

Is it Scientifically Justified?

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"No non-Catholic physician can practice first class modern medicine under the archaic restrictions placed upon him by the current statute."

With this slap at the Catholic Church in general and Catholic doctors in particular, Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D., President of Planned Parenthood World Population urged a committee of the New York State Legislature to endorse an easy abortion law.

Are doctors of ANY denomination who refuse to do abortions really outdated in their methods? I believe I can show that they are not. Let us look at some facts.

A statistical survey of 152 hospitals was reported by Roy J. Heffernan, M.D., F.A.C.S., of Tufts University and William A. Lynch, M.D., in their article "What is the Status of Therapeutic Abortion in Modern Obstetrics?" (American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, August, 1953). They analyzed 152 questionnaires from 152 hospitals covering the period 1941-1950.

In the hospitals where there were no therapeutic abortions, there were 1,680,989 deliveries during the ten-year period, with a total of 1,468 maternal deaths. In the hospitals where therapeutic abortions were performed, there were 1,574,717 deliveries, with 1,558 maternal deaths. Thus the maternal death rate per 1000 in hospitals permitting therapeutic abortion was 0.98 whereas it was only 0.87 in the hospitals where therapeutic abortions were not allowed.

The mother who is told that her life is safer in a hospital that allows therapeutic abortion might reasonably ask for an explanation of statistics like these.

Dr. Samuel A. Cosgrove, former medical director of Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital in Jersey City, N.J., in a panel discussion on the indications for therapeutic abortion at the Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons held in San Francisco, Nov. 5-9, 1951, reported on 138,467 deliveries at the Margaret Hague Hospital with only four therapeutic abortions. All four were performed prior to 1944. From that time until the above-mentioned meeting, in approximately 70,000 deliveries, there were no therapeutic abortions.

It is easy to understand how Dr. Cosgrove, who is not a Catholic, would make the simple declaration: "I believe the negation of abortion on the strict grounds of moral law is good medicine."

During the same panel discussion Dr. Heffernan said: "Anyone who performs a therapeutic abortion is either ignorant of modern medical methods of treating the complications of pregnancy or is unwilling to take the time to use them."

The advances in medicine

St. Cloud Bishop Resigns His Post

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has accepted the resignation of the Most Rev. Peter W. Bartholome, 74, as bishop of St. Cloud, Minn., and has transferred him to the Titular See of Tanaramusa.

The Most Rev. George H. Speltz, coadjutor with the right of succession, will become the bishop of St. Cloud.

Nuns Go Back To Their Family Name

Nazareth, Mich. — (RNS) — The Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, whose national motherhouse is located here, has given its 900 nuns permission to restore their family and baptismal names.

The order of teaching and nursing sisters also has approved on a controlled, experimental basis the use of contemporary dress for some of its teaching nuns.

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since then have increased the safety of childbirth even more. The kidney transplants, artificial kidney operations on the heart, treatment of lung and liver disease and the development of new antibiotics are but a few examples of the progress that has made abortion for strictly medical indications almost a thing of the past even in non-sectarian hospitals. Most advocates of easy abortion laws admit this freely.

Heart disease in pregnancy provides a specific example of this. At the Margaret Hague Maternity Hospital previously mentioned, the late Harold R. Gorenberg, M.D., an internist, was in charge of the Cardiac Clinic from January 1939 until 1962. Under his care, there were only 2 maternal deaths among more than 1500 pregnant women in the cardiac clinic and he believed that both deaths were preventable. Cardiac disease was not responsible for any therapeutic abortions during that time span.

Leon C. Chesley, Ph.D. of the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., has traced all the cases of "functionally severe" rheumatic-cardiac diseases up to 1966, thus adding 15 years to Dr. Gorenberg's

10-year follow-up. He concluded that in these patients "the pregnancy does not seem to have had any effect on the later course of the disease." (This group of patients was followed for a minimum of 23 years after pregnancy.) (Obstetrics and Gynecology, 4/67 p. 560).

One suspects that in many cases abortion is urged because it is easier to admit the patient for several days stay in the hospital to do an abortion than it is to accept the challenge and worry that such a medical problem may impose upon the physician.

Doctors who follow this line of reasoning miss the deep sense of satisfaction that comes with bringing a woman successfully through a complicated pregnancy and delivery. The quotation by Dr. Guttmacher at the beginning of this article is not his only statement on the subject. Russell Shaw of N.C. News Service also quotes him: "In borderline cases, and all too frequently in cases which are not even borderline, the patient's prestige and money are very vocal in getting an undesired pregnancy terminated. I am loath to admit it, but far too often a minor difficulty is stretched into a major abnormality for the right person."

