

News media

Continued from page 1

of issues," the USCC's Father Doyle said, explaining his observation that news stories "tend to be over-focused on areas of controversy."

Father Doyle and other church spokesmen complained that if one were to judge the church by the media's portrait of it, he or she would believe that the church is a pre-Vatican II entity replete with a dominating hierarchy that spends all of its time condemning U.S. sexual practices and driving away embittered members.

Singling out abortion as an example, Father Doyle remarked that the press continually points out the church's anti-abortion stance without showing how the church complements that stance through its social-welfare efforts.

"I worked from 1986-89 in Albany as a lobbyist for the New York State Catholic Conference," he said. "Each year we came out with a brochure (listing) 60-65 items, two-thirds or more related to human services," he continued, citing funding of pre-natal care programs as examples of the conference's activity. "That (brochure) would get relatively little coverage from the press," he said.

Although the priest said he did not dispute journalists' focus on abortion, "... I wish that there was also some realization that the church stands also with the vulnerable."

It may be unfair to present controversial stories that ignore the church's related charitable activity, but some journalists argue that it's just the way the public-relations cookie crumbles.

Sid Feders, executive producer of the

NBC News Division in New York City, explained the situation by emphasizing a journalistic axiom: "When a dog bites a man, that's not news, but when a man bites a dog, that's news."

Thus, he suggested, it's not news when the church runs smoothly and helps people, but when the church suffers crises and conflicts, that's news.

Feders served as producer for NBC's August, 1987, news program "God is not elected," which was broadcast just before the pope's U.S. tour. The program featured news anchor Maria Shriver interviewing Catholics from four cities who were at odds with church positions on birth control, pre-marital sex and homosexuality. The program also explored the decline in religious vocations and the growing influence of Hispanics in the church.

Feder told the *Courier* that the show anticipated U.S. Catholics' reaction to the pope's visit, during which he was greeted at times by demonstrators angered by his insistency on orthodoxy. Some church spokesmen criticized the show for focusing only on controversy and for failing to emphasize such positive aspects as the church's educational and charitable efforts.

The NBC producer defended his news judgment, noting that his division's research turned up the program's subjects as important Catholic issues at the time.

"We didn't have to work very hard to find Catholics who disagreed with the church," he said, citing as examples a number of public-opinion polls showing that the majority of U.S. Catholics disagree with the church's teachings on artificial birth control.

Feder also pointed out that the show featured priests and an archbishop who gave the church's side of the story. He

concluded by saying that the show was created to interest non-Catholics as well as Catholics. "This was not church-bashing," he stressed.

Media "church-bashing" of a different sort is what the Archdiocese of Detroit experienced last year, if you ask Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka. The prelate, who oversaw the closing of 31 Detroit parishes last year, has criticized "some organs of public communication" for portraying the closing decisions as being motivated purely by financial considerations.

Jay Berman, archdiocesan spokesman, told the *Catholic Courier* that the national media ignored the facts that the Detroit archdiocese based its closing decisions on both pastoral and financial criteria and that several Detroit parishes remain open even though their existence relies almost completely on archdiocesan subsidies.

Crumm of the *Free Press* concurred with Berman's assertion that TV journalists inaccurately portrayed the archdiocese's decisions to close the parishes. But he said his newspaper and others wrote detailed analyses of the closings that truthfully portrayed all of the factors that went into each closing. "For some reason, TV never got off that (financial) mark," he said.

Likewise, Berman asserted, the press has failed to get off several other marks, particularly reporters' continuing ignorance of the modern U.S. church.

"Even the structures they don't know about," he said. "There's an awful lot of (journalists), even to this day, even with local reporters, who think that we open up at 8 a.m., and wait for Rome to tell us what to do at nine."

But if journalists are ever to understand that today's church is more than an institution of disenchanting religious and dissen-

ting parishioners, the burden of informing them is up to the church, said Dash, former *Courier* news editor.

"If people have good news to share, well, they better share it," he remarked, noting that many local congregations have increased the flow of press information they send to his desk.

Still, Dash observed, to a certain extent the church will always find itself in the headlines more often for negative reasons than positive.

"What disrupts the social fabric often is news, and when the church is involved in it, that's going to put it in an uncomfortable position," he said.

