

Death Row Seen Road To Life Experimental Surgery Proposed For Criminals

Washington — (RNS) — A controversial report recommending that criminals condemned to death be permitted to volunteer for human vivisection experiments was delivered to the American Association for the Advancement of Science here.

Dr. Jack Kevorkian, 30, a medical researcher of Pontiac, Mich., charged that present methods of execution are brutal and senseless. He proposed that on both moral and ethical grounds the prisoners be allowed to give their lives in research projects that may save thousands of other persons.

Dr. Kevorkian produced a letter written by Dick Rutherford, a prisoner awaiting execution in the electric chair at the Ohio State Penitentiary, Columbus, O., in which the young man said he would gladly agree to the plan to help others.

"It would help me to think that I didn't succeed in making a total mess of my life, that I may have helped someone, somewhere, sometime," the condemned man wrote.

Dr. Kevorkian delivered his paper under the auspices of the American Association of Criminology. It was the first time the subject has been raised in serious scientific circles.

The doctor suggested that condemned prisoners, whose lives are to be taken by the state anyhow, be granted permission to volunteer for experimental organ transplants, a new but yet untried field of surgery. He said that transplanting a complete living heart might be tried, as well as kidneys and other organs.

If the prisoner survives the experiments, as the medical researchers would hope, he could then be painlessly put to death by a simple injection of anesthesia. Dr. Kevorkian suggested that execution by anesthesia, involving no more pain than the prick of a hypodermic needle, is much more humane than the electric chair and gas chamber and should supplant them.

"The primary aim of capital punishment is simply to end a killer's or traitor's life," Dr. Kevorkian said. "Far in excess of this bleak aim, my plan would offer him a hitherto unthinkable chance of repenting and repaying for his crime."

"Working on human lives which were to be destroyed for nothing of positive value, scientists could make rapid progress by avoiding the necessity of having to guess the human significance of animal work and avoiding misleading lines of investigation — because ani-

mal bodies differ markedly from humans in many respects.

"Billions of dollars could not duplicate the magnificent experimental laboratory represented by a single living healthy body which we apathetically toss onto the rubbish heap with a flick of the switch."

He suggested that the proposed program be placed under close supervision, possibly by the World Health Organization of the United Nations, to ensure that humane and worthwhile objectives are secured. He would limit participation to condemned prisoners who volunteer because of a desire to repent for the crime they committed. No prisoner would be forced to participate and none would be taken unless all avenues of legal appeal and clemency from the death sentence had been exhausted.

Since the laws of the respective states specify the method of execution, they would have to be amended before condemned prisoners could volunteer for the experiments. Dr. Kevorkian said he hoped the proposal would be studied by an "enlightened" society.

Filmstrip Tells Story Of Nun

Convent Station, N.J. — (NC) — A filmstrip on the life of a young American Sister who may become a canonized saint has been produced at the College of St. Elizabeth here.

The color film tells the story of Sister Miriam Teresa, a graduate of the college and later a member of the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth, whose beatification cause is now underway in Rome.

Born Miriam Teresa Demjanovitch in Bayonne, N.J., in March 1901, she was the seventh child of Slovak parents, Alexander and Johana Demjanovitch. In 1925, she entered the sisterhood.

New Cardinal Offers Prayers For Married

London — (RNS) — William Cardinal Godfrey, Archbishop of Westminster, told thousands of faithful in Westminster Cathedral that he was praying for the sanctity of marriage, the well-being of the British Empire and harmony in the country's industrial relations.

He spoke at a solemn liturgical reception welcoming him back from Rome where he received his Red Hat from Pope John XXIII. About 6,000 persons who could not enter the jammed cathedral remained outside during the ceremonies.

"The Cardinal said he prayed that there may be a revival of veneration for the sacred bond of wedlock and its God-given obligations, duties and functions for without this our family life loses all the blessedness and holiness with which the Creator endowed marriage from the beginning."

"When true love yields its place to sensuality and selfishness," he declared, "a nation is afflicted with a running sore whence comes a poisoning of its very life."

In saying he was praying for the well-being of "our Commonwealth," Cardinal Godfrey made an apparent reference to recent race riots in London.

"The British people," he said, "are won, and with justice, to take pride in their Commonwealth and to point to it as an example of how nations of different color, race and tradition may live together in a neighborhood unity and a brotherhood purged by the acceptance of common principles of government in equity and righteousness."

"How can we hope that the great Commonwealth family will remain in wholesome unity if at the same time the stability of the domestic family life at home be undermined?" he asked.

His third prayer, he added, was that there would be harmony and peace in the country's labor-management relations.

Irish Cancel Two Holy Days

Dublin — (NC) — Two holy days of obligation have been dropped from the Church calendar in Ireland.

Under a decree issued by the Sacred Congregation of the Council in Rome the feasts of the Epiphany, January 6, and of SS. Peter and Paul, June 29, are no longer holidays of obligation in this country.

First Nun Enrolls At Hebrew University Mary Legion Promoter Dies

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Sister Georgina, a member of the Order of Notre Dame de Slon, is some thing of a celebrity here. She is the first nun ever to enroll as a student at Hebrew University.

