

free lance writer

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Thanks, Denny ...

... for the article from the Post-Dispatch. Father Killoren sent me the same article, but I didn't get a chance to read it. Your missive got my attention.

Father Killoren did have some interesting observations about the piece, pro and con. He was a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish from birth (1915) to 1932. Says he never heard of Jane Kaiser's grandmother being behind the construction of that church. He also adds that the writer should have pointed out that Ritter's stand was greatly aided by some powerful on-the-scene lay people who had been influenced by Father LaFarge -- both by his visits to St. Louis and his work for AMERICA. He think~~s~~s their input had far more to do with Ritter's actions than the Jane Kaiser letter. He also states that the reality of the fight at SLU was not so much acceptance of non-whites as students, but the social ostracization that occurred after they were on campus.

I suppose, as with any story, there are truths on both sides and also tales not told. But it was a very compelling story of a person with determination and a good look at how far the church had to come.

Father Killoren also sent along a copy of the Spring 1997 edition of GATEWAY HERITAGE, a magazine by the Missouri Historical Society. The entire issue is devoted to race relations in St. Louis and includes a lecture by Julian Bond, testimonies of black citizens, a piece on Islam in St. Louis, an interview with Gerald Early and a retrospective on Jackie Robinson. Haven't read it yet, but it looks good. If the articles pan out, I'll copy some for you.

Jean's Alzheimer's continues VERY slowly, and we're grateful. She hangs tough. I continue to be very busy at the typewriter but am also grateful for this chance to make a few pesos.

Say hi to Jean for me, and Irv, when you see him.
Thanks again for thinking of me.