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Webster Churches Slate 'University of Life'

Webster's annual "University of Life" will be in session next Sunday night, Feb. 25, and the following Sunday, March 3, in the church of the Evangelical United Brethren and the United Presbyterian Church.

The lecture series is sponsored by the Webster Council of Churches in cooperation with the four Catholic churches of the town. Adults meet at the United Brethren Church, and teenagers at the Presbyterian.

The theme is "Bridges of Understanding"—to span the gap between God and man, among men, in the family and between faiths.

The program for younger people is the same as last Sunday's and will be repeated at the third and final session March 3. It features Father David Finks, vicar for the urban ministry of the Rochester Catholic Diocese; Dr. James Roberson, Rochester gynecologist, and Ronald Chase, a local lawyer.

The lectures for adults will be given this Sunday by the Rev. James Hughes of Christ Claretian Church, Pittsford; Stewart Moot, attorney and stated clerk of the Genesee Valley Presbytery; Dr. Leland Wood, director of family services for Lake Ave. Baptist Church, and Dr. John Skoglund of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

The meetings begin with a buffet at 5:30 p.m.

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Bp. Kearney Color Guard Takes Honors

In competition with 11 guard units (five Canadian and six from the U.S.) the Bishop Kearney High School Color Guard won first place Sunday, Feb. 18 in Hamilton, Ontario.

The group also won the best "General Effect" and best "Captain" awards. This is the third trophy in a row for "Best Captain" for captain Margaret Cramer.

March 30 at Bishop Kearney High school gym the B. K. Color Guard will host a competition.

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Once upon a time, many years ago, there were men who lived for only one thing—to purify ordinary metals and turn them into gold. These men were called alchemists.

Once upon a time, not too long ago, we Christians were bound by strict rules for the observance of Lent, our time of purification. But today we may choose which of our ordinary actions we want to turn into spiritual "gold" by the alchemy of sacrifice.

What you do with your Lent is up to you. But why not use your sacrifices to help someone in need? What you do today, may enable a missionary to save a life tomorrow.

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Around The



Church Reunion Imperative
Chicago—(RNS)—Churches reunion to stop an "erosion of ethical movement," a Jesuit priest of the School of Theology here asserted that "our ecumenical is the dying breeze."

"I think we must acknowledge and pressing imperative about it. We are thrilled just to be talking Church reunion, he said, "is 20th Century Christian ethos in the way. If the Christian ethos is the world that is abiding, then more than ecumenical cooperation communities, however salient."

Bishops Urged To Clarify
New York—(NC)—PAX, a has asked the bishops of the U.S. to position on the Vietnam war as objection to the war.

In a resolution adopted at called U.S. bombing in Vietnam since the bishops of the world, "ate bombing as a crime against state bishops should clearly state do about the war.

The resolution asked that either that it is or is not morally in these acts of war or else to study of each individual to decide not participate."

Episcopallians Ask Pope's A
San Francisco—(RNS)—The Episcopal Diocese of California issue a statement approving their in a letter to speak "in a man over law."

The executive council, comp members advises Bishop C. Kilmer.

"We believe that the horror population are much greater than considered inherent in contracts, that millions of persons in the world look to you as the precisely in these nations where tion are rapidly becoming most."

Liberties Union Fights
St. Paul, Minn.—(RNS)—The Union said it is prepared to go State College Board from per "interfaith religious center" of State College.

The Rev. Richard N. Tice, C for 107 Simpson Methodist Church proposed center "violates the First Amendment of the United separation of Church and State Constitution."

The attorney general, Board's request, that construct legal.

Seminary Rector Asks Laicization
New York — (RNS) — Father George Weber, M.M., rector of the Maryknoll (N.Y.) Seminary has resigned and asked for laicization, including dispensation from the vow of celibacy.

The 38-year-old priest had been rector of the seminary since July, 1965, and had previously served for six years in Tanzania.

A Maryknoll spokesman and Father Weber, who was contacted by Religious News Service in Detroit, have both confirmed his resignation but denied reports that he has married. Both sources said that his resignation was "for personal reasons."

Father Weber said that he had offered his resignation at the beginning of January, that Maryknoll had accepted it, and had "kindly submitted to Rome my request for laicization, which includes a request for dispensation from the obligation of celibacy."

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