

CATHOLIC COURIER

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Letters Policy

The *Catholic Courier* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: *Catholic Courier*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, New York 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.

@pinion

Verdict masks moral aspects of Smith case

To the editors:

After his acquittal, William (Kennedy) Smith tearfully paid tribute to his mother, commenting that he hoped he could raise his children as well as his mother raised hers.

Is that really how your mother raised you, Willie? Adultery and fornication are OK as long as it's not rape?

Father David W. Mura
Liberty Street
Rochester



AP/Wide World Photos

William Kennedy Smith bows his head in relief Dec. 11 after being found not guilty of sexual assault and battery.

Father Cuddy remembered

To the editors:

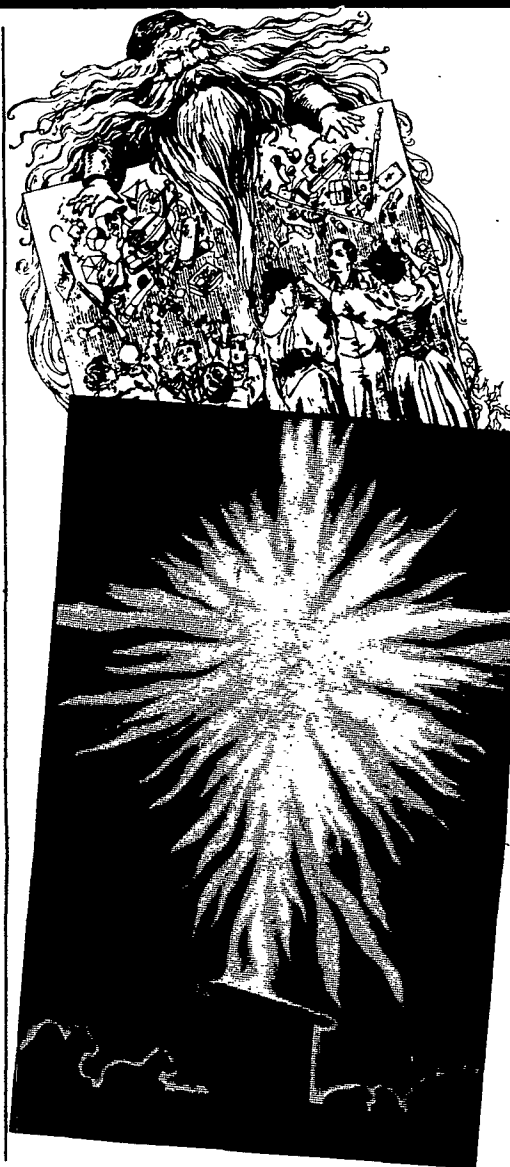
Over the years I have written an occasional letter for this page in which I have taken Father Paul Cuddy to task for one reason or another. This will be my final letter about my dear friend and classmate who is now truly ON THE RIGHT SIDE.

Father Cuddy knew that my letters were meant to be humorous and he loved them. Following my recent letter on this page in which I suggested that he was not in proper uniform in his column picture he wrote to me: "I am sure some sober sides will miss the tongue-in pen and ink in your letter. You did more to advertise the OTR-Side than anyone. Thank you."

Father Cuddy and I have been in close correspondence and communication for years. Now silence.

I would say about my classmate of nearly sixty years what he said about me at my golden jubilee dinner: A faithful friend is a strong defense and he who has found one has found a treasure (Ecclesiastes).

Father Raymond G. Heisel
Mt. Read Boulevard
Rochester



Art conveyed wrong notion

To the editors:

How disappointing is your Christmas illustration on the front page of the Dec. 19 *Courier*.

By chance I had been talking with a priest at Notre Dame Retreat House about the secular and sacred in Christmas. He spoke of a picture that shows Santa Claus kneeling by the Christ Child in the crib. Too bad you didn't see that one in time for printing.

Your Victorian depiction speaks of a beneficent bearded figure looking like the "god-of-all-lavish-gifts" pouring down a plethora of presents. Commercialism!

National Catholic Reporter's frontispiece for its Christmas issue is a large, colorful delineation of a Madonna — American/Indian motif — and a child.

You missed the meaning of the season.

Mary Bigham Farren
West Lake Road
Canandaigua

EDITORS' NOTE: The Dec. 19 *Courier* was not our Christmas edition. We reserved it — including the four-color Nativity painting we commissioned — for Dec. 26. We hope readers found that illustration appropriate.

Orthodox voices play prophetic role today

To the editors:

I think Mr. Streb in his letter, "Paper shouldn't be tool for one priest to bash another" (*Catholic Courier*, Nov. 14), should be reminded that Christ found it appropriate on at least one occasion to drive the moneychangers from the temple.

It seems to me that our perspective today is often ajar and this I believe is due to a great amount of confusion over what is changeable and unchangeable in the Church.

What is unchangeable in the Church consists of those matters that can be considered inseparable from the Christian identity, as the Church's confession of faith, ... as the essential meaning or substance of the Christian liturgy, ... and finally as contained in the moral tenets taught by the church on the basis of the Decalogue and its impact on the Sermon on the Mount and the teachings of the Apostles.

All of the above ... form the core of what is unchangeable in the Church. And let us remember that the context ... is a Church which is changeable for she carries within herself the mark of generations of mankind. Therefore the changes that occur will respect what has existed before ... in the same way that a human being undergoes a succession of states in his life yet retains

his basic persona.

Now enter upon the scene, the modernists, with their style of progressivism which in effect uproots tradition and substitutes reconstructions labeled "reforms" which have no basis but *a priori* conceptions.

Among the reconstructions is the practice of shunting the Holy Eucharist to an inconspicuous placement in the Church, sometimes not even in the sanctuary. On one occasion, when I expressed the opinion to a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission that this did not seem appropriate, because it created a chasm between the Holy Eucharist and the Mass which are indivisible, she informed me that the celebration of the Mass is more important than the Eucharist. Herein the liturgy by a process which effectively reduces the honor and reverence due the sacrament of the Holy Eucharist through an unnatural and illogical division from the Mass.

The cumulative effect of this and other aberrations over the last 20 or more years have laid open a scene of desolation for the church. Loss of faith and severe shrinkage of the priesthood and religious are but a few of the ailments that afflict the body of the American Catholic Church.

Among the leading architects of this

modernist philosophy of how to conduct religion are Fathers Richard McBrien and Charles Curran, and such bishops as Rembert Weakland of Milwaukee, Thomas Gumbelton of Detroit, Howard Hubbard of Albany, and our own Matthew Clark.

I advise Mr. Streb to reflect on the comments of Archbishop Weakland on the shortage of priests reported in the *Catholic Courier* Nov. 14 issue. Here is a bishop whose remarks and ideas on the priesthood are well known and have been implemented for years and now that he has struck a brick wall, he at last wants to discuss the clergy shortage. Would it do any good to ask him why orthodox seminaries are well filled with students? ...

... And so Mr. Streb, the problem has a much wider dimension than just one priest bashing another as you term it. The Old Testament had its prophets who denounced the sins of the people and the authorities. Is it inconceivable to think that perhaps Father Cuddy may (have been) serving somewhat the same role for the many who are being misled today?

William T. Hammill
Clardale Drive
Rochester

EDITORS' NOTE: This letter has been edited to comply with space limitations.