

## Abortion Issue

### A Paradox

Whether New York State now has "the most liberal" abortion law in the land is a matter of dubious distinction.

The fact that premeditated killing should be condoned at a time in history when most of the world is increasingly concerned and alarmed over violence and wanton killing is paradoxical.

It is frightening that such action should be considered in vogue in a period of time.

- when capital punishment of criminals is considered repugnant;
- when people the length and breadth of the world are conscientiously questioning the morality of killing, even in war situations;
- when the destruction of mere property by groups seeking civil rights is assailed;
- when people are wringing their hands and minds over violence in movies and TV.

Serious reflection is required of a society so concerned over its self-comfort that it is beginning to liquidate itself to this end.

Just a short year ago morally-conscious people were battling with such issues as whether abortion should be permitted in the case of incest or rape. Now such soul-searching is negated by an easy out sanctioned by the state.

Proponents of this new law deride arguments that such a step naturally leads to euthanasia and worse. Such reactionary action is already being debated in England, supposedly an arch-bastion of civilization.

It is particularly unfortunate that a legislator from this diocese should have made the decisive move in this issue. It must also be remembered that he was only one of 76 votes necessary for the passage of abortion on demand.

Another unhappy aspect is the fact that, except for scattered support, the Catholic Church and its bishops stood lone vigil in the battle to guard high moral principle in the face of pragmatic and expedient solutions to the grave problems engendered in this situation.

We hope the Church will not have to stand alone when the debate begins on whether to allow our sick and our aged to live.

—Carmen Viglucci

## A Debt of Gratitude

The words do not exist that could embellish the inspirational story of Maurice Stokes and his 12-year struggle against a debilitating and finally fatal illness.

A giant of a man at 6 feet 7 and 240 pounds during his professional basketball days, Stokes managed to overcome encephalitis to a degree where he became a symbol of hope to fellow hospital patients, whose spirits would be lifted by his friendly solicitude and slap on the shoulder.

Because real heroes are embarrassed by recital of their deeds, the full story of Jack Twyman's role in Stokes' life may never be told in full. A teammate of Stokes and a full-fledged professional star in his own right, Twyman had every human reason to consider Stokes a rival for glory.

Such was not the case and when Stokes was stricken Twyman took over as his legal guardian and has been faithful to the task through the years. Both proved their mettle far from the sports arena.

It is not proper to be maudlin in the face of such accomplishment. It is necessary to say thank you.

Courier-Journal

## Letters to the Editor

### Kearney Band Draws Praise

Editor:

It is most interesting to read a letter such as appeared in the Courier (March 27, 1970) by Miss Regina Wesley, titled "Trip to Ireland Said Extravagant", while challenging the band to match the \$10,000 raised for the trip in support of a needy parish.

Why start at the top—\$10,000? Some people are ignorant of the fact that this band spent numerous (leisure) hours, including Christmas and Easter vacations, practicing daily for two musicals each year. Anyone who has ever been in a pit orchestra realizes that eyes are focused on the stage, while the musicians are hardly noticed.

They don't ask for recognition but nevertheless are very instrumental in raising several thousand dollars a year towards a school fund that guarantees support of students attending the school in the event a supporting parent dies.

These students are part of a community of students in school that helps their fellow man in many ways. The "ACTION" group physically helps the unfortunate. Various groups have

gone to Ireland, France, Quebec. All help give a better and truer image of the majority of American youth. The public in general profits from values instilled in these students.

Let's take the blindfolds off and witness a Christian community in action.

Why not look at it in still another way? Here are 120 students who are busy doing something constructive. If just one of these students became a dope addict at \$30 per day, in one year it would cost over \$10,000. Wouldn't he be just as important as a whole needy parish?

Let's not discourage the worthwhile motivation of this band or other such organizations by letting dollar signs obscure character and Christian values.

—Mrs. Mary M. Mahany  
479 Covewood Blvd.  
Webster, N.Y. 14580

### Band Challenge Restated

Editor:

May I please restate my letter to the Courier of April 3.

"I challenge the local Catholic high school students who

exerted such great efforts at raising in the area of \$10,000 for a recent trip to Ireland for the second consecutive year to exercise these same efforts in raising an equivalent amount of money to help support a needy parish school of their choice."

Mr. Bernard H. Florack's answer of April 8 indicates a lack of understanding of the sole point I made. My challenge still holds. I wonder if it will be accepted by the Bishop Kearney Band?