Father George Norton, public-information officer for the Diocese of Rochester, acknowledged the validity of Dash's statement and gave local secular journalists high marks for providing balanced coverage of the Catholic community on such issues as sheltering the homeless.

Yet, he said, "I wish people could see the church outside of abortion, birth control, homosexuality and schools."

Crumm, however, observed that the church brings controversial coverage by taking strong stands on such issues as abortion. Moreover, he said, what may seem like "news" to church officials may not be perceived as such by journalists.

"In an ideal world, we'd like to come and write about the cardinal's homily every Sunday," Crumm said. "But in the real world that's not what newspapers do."

Please Patronize Our Advertisers

CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL

Card of thanks 2

HOLY SPIRIT you who solves all problems, who lights all roads so that we can obtain our goals. You who gives us the divine gift to forget all evils against us and that in all instances you are with us. I want to thank you for all these things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in your eternal glory and thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit and St. Jude. M.L.

EMPLOYMENT

ATTENTION: Postal Job! Start \$11.41/hour! For application info call 1-802-838-8885, Ext. M-11013, 6am-10pm, 7 days. (NYSCAN)

BE YOUR OWN BOSS: National manufacturer needs local person to service 100% natural juice route. Best one-man business ever. No selling. No overhead. Must have \$14,400 secured 100% by inventory. \$55,000 very possible first year. This could make you independent. First time offer for details call 9am-9pm, 1-800-633-1740(NYSCAN)

DRIVERS: Americas most Hunt-ed. Call the search off. J.B. Hunt has the perfect job in custody. Call 1-800-643-3331 and get in on the reward: great pay, guaranteed mileage and fantastic benefits. Our most experienced drivers are earning as much as \$40K/yr. J.B. Hunt is an EOE. Subject to drug screen. (NYSCAN)

GOVERNMENT JOBS! Now hiring in your area, both skilled and unskilled. For a current list of jobs and application, call 1-615-383-2627 Ext. P516. (NYSCAN)

EMPLOYMENT

Help wanted 14

Bottling Plant Needs Full-time Production Worker.
Monday - Friday 9 to 5
Small, Friendly Firm.
High School Graduate.
Fee Brothers, (716) 544-9530.

JOBS IN AUSTRALIA: Hiring. \$15,000-\$60,000 yrl. Construction, Manufacturing, Airlines, Melbourne, Sydney, Darwin, Perth. Call Now! 1-206-736-0775 Ext. 123A4. (NYSCAN)

TEACHERS, TEACHER AIDES: we are interviewing applicants for interesting summer sales positions. Fascinating work, flexible hours, exceptional income opportunity, training at close of school. Career openings for those showing leadership ability. For more information, call Pat Triandiflou, 227-9203.

BUY & SELL

Books 20

R.C. BOOKS USED, any condition, school, prayer, history, children's, etc. Send publisher name, author, date and price wanted to: W.E., P.O. Box 1246, Buffalo, N.Y. 14210.

Wanted to buy 37

Marilyn's Antiques
Top cash paid for old wood furniture, clocks, glass and china, sterling, crocks, quilts, etc. One item or complete household.
"I will buy or conduct a house sale for you. Before you make your decision, check with me."
647-2480 or 872-2239

BUY & SELL

Wanted to buy 37

CASH FOR old Oriental rugs, any size or condition. 458-5589.

WANTED

NOW PAYING TOP CASH
\$ For all antiques, oriental rugs, \$ lamps, sterling, oak furniture, \$ pre-1940 costume jewelry, old \$ dolls, quilts, old toys and banks, \$ paintings, glassware, clocks, \$ wicker, cut glass, good china, \$ political items, stoneware, etc. \$ Free appraisals in your home \$ with no obligation. \$ "No One Pays More" \$ Call the trusted name: \$ \$ **KITTELBERGER GALLERIES** \$ (716) 265-1230 \$ CLIP & SAVE

Furniture 39

CHROME DINETTE set; drop leaf table, four chairs, grey. \$35. call 716/342-4179 after 4 p.m.

Household sales 41

HOUSEHOLD & ESTATE SALES Experienced. Free Estimates. We Also buy accumulations. Nancy Flaherty. (716)533-1746

PROPERTY

Furn. apartments for rent 57

FOUR ROOMS; \$390 includes heat. 10th Ward, security, references. 247-3716.

