



EDITORIAL

Failing our young people

The Islamic State, has been very successful in recruiting hundreds if not thousands of young Muslims born and raised in Europe and North America to join their army of jihadists. This has prompted a senior official of the Catholic Church to urge those living in the highly developed western society to reflect on how they have failed to transmit an authentic meaning of life to their young people.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi speaking recently in Italy said, "Europe should ask itself why it has failed to be able to teach these young people to organize their life in order to build something positive in Europe, instead of wasting their lives through violence and fighting,"

The Islamic State has been conducting mainly on line campaigns in the Western world to attract those who have been volunteering to fight with the terrorist group which is known for its acts of incredible barbarity. It is widely believed that the perpetrators of the widely publicized beheadings of two US journalists and British aid worker were also British.

Archbishop Tomasi, who is also the Holy See Permanent Observer at the United Nations, stressed that the continent has failed in "injecting a spiritual dimension to motivate young people who are seeking for an idea." "As people grow up, they want to change things, they want to fight injustice, and some of these values are not provided, are not concretely realized, then the temptation to look for some other solution becomes very strong," the Archbishop said.

Guyana is not yet exporting terrorists and may not even be moving in that direction. However the archbishop's observations should certainly give us cause to stop and reflect on the help and guidance we give to our young people many of whom, judging from the incidents we read about daily, are struggling to survive as emotionally, psychologically and even physically whole and intact. A jungle created and sustained by many adults but which is almost at war with the true human spirit.

No one would doubt that Guyanese parents and others with the responsibility of guiding our young people, make great sacrifices to ensure that our children have the best they can afford materially, however when it comes to their spiritual health it seems anything will do.

The Archbishop said that as people grow up, they want to change things and fight injustice and are seeking for ideals but some of these values are not provided,

In Guyana what is often observed is that parents, guardians and others with the responsibility for guiding our youth seem to feel that to disapprove of certain attitudes and behavior in young people makes them feel alone, betrayed and frustrated which is something they would not want to do. Isn't it more likely however that teenagers engage in dangerous

Father Keane deserves great reward

Dear Editor,

Can you say if it is true that Father Manus Keane has died?. Someone told me that they heard about this recently but I know I did not read it in the Catholic Standard which I know always reports when priests and nuns die in Guyana.

Father Keane was extremely kind to myself and my family when we were facing tremendous difficulties and went far out of his way to help us. In fact many generations of Amerindians will remember him for his dedication and many great things he did for South Rupununi where he spent many years before he retired to Georgetown many years ago. Yes many of us who are now in our older years would have good

memories of Father Manus from when we were tiny youths.

If he has truly gone to the Great Beyond I am sure he is reaping a great reward for what he did in the Rupununi especially.

Clarindo

Editor's Note: Father Keane returned to the UK in 1977 after spending 15 years in Guyana mainly in the Rupununi from which he was expelled twice. He worked in a parish in the UK until his retirement in 2012 due to ill health. He died on April 4 2014 aged 84. He was a Jesuit for 66 years. Jesuit superior Father Paul Martin said Fr Keane was one of the pioneers of the Jesuit presence in the Rupununi and we today reap the fruit from seeds he sowed.

Scurrilous Social Media Propaganda

Dear Editor,

A malicious and unfounded allegation of sexual molestation has been made against me by an unstable young man who sadly, appears to have a troubled mind. I categorically deny his wicked assertions.

Unfortunately, he seems to have been conveniently encouraged by manipulative and diabolic political forces. Conveniently, such scandalous assertions are obviously intended to provide a timely distraction from the serious prevailing political situation in Guyana, which imminently requires me as Speaker of the National Assembly to guide the ship of the nation's parliament through the strongest test to Guyana's constitu-

tional democracy: the debate of a no confidence motion.

As a true patriot of Guyana, I will not allow the office of Speaker of the National Assembly to be compromised or be denigrated by false accusations for political expediency. There is absolutely no truth in the allegation, and I am confident that the masterminds and supporters of this dastardly plot will soon be exposed.

I call for a thorough and professional investigation into this scurrilous allegation.

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."

Raphael Trotman,
Speaker of the House of Parliament



and irresponsible activities precisely because of a lack of moral norms and parental guidance?.

One of the greatest enemies to growing up to be a balanced, responsible, God fearing Guyanese citizen today is the growing social conviction that people can do whatever they want as long as the do not hurt anyone. ❖