

## Letters

### Editor:

State Senator Thomas Laverne's judgment that abortion is a matter of "private morality" is opposed to both natural and common law.

In Blackstone's "Commentaries on Law" one finds the following: "The right to life is inherent in every individual and begins in contemplation of law with the infant in its mother's womb. Such an infant is capable of having legacies made to it, a guardian assigned to it, and is considered born for all beneficial purposes."

If the senator is aware of the philosophical and legal basis for opposition to abortion, it is strange that he would be so ready to label it a religious and Catholic issue per se.

There is an obvious contradiction in a legal system that protects the property rights of the unborn, yet refuses to protect that same individual's life.

—Joseph A. Kelly  
306 Eaton Road  
Rochester

### Editor:

Excellent challenge presented to Miss Wesley to Kearney band.

Let us channel all this money to a cause right at home. When we have our Rochester neighbors taken care of, then we can worry about how we impress those neighbors across the sea.

—James Latimer  
East Rochester

# Text of U.S. Bishops' Statement

Following is the text of a statement on abortion issued April 22 by the U.S. Catholic bishops at their semiannual meeting in San Francisco.

Last year, we stated our strong opposition to ongoing efforts to strike down laws prohibiting abortion. Our defense of human life is rooted in the biblical prohibition, "Thou shalt not kill." Regrettably, there has been a radical turn of events during this past year, and a new effort has been directed to the total repeal of all such laws. At the same time, an effort has been mounted in the courts to have such laws declared unconstitutional.

Therefore we speak again on this important issue of public policy, addressing ourselves to the Catholic community and to all our fellow citizens. For the question of abortion is a moral problem transcending any particular sectarian approach. Our opposition to abortion derives from our conviction that whatever is opposed to life is a violation of man's inherent rights, a position that has a strong basis in the history of American law. The U.S. Bill of Rights

guarantees the right to life to every American, and the U.N. Declaration on the Rights of the Child, which our nation endorses, affirms that the child, because of his dependent status, should be accorded a special protection under the law before as well as after birth (U.N. General Assembly, Nov. 20, 1959).

In light of the attempts to remove all prohibition of abortion from our legal system, the life of the innocent unborn child is no longer given universal protection in the laws of our land. Moreover, the absence of all legal restraint promotes the acceptance of abortion as a convenient way for a woman to terminate the life of her child and the responsibilities that she has as its mother.

The implications of this proposed change in legal philosophy are enormous. Once we allow the taking of innocent human life in the earliest stages of its development for the sake of convenience, how can we logically protect human life at any other point, once that life becomes a burden?

The assertion is made that a woman has a right not to be forced to bear a child against her will, but when a woman is already pregnant, this right must be considered in light of the child's right to life, the woman's responsibilities as its mother, and the rights and responsibilities of the child's father. The life of the unborn child is a human life. The destruction of any human life is not a private matter, but the concern of every responsible citizen.