Uniform apartments for rent 58

MIDTOWN MANOR APARTMENTS FOR AGE 52 AND OLDER Convenient Downtown Location, walk to shopping. On a direct busline.
• Studio \$254
• One Bedroom \$299
All Utilities Included. Monthly Mass Services. Section 8 accepted.
475 East Broad St. 546-3650

TRANSPORTATION

Automobiles 70

GOVERNMENT SEIZED Vehicles from \$100. Corvettes, Chevys, Porsches, and other confiscated properties. For Buyers Guide 1-800-624-6937 ext 5678. Also open evenings and weekends.

Motorcycles 72

1988 SUZUKI: MCY Katana 1100 with bags. \$4,500. Call Nancy after 5 p.m., 352-4395.

SERVICES

Carpet/cleaning & installation 91

WILLIAM L. ESTES (U.S. NAVY-RETIRED)
SERVICEMASTER EAST
256 MACEDON CENTER RD. FAIRPORT, N.Y. 14450
(716) 223-1709
PROFESSIONAL CARPET CLEANING FURNITURE, FLOORS, SPECIALTY SERVICES

Electricians 96

CATALFO ELECTRIC
Honest Courteous Service • Reasonable Rates
Residential • Industrial • Commercial
Licensed Master Electrician
Design & Layout - Remodeling Call Us
Service Charges • Electric Heat
586-7401

ENERGY ELECTRIC

For All Your Electrical Needs
No Job Too Small
Senior Citizen Discounts
Member BBB • Insured • Licensed
Free Estimates • 24 Hour Service
Pager 323-8668
383-4949

MAT-CO ELECTRIC

LICENSED ELECTRICIANS
• No Job Too Big or Small
• Satisfaction Guaranteed
• Free Estimates
227-8137

SERVICES

Fencing 98

Empire Fence
Quality Since 1910
• Picket • Stockade • Post & Rail • Custom Designs • Dog Kennels • Chain Link • Jericho
Materials For the Do-It-Yourselfer We Dig Holes For Deck Supports
5% SENIOR CITIZEN DISCOUNTS
FREE ESTIMATES
454-3540
42 Lowell St. (near Upper Falls Blvd.)

Fireplaces/chimneys 100

288 4607

Heating/air conditioning 105

288 4607

BRANDT HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

If your heating or air conditioning isn't working up to its capacity, we'll find the problem or you don't pay for the service call.

Senior Citizen Discount
24 HOUR Emergency Service
288-4270
946 Atlantic Ave. Rochester

Hicks Home Heating

Call us for Summer Comfort Heating & Air Conditioning Specialists
• Sales • Service • Installation
Family Owned & Operated
424-4848

MASONRY REPAIRS

Brick Steps, Sidewalks, Chimneys, Cement Repairs
Basement Walls Repaired & Painted
Over 27 Years of Experience
Reasonable - Free Estimates
Senior Discount
Al Meyvis, Sr. 323-1007

MASONRY REPAIRS

Specializing in step repairs. No subcontractors. We do our own work. No charge for a price estimate. Serving Greece, Irondequoit & the 10th Ward
Call Roger Meyvis
865-6200 663-7050

SERVICES

Home Health services 106

STAIRWAY CHAIRLIFTS
Rise to the Top with the Eagle Lift
Prompt, Quality Installation
References Available
The Safety and Access Co.
458-3681
WHEELCHAIR RAMPS

Instruction schools 111

342

TRAIN TO BE A Diesel Mechanic.

7-month hands on program. Classes start every two months. Diesel Technology Institute, Enfield CT. 1-800-243-4242.(NYSCAN)

BECOME A PARALEGAL:

Nationally accredited, attorney instructed, home study, established 1976, financial aid, free catalog. 1-800-669-2555, Southern Career Institute, Drawer 2158, Boca Raton, Florida 33427.(NYSCAN)

Masonry 118

MASONRY REPAIRS

Brick Steps, Sidewalks, Chimneys, Cement Repairs
Basement Walls Repaired & Painted
Over 27 Years of Experience
Reasonable - Free Estimates
Senior Discount
Al Meyvis, Sr. 323-1007

MASONRY REPAIRS

Specializing in step repairs. No subcontractors. We do our own work. No charge for a price estimate. Serving Greece, Irondequoit & the 10th Ward
Call Roger Meyvis
865-6200 663-7050