

Humanæ Vitæ...and My Conscience Tells Me'

(Continued from Page 6)

traffic signal, does it then become right? If 68.4% of the population steal, then is stealing right? We would have to change our multiplication tables for beginners in school, for none of them follow the "antiquated table" of our forefathers that 2x2=4.

The majority voted that the Israelites should not enter the Promised Land. The Gallup Poll, conducted by Pilate, revealed that the vast majority favored the Crucifixion of Our Lord. The Holy Spirit descended only on an insignificant minority of 120.

If "everybody's doing it" makes a thing right, then what of the words of Our Lord: "Go in by the narrow gate, for the wide gate has a broad road which leads to disaster, and there are many going that way. The narrow gate and the hard road lead out of life, and only a few are finding it." (Matt. 7/14).

Living in a computer-age, it is easy to turn theology into sociology, morality into counting and decency into signed petitions. A criminal justified murder by appealing to the testimony of ten Mafia. The "goodness" of those who practice abortion is questionable. Because one can find 766 in a town that practice it, the question still remains: "Is it good? What is not at issue is the count, or the number. Right is right if nobody is right; wrong is wrong if everybody is wrong. Neuremberg rallies drew more followers than any other group in Germany, but that did not make Nazism right. The unlawful mother in the courtroom of Solomon shouted louder than the lawful mother, but the wise judge knew the latter was the true mother. Hell is full of noise.

Conclusion

Thus far we have considered:
1. The sovereign ego, or self as the standard of morality.

2. The numerical majority as the measure of right and wrong.

Conscience must subsequently be treated so that it puts us in contact with a standard beyond self, beyond society and beyond creation. This area of the natural conscience was the principal concern of Episcopal letters on Humanæ Vitæ. But what about the Christian conscience which Augustine described as "the palace of Christ, the temple of the Holy Spirit, the Paradise of delight, the standing Sabbath of the Saints?"

The natural conscience often calls itself "good", but the Christian conscience is never quite so sure: "If we say we have no sin in us, we are deceiving ourselves." (1 John 1/8).

Our Lord was most severe on those who had, by their own vicious lives, blinded the conscience which He gave. He was not hard on prostitutes and petty thieves, but He was hard on hypocrites, because they had a dishonesty which infects and corrupts the best part of a man, and renders him totally insensitive to God's Presence and his vocation.

To guard against this, we will later treat in the next chapter the difference between the natural conscience which all men have, and the spiritual conscience which should be the Christian's guide in understanding the Humanæ Vitæ.

Stephen J. Sheen

Monastery to Note Anniversary

Elmira—Formal celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary here is slated Tuesday, Oct. 7, the feast of the Holy Rosary.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen and Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty are scheduled to celebrate an anniversary Mass in the semi-public monastery chapel at 5 p.m. that day. Bishop James E. Kearney will preach.



Actual date of the monastery's establishment is Aug. 16, 1944, which will be quietly observed this Saturday, Aug. 16. The formal ceremonies were postponed until Oct. 7.

It was in 1944 that eight nuns from the order's Buffalo monastery first entered the frame dwelling on a hill at 1310 West Church St. They were led by Sister Mary Theresa, O.P., who still is prioress of the convent. There are 19 nuns and one novice now at the monastery.

Father C. Irwin Sullivan is monastery chaplain, and retired Father William E. Hayes is in residence.

The Sisters are a cloistered order, who offer their lives in sacrifice, prayer and penance in the service of the Church. They observe solemn celebration of the liturgy, and perpetually, day and night, two of the Sisters recite aloud the prayers of the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament.

The Sisters are sustained through donations and alms and through the sale of vestments, altar linens, art work, holy cards and cookies.

ITALIAN DAY AT MARTYRS SHRINE

Auriclesville—Catholics of Italian ancestry from New York and seven nearby states are expected at Auriclesville this Sunday, Aug. 17, on their annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of the North American Martyrs.

Their special Mass, at 4:15 p.m., will climax a three-day observance of the Feast of the Assumption. The first chapel on the grounds was dedicated 75 years ago on this feast.

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Confrontation

'Choose Life Series'

By JOAN ZUMMO

An interesting pilot program will be conducted in Monroe County this year for teachers of High School CCD classes.

In place of the regular 30 week training course for High School teachers, there will be offered a four-week course in methods, based on the Choose Life series which is published by Argus Communications.

For details on the training program, please note your CCD newsletter, or the story elsewhere on this page.

The Choose Life series is one of the more promising of the recent offerings for High school students. In the words of the publisher it is "... a multi-media approach to Christian education that uses the sights and sounds of the teenager's world to bridge the communication gap and teach lasting values."

The series is designed on the premise that the form of communication is as important as the contents of the message. The form of Choose Life is, in a word, professional.

The series consists of twelve exceptional booklets on one theme. The twelve themes are grouped into three suggested four year sequences. The booklets themselves are exciting, contemporary, creative presentations of topics. They use photography, pop art, contemporary quotes, advertising methods and quotes, a text that is not wordy, and borders on the poetical at times.

Topics covered include themes such as people, change, signs and symbols, ultimate concern. Sound philosophical? It is — and it's theological as well — and

scripturally and catechetically sound.

Choose Life is a multi-media approach, which means that the booklets are supported by tapes — with topics ranging from scripture to social issues, books, records, posters, "stickies" buttons, and a variety of teachers' aids.

The teachers' aids and the automatic inservice training for teachers are another very important feature of this series. It is built in factor of teacher training and methods teaching that made this course the one recommended by the Christian Formation Committee. In addition to detailed teachers' manuals for the students' text there is also available a teachers' tape for each lesson, "discuss-in" tapes, and film discussion guides.

There are several sample kits available free or at reasonable cost from the publisher — Argus Communications, 3505 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60657. Samples are also available for inspection or borrowing at the CCD office.

SETON PICNIC

Dr. and Mrs. Clare Smith will entertain members of the 80th Seton Branch and their husbands at a steak roast tomorrow, Aug. 16, at their home, 1860 West Bloomfield Road, Honeyey Falls.

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