Since her recent arrival on the campus, all but a few inquisitive stares have turned into smiles of recognition, thanks to her engaging personality and her ability to converse fluently in Hebrew, English, French and German.

Languages come naturally to Sister Georgina. Born in Alsace, in the Franco-German border region, she grew up knowing both French and German.

On joining the Notre Dame Sisters she also studied English, Latin and Italian, and during her stay at the Order's convent in Strasbourg, France, she was able to graduate from the famous university in that city.

After serving for a time in Tunis, "not long enough to study Arabic," Sister Georgina asked to be sent to Israel to fulfill her life-long wish of coming to the Land of the Bible. No sooner had she arrived at Ein Karem, the birthplace of St. John the Baptist,



Notre Dame Sister Georgina reads Hebrew newspaper in Jerusalem university.

than she joined the Ulpian, a special school where immigrants are taught Hebrew. In addition to Sister Georgina, there were two other nuns in the crowded class. Yet it was the

nuns who showed the greatest determination in their studies. One by one the immigrants drifted away from the Ulpian until only the three sisters were left.

"Of course it was not worth while continuing the course for only the three of us," Sister Georgina said, "so I transferred to another Ulpian in Jerusalem."

As soon as she felt she had acquired a sufficient command of the language, the nun enrolled as a student in Hebrew University's Institute of Jewish Studies where she regards the study of Hebrew as a tool to satisfy one of her greatest wishes—to study the Bible in the original.

"In Israel," she explains, "every man, woman and child, cleric and layman, lives through the pages of the Bible."

However, preoccupation with Biblical studies has not closed Sister Georgina's eyes to the accomplishments of modern Israel. Some days ago she visited the border area at Ramat Rachel and looked over into Jordan. "It was like glancing into the romantic world of the Middle Ages," she says. "Still, I was happy to stay on the side of the 20th century."

St. Louis — (NC) — Solemn Requiem Mass for Vincentian Father Joseph F. Donovan, 78, was offered here by Father James W. Stakelum, C.M., provincial of the Vincentians Western Province.

Internationally known as a canonist, Father Donovan died in St. Vincent's Hospital here (Dec. 30) after an illness of more than two years.

He was known by priests throughout the country, both as the rector of Kenrick Seminary here from 1944 to 1950, and as conductor of the "Question and Answer" section of The Homiletic and Pastoral Review, a monthly journal subscribed to by many priests.

FATHER DONOVAN is credited with introducing the Legion of Mary to the United States 27 years ago.

On a trip to Ireland in 1931 he became acquainted with Frank Duff, founder of the Legion. Returning to the U.S., he wrote an article for the "Ecological Review" called "Is this the Long Looked-for Church Society?"

In the organization's official records, international Legion of Mary officials credit the article with being the direct cause of the founding of the first presidium in the U.S. at Santa Fe, N.M., on November 27, 1931. Since then legion branches have spread throughout the country.

Training Course For Newman Clubs

St. Louis — (NC) — A five-month training period for incoming presidents of the National Newman Club Federation was proposed here at a meeting of the organization's executive committee.

Scientists Need Religion

Washington — (RNS) — A warning that scientists need the help of religion if their work is to result in real improvement of mankind was sounded here by Msgr. William J. McDonald, rector of the Catholic University of America.

He preached the sermon at a Mass in St. Matthew's Cathedral for members of the Albertus Magnus Guild, an organization of Catholic scientists which held its annual meeting here during the meetings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington celebrated the Mass.

Commenting on the ethical situation in which world civilization finds itself, Msgr. McDonald said, "Man has been much more successful in his study of the external world than in improving himself and his relationship with his fellow men."

"Science does not of itself produce goodness any more than laws can legislate love," the university rector said.

The work of the scientist, he added, is to execute God's command that man bring the Earth under his dominion.

"The Christian, the believer, will welcome each successive advance because he knows that every spark of knowledge is an additional ray of Divine light reflected in the mirror of creation," Msgr. McDonald said.

"When scientific results are taken to imply a low view of man or a denial of God, they are being misinterpreted; when they are put to destructive or selfish uses, they are being misapplied."

The moral responsibility of the scientist has grown as the power of science has increased, Msgr. McDonald declared, pointing out "the great scientists must be more than a technician."

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WAITING AT THE CHURCH are SISTER MARIE SIMON and SISTER MARIE CLEMENT. They are waiting there in prayer, hoping that we may find a sponsor for each who will be willing to donate \$150 a year for each nun during her two year period of novitiate training. These two young girls wish to be Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Egypt—the land of the Holy Family's exile. Would you like to have "a daughter" praying for your intentions in the land which was once the home of Our Lord?

HARD ON MAN AND BEAST ARE THE WINTER MONTHS... AND HEAD ON BUILDINGS TOO! And the House of God is no exception. The poor mission chapels are in real need at the present moment. You can choose any article you wish and present it in your own name or the name of a friend. We will send the gift card. Chalice... \$40 Altar... \$100 Mass book... \$25 Altar stone... 10 Candles... 20 Mass Investments... 50 Sanctuary lamp... 15 Crucifix... 25 Bell... \$

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