandinista leaders.

The fear of being overthrown leads to repression. "Who can you trust?" That's how the oppression in Communist China started.

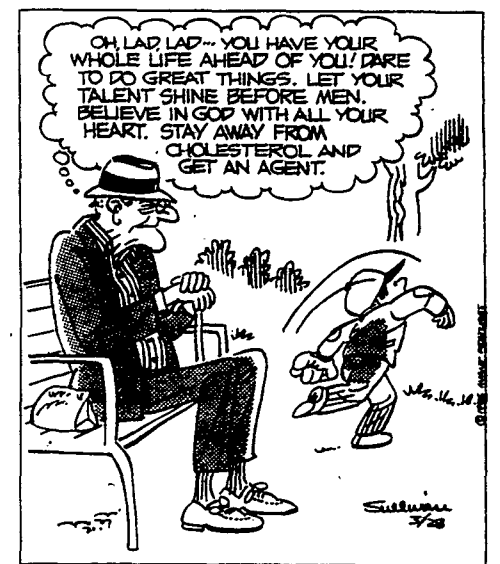
Lieve Seeger-Demeyere
Lafayette Parkway
Rochester

Indian missionary requests donation of religious articles

To the Editor:

I had requested your goodness to appeal to your kind readers to send me religious articles to my new mission. But I have not received much response. Please be kind enough to request your readers to send me rosaries, statues, scapulars, medals, used and unused Christmas and Easter cards, holy pictures, used clothes and other helps for the mission taken charge of recently. The stream of mission need is steady and unending. Please forward materials to:

Father Paul Cruz
Kadavoor Church
Mathill PO
Quilon 691 601
Kerala
India



On the Right Side

Father Paul J. Cuddy

Twisted Reporting

The National Catholic Reporter (NCR) is probably the most responsible entity for the number of disgruntled nuns, sisters and priests hostile toward the pope, the Holy See and the teaching Church. Over the years, it has dinned into the subconscious of its readers a hostility toward the pope, toward the Holy See, toward Catholic morality, toward celibacy. It consistently praises and promotes causes that arise against Rome and the Holy See.

For example, the April 4 issue of the Reporter carries an almost full-page barrage against clerical celibacy by the expected Rosemary Reuther, a darling of radical feminists. Her greatest claim to fame is, in my book, her declaration that she has more devotion to the goddess Isis than to Mary. Then, on Page 15, a Sue Buchenau writes commending the NCR for its recent series on the Church in Africa, again berating celibacy. These are typical examples of the technique of the NCR to slant things as they want them. An interesting exposure of this technique comes from a letter by Bishop William Dunn, bishop of Kitui, Kenya. In the April 3 issue he writes:

"I would be grateful if you could find room in your paper for the following comments on an article about ordinations in Kitui, Kenya, published in your Feb. 7 issue. The article seems contradictory. I think the overall atmosphere of the ordination ceremony comes across well. For example, the general air of festivity and enthusiasm of the community 'roaring with cheers' in support of the proceedings, the significance of the parents dancing when presenting their son to the Church, 'the joyous and song-filled service.'

"But in spite of such joyful celebration by the community to the solemn commitment of one of its young men to a life of celibacy, we are asked later to believe that these same people are

completely opposed to the whole notion of celibacy. They are said to see it as 'irresponsible, even immoral', and to look on it, 'not as self-sacrifice but self-indulgence by which the priest shirks his duty to family and community.' Isn't that going a bit far?"

Then the bishop puts his finger on the problem: "It looks to me like letting theoretical ideas of what African attitudes to celibacy are supposed to be take precedence over what the evidence plainly says they are. The truth is that African Christians look upon celibacy in the light of faith. They see it as it really is: one of the wonders of the world, a visible witness to the power of God's grace that can sustain men living in it, and a sign of the undivided commitment of priests to the service of the community in preparation for it."

Bishop Dunn also addresses the problems of vocation. "The only vocational crisis confronting African sisters is that some orders have more applicants than they know what to do with. The same could be said with regard to applicants for the priesthood. This year, we expect even more, and the bishops are frantically trying to provide accommodations necessary for these numbers."

To Bishop Dunn:

"I have just read your letter (April 4) exposing the customary dishonesty of the NC Reporter, reporting on the ordination at Kitui. When I was a young priest, my pastor, Father Joseph Curtin, had a deep interest in the missions, and was a generous supporter. He used to say, 'The future of the Church lies in Africa,' and this was 50 years ago. Enclosed is a check for \$1,000 which I ask you to use in the training of a seminarian or a sister, whichever you think best. Regards to Bishop Raphael Ndigni of Nakuru. He has many friends in the Rochester diocese."

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