

Editorial & Opinion

Metamorphosis and roast beef-pumpkin pie in Waverly

By Bishop Matthew H. Clark

The four-year olds were telling me that they had baked pumpkin pie as part of their Halloween celebration. I honestly thought they were kidding me, but their pre-school teacher assured me that they really had done so — with some help, of course.

The little ones took great delight in telling me that the pie was a circle before it was cut and that the pieces they cut from it looked like triangles. They also told me what ingredients they had used. One said pumpkin, another sugar, another cinnamon, etc. My only moment of doubt came when one beautiful little blonde girl with a huge smile on her face called out that she had put roast beef in the pie.

This was one delightful moment among many during a visit to St. James School in Waverly. I had met Loretta Hayton, the principal of the school, at a meeting in Rochester several weeks ago. At the time, she reminded me of a similar visit I had made five years ago and invited me to come again. So early Monday morning, Pat Sullivan, who works on the Thanks Giving Appeal and is a native of Waverly, and I started out from Sacred Heart Cathedral on the two-and-a-half hour drive to St. James.

I had a chance to greet every child as I visited the classrooms. The students in each room briefed me on what their favorite and most difficult subjects were, what they liked best about school, etc. Does it surprise

Along the Way



you to know that recess and dismissal are still the children's favorite parts of the day?

In the second grade, the little ones told how they had observed right in the classroom the development of a monarch butterfly from its earliest stage of life. They could not only tell me about it, but they could spell metamorphosis and name and explain a little about its four principal stages. I must confess that I was unable to remember dealing with reality at that level when I was in second grade. But what impressed me most was the sense of wonder with which the children described it all. In their own way they were in touch with the mystery of life.

I could go on with examples of events that impressed and delighted me on that visit, but let me sum them up by commenting on the eucharistic liturgy that con-

cluded our visit. Father Ed Foy, the pastor of St. James; Sister Janet Cullen, pastoral assistant; Kathryn Scully, musical director; and Loretta Hayton — plus, I am sure, many others — have worked hard to develop a sense of participation and joy among the children.

It showed beautifully. The children participated fully and had obviously prepared well for that participation. Far from making them stiff and self-conscious, the preparation allowed the children to be easy and confident. Because of all that, they enjoyed what they were doing. I can assure you, they helped me to pray and I am sure I can say the same for the many adults of St. James who joined us for the occasion.

In writing this, I wish not only to recognize and thank the community at St. James in Waverly for their kindness and good work, but to call your attention to the Catholic school closest to you. Each is a lively, progressive community with excellent educational standards and a commitment to helping our beautiful young people come to full Christian maturity.

If you would like to know more about the Catholic school nearest, why not call the principal? He or she would be glad to speak with you.

And who knows? You might be able to buy banana-flavored popcorn. Or roast beef-flavored pumpkin pie.

Peace to all.

The Editor's Desk

This isn't another format change!

In recent weeks, we at the *Courier-Journal* have been tinkering — once again — with our visual format, in an effort to streamline our design. We've also added page headings to make features easy to find. Most significantly, we've moved from our standard of 16 pages to 20 pages, to include more photographs and news.

"So what happened this week?" you might ask. "And why are there ads on the editorial page?"

Our printer, who has always been exceptionally accommodating whenever we experienced problems, called me Tuesday morning as we were preparing the paper for publication. It seems that he had had a serious problem of his own Monday night. An essential piece of machinery broke down, wreaking havoc in press scheduling. I really don't know much about pressroom equipment, but the bottom line was that the issue we had written and laid out for 20 pages had to be squeezed into 16 at the last minute.

So we got out the shoehorn and pushed, and the paper you are holding is the result. Paid advertising, of course, cannot be "bumped" in such cases, so two local stories, a sports feature on Our Lady of Mercy's cross-country team and a World & Nation page were eliminated. Moreover, ads from the omitted pages had to be reassigned to the remaining 16. The result is a very high ad ratio, including ads on this page.

Unfortunately this was the only solution, although I admit it's a less-than-satisfactory one. We offer our apologies and promise that next week's paper will be doubly good.

CUF leader praises C-J article on synod

To the editor:

The article by Teresa A. Parsons dealing with reactions to the World Synod of Bishops deliberating the role of the laity was very well done (C-J October 15: "Diocesans view synod with one expectation, many interpretations"). I am especially appreciative of the notice she gave CUF's (Catholics United for the Faith's) *Statement on the Laity*.