Miss Regina Wesley  
164 Dierdre Drive  
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

### Plea for Aid For Kings Prep

Editor:

When a high school or college finds itself in financial difficulties, the common practice is to call on its alumni for help. This is a plea to all alumni of St. Andrew's Seminary.

Granted, Kings Prep is no longer a part of the seminary, but it is a by-product of it—dedicated to the same goals. These young people are being trained to go out into society as good Christian laymen and to supplement the work of the priests.

The financial obligation may be gone, but the spiritual ties are still there.

I am the mother of five children, ages 14 to 27. I have always defended, and in most cases applauded, the attitudes of the religious. I can find no words to defend the closing of Kings.

The 185 students at Kings Prep have been greatly disillusioned. After hearing so much praise for their school, the doors are suddenly closed to them and their faith shattered.

Except for the ones they come in contact with at school, they feel the priests are unconcerned with their welfare and future. Can the Church really afford to "sacrifice these lambs" and those who might have followed? I think not.

For 22 years I have given many hours of my time to help raise funds for the churches and schools, sometimes three schools at once. Am I naive in thinking that my daughter is entitled to a Catholic education?

Perhaps I am putting myself out on a limb with this letter, but when I answer to God for the children he has entrusted to me I want to say "I did all I could, Lord."

The future of the Catholic Church lies with the young people and their influence on the world. Will you help those who may someday follow in your footsteps?

We need your financial aid for the Kings Preparatory Fund, Kings Prep. More than that, we need your vocal support.

—Mrs. W. John Scanlan  
12 Renouf Drive  
Rochester, New York

### The Word for Sunday

## May God Send Us a Shepherd

By Father Albert Shamon



Sunday's Gospel is the beautiful parable of the Good Shepherd. However I think it will be fruitful if we turn our thoughts from the Shepherd to the sheep. Sheep are such needy creatures.

Sheep, for instance, have no sense of direction. A dog or a cat has a built-in compass. If it gets lost, it finds its way home again. Not so with sheep. If one gets lost, someone has to find it or it stays lost.

Sheep have poor eyes. They cannot see ten or fifteen yards ahead. Not infrequently a sheep would step off a mountain path and hang helplessly on some ledge below. That was why the shepherd's staff was crooked. He could place the crook over the small chest of the wayward lamb and lift it back to the pathway.

Sheep too are pitifully helpless. They have no weapons for defense. Any other animal can prey on them at will. So in addition to his staff the shepherd carries a rod—a heavy two or three foot club. David tells how he clubbed a lion to death protecting his sheep. The sheep instinctively is comforted by the shepherd's rod and staff. "Thy rod and staff they comfort me."

Our Lord likened people to sheep. He did not mean to imply that we are totally helpless, bleating, smelly, wandering creatures, idly standing by, ready to be fleeced. What He meant was that in relation to his supernatural destiny, man is helpless; that the world and flesh so tug at him he wanders off right paths. What a state humanity was in when God chose His people! To what moral depths, or rather immoral, had the race plunged at the time of Christ! In Greek dramas, a hero could get himself into such a "mess" that a god would have to come down at the critical moment and set things right. Playwrights call it a Deus ex machina solution. So with man, he was so hopelessly lost that God

had to come to shepherd him to green pastures.

Because man is—in the moral and supernatural order—always like sheep, man always needs and will need shepherds, good shepherds. So God who called His Son out of Egypt, calls men from among men to shepherd His people. This call is a vocation.

In the annals of the Church what shepherds have been called by God! What men can compare to the twentieth century Popes? To the great Piuses and now to Paul? What men can compare to the shepherds who have given and are giving their lives for their flocks behind the Iron Curtain—to Mindszenty, Wyzinski, Stepinac, Petar Cule? It takes stouthearted men, courageous, generous, virtuous men—men with real "guts"—to be a shepherd today for Christ. To be a priest, a Sister, a Brother.

If in the 70's or 80's men are not to be led like sheep to the slaughter, by modern Pied Pipers, then the people of God must launch a prayer and fasting crusade for vocations to the priesthood and religious life—for good shepherds! The Good Shepherd will hear, for when He walked this earth, His heart was touched by this very fact—"they were like sheep without a shepherd" (Mk. 6:34)—an intolerable situation!

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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Wednesday, April 15, 1970