

# Tucson Citizen

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

by Tucson Citizen on Aug 14, 1998, under Perspective

Pope letter could mislead gullible

It was interesting to read the recent letter to the editor by Rev. Edward Jungquist criticizing the pope for cracking down on dissenters in the Church. He claims to be a priest, yet he referred to Our Holy Father as being pathetic, because he insists on the clergy being unmarried and not ordaining women to the priesthood.

Rev. Jungquist's utter disrespect for Our Holy Father is quite clear. Although he is a priest and is schooled in theology, he avoids the principle that obedience is of paramount importance and that a person's reliability is very much to be questioned if he is not obedient to legitimate authority. For this reason the gullible should be very careful and discerning in reading his letter.

Pope John Paul advocates celibacy as being of paramount importance to the priesthood. This indeed does require sacrifice for the man dedicating his life to leading souls to God and saving souls. God does give this grace and power to the priesthood, providing they accept it.

The chaos in our world today is due to selfishness and the lack of self-control that has resulted in the loss of countless souls through self-gratification. Marriage is holy before God, but Jesus asks his priests to be celibate and to give undivided attention in leading souls to God and eternal happiness in Heaven.

WILLIAM A. GARRIGAN

Who is mystery priest?

Rev. Edward W. Jungquist, who recently attacked the pope in a letter to the editor, is an international man of mystery. I could not find his name anywhere in the 1998 National Catholic Directory, which lists all priests, deacons, bishops, and religious leaders – active and retired – in the Catholic Church in the United States.

I spoke by telephone to the chancery office of the Diocese of Tucson, and I was told that there is no priest in this diocese of that name with priestly faculties.

This leaves some unanswered questions: Is he a non-Catholic? Is he using a pseudonym? Or was he a priest at one time who has lost his faculties? It is quite mysterious.

Either way, his personal dissent from the true teachings of the Catholic Church makes him a heretic. It is not difficult to understand why such an individual would be angry and upset with Our Holy Father. But the truth hurts.

If he is not recognized as a priest in this diocese, then he has no authority to speak as a priest in this diocese. If he has no priestly faculties, then the "Rev." before his name is misleading to Catholics who believe he speaks authoritatively.

He is not a spokesman for the Catholic Church, but for himself and his dissenting opinions. We do not know by what authority Edward Jungquist speaks, but we do know that the pope speaks for the Catholic Church.

JAMES J. GORDON

Editor's note: The Rev. Jungquist said he was ordained in 1980 in the Diocese of Erie, Pa., and took an unauthorized leave of absence in 1992. Leaving without permission prohibited him from practicing the ministry, he said, but he remains a priest.

Writer sounds like Lucifer

The letter by Edward Jungquist, in which Pope John Paul II is called a dissenter, bespeaks a hubris reminiscent of Lucifer's cry: "Non serviam" - I will not serve. Jungquist posits a congregationalist ecclesiology in place of the hierarchically structured Church founded by Christ.

Christ entrusted his flock to Saint Peter and his successors. The Dogmatic Constitution of the Church from the Second Vatican Council declares: "For in virtue of his office, that is, as Vicar of Christ and pastor of the whole Church, the Roman Pontiff has full, supreme, and universal power over the Church." This same document also states that we must be obedient to the pope: "It must be shown in such a way that his supreme magisterium is acknowledged with reverence."

BILL FOLEY

If you've got money . . .

So the father of the chain gang gets a waiver from a friendly judge to do scuba in Honduras, in spite of his conviction as a felon.

There will come a time, fast dawning, when the middle class will realize what the blacks have been saying since day one: If you've got money, you've got the law with all its dignity and wonderful slogans. If not, you've got the cops. How can anyone respect this?

WILLIAM HANKS

Exodus of police officers

Police officers arrest people on a daily basis. Some of these people are so nasty most of us don't even want to talk to them.

Everyone hates to see a cop in their rear-view mirror. Keep in mind that those officers in the street only enforce the laws. They don't make them.

Who do we call when we are burglarized, robbed, shot or raped? The police.

Our City Council promised increases for officers. Instead they get slapped in the face.

Do you want to have these dedicated officers stay in Tucson? Or would you like to see the officers that your tax dollars trained move to other cities for more money? The choice is yours. Let the City Council know how you feel.

M.J. HAIGH

The San Pedro's real problems

Regarding Kieran Suckling's recent letter to the editor: Unfortunately the undocumented San Pedro photos, like Suckling, lack credibility. Provided the photos are genuine, it is proof positive that cattle do not damage the land. The growth in the after photo is absolutely phenomenal to have taken place in eight years.

In reply to Suckling's sweeping indictment of the cattle industry as late-comers, murderers, and welfare cases, I would offer a few facts.