With respect to the desire expressed by some Rochester Catholics for "greater respect for the dignity" of women and homosexuals, I would merely comment that such respect depends on a faithful observance of God's plan of salvation.

It would appear that oftentimes a false compassion, coupled with fear of making moral judgments in accordance with God's

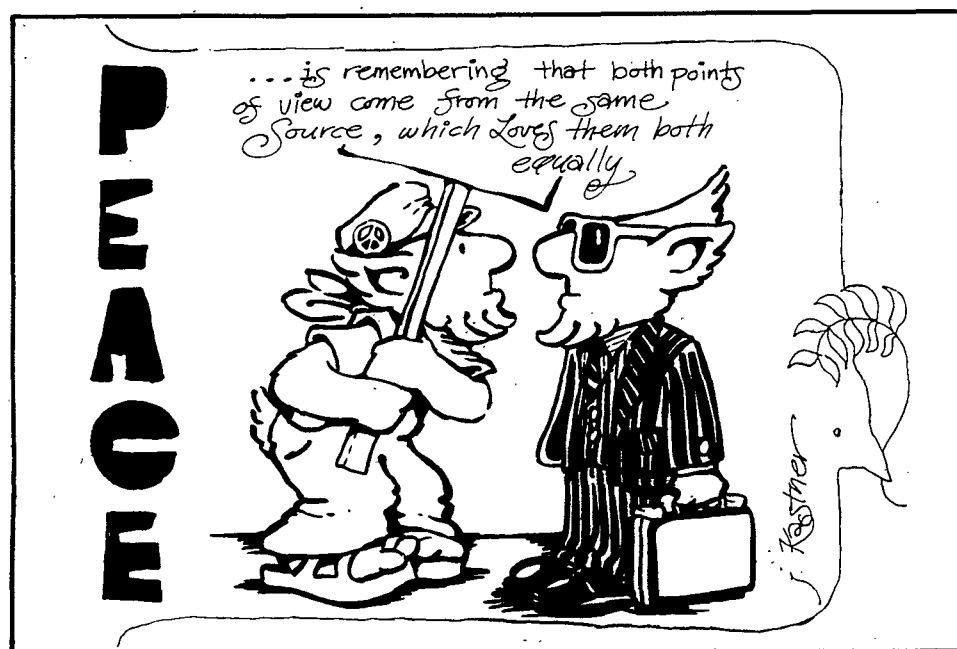
Letters

will, is allowed to cloud the perception of social realities.

In his recent tour of the United States, Pope John Paul II emphasized, if there were still need, that respect for the dignity of women does not entail ordination to the priesthood nor (does respect for homosexuals entail) the moral sanction of homosexuality. Compassion must always be based on God's truth.

Readers desiring to have the full text of CUF's *Statement on the World Synod on the Laity* are welcome to write me for a copy.

Dorothy Macaluso, chairwoman
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Teens should reflect the teachings of Christ

To the editor:

When students "Speak Out" in the *Courier-Journal*, they often present a viewpoint that is popular rather than Catholic. Such was the case when Robert Ellis wrote about AIDS and Phyllis Schlafly (C-J, Echo, October 29). It is indeed unfortunate that he would accuse Mrs. Schlafly of "hiding her head in the sand" when, as the faithful Catholic mother of six, she cares deeply about all the young people for whom she speaks — not only for their physical lives, but more importantly for their spiritual well-being.

She is absolutely correct when she says the videotape produced by the New York City School Board is "evil," because it emphasizes the use of condoms as a solution to the problems of AIDS. Church teaching has always forbidden the use of artificial birth control and continues to do so because it leads, as we have seen, to widespread acceptance of immoral behavior, i.e., premarital sex, adultery and abortion, and is now contributing to the spread of AIDS in our society.

Phyllis Schlafly encourages abstinence — the only 100-percent sure method of preventing AIDS. Why in heaven's name would anyone, including the U.S. Surgeon General, choose second best by advocating the use of condoms which, in reality, is a form of Russian roulette? Two answers come to mind: 1) birth-control education is based on the fact that teens do not possess the moral fortitude to abstain, and 2) there is no money to be made when teens opt for abstinence.

We who are blessed with the true faith have the means to change the moral fiber of our society. We must be willing to live according to the teachings of Christ Himself and, most of all, we must teach those of the younger generation to defend their faith with the zeal that was given to them by the Holy Spirit when they were confirmed. Christ's teachings, not alternatives, must be reflected in their words, actions and writings.

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