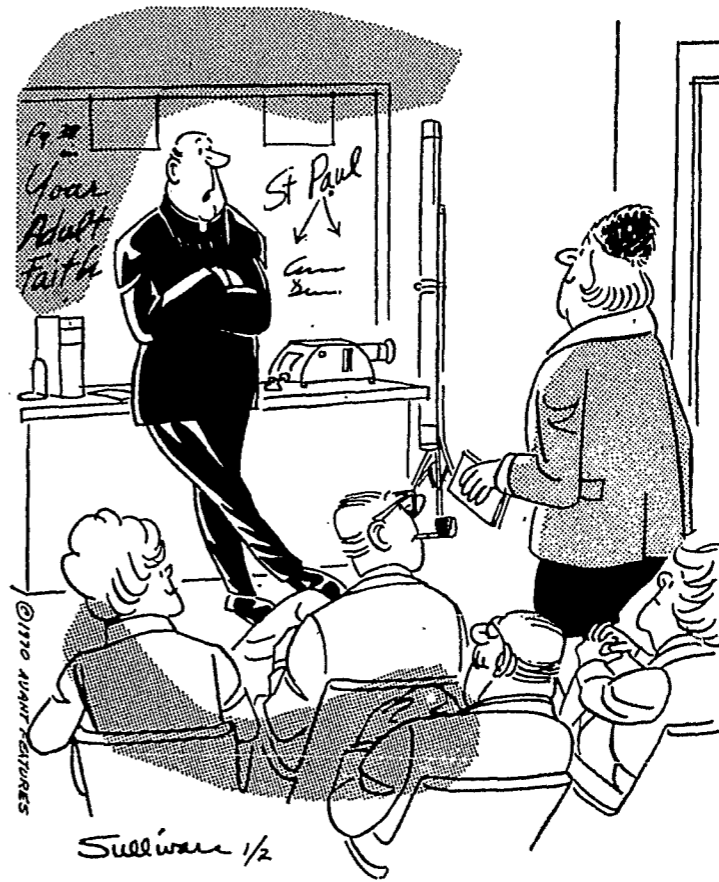
We remain convinced that human life is a priceless gift, and our pastoral duty prompts us to reaffirm that "God, the Lord of life, has conferred on men the surpassing ministry of safeguarding life, a ministry which must be fulfilled in a manner which is worthy of man. Therefore from the moment of its conception life must

be guarded with the greatest care, while abortion and infanticide are unspeakable crimes." (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, No. 51).

Once again, we declare our determination to seek solution to the problems that lead some women to consider abortion. We pledge our efforts to do all that is possible to remove the social stigma that is visited on the woman who is pregnant out of wedlock, as well as on her child. We also pledge the facilities and the efforts of our Church agencies to provide counseling and understanding to the woman who faces a difficult pregnancy. At the same time, we are encouraged by the scientific advance of recent dec-

ades that has already provided us with ways to support and maintain the life and health of the mother and the development of the child in the womb.

Finally, we are aware that the value of human life is not exclusively a Catholic concern. Many Americans agonize over the loss of life involved in modern warfare, the serious ethical questions raised by recent scientific and surgical advances, the implications of pollution on our environment and the long-range effects of drug use. But safeguarding the life of all men requires safeguarding the life of every individual, for our hold on life itself is only as strong as the weakest link in our system of law.



"THAT'S AN INTERESTING ANALYSIS OF ST. PAUL'S PERSONALITY, MRS. MARTINGALE. WHEN DID YOU DEDUCE HE WAS A SCORPIO?"

## Keeping Tabs

Knights of St. John Auxiliary 44, at St. Peter and Paul, Rochester, will have a smorgasbord at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 4, in the school hall. For reservations: Mrs. Irene Bishop, 328-4957, or Mrs. Emma Cromey, 342-5206.

Father Colman Gallagher, S.A., will celebrate Mass at 9:30 Sunday morning, May 3, in Our Lady of Victory church for the St. Margaret of Scotland Guild. Breakfast will follow at 10:45 at the Top of the Plaza. Profits will go to Graymoor mission work. Members and friends are asked to make reservations with Mrs. William C. Wallace, 458-3495, or Mrs. Cummings, 865-9446.

The Rosary Society of Our Lady of Mercy will meet at 8 p.m. Monday, May 4, to name candidates for office.

A lawyer from the district attorney's office will address the Catholic Widowed Parent Club at its regular meeting, Friday night, May 1, at 8:30 in St. Theodore school hall, 168 Spencerport Road. Reservations will be taken for a dinner dance May 16 at Edgewater Inn.

The St. Christopher Social Club lists these events for May: A hayride for children of St. Joseph's Villa Sunday afternoon, May 3; a card party at John Shannon's house, 8 p.m. Saturday, May 9; a Saturday evening Mass, at 7, May 23, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, followed by dinner at Northside Inn, East Rochester.

St. Pius X parish in Van Etten will hold a rummage sale tomorrow, and Friday, May 1, from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m., and Saturday, from 9 until 2.

The residents of St. Ann's Home are getting up a stage show, "St. Ann's Revue," for May 8 and 9, at 2 p.m., as a celebration of Senior Citizens' Month.

The senior class of Ben Franklin High School will present "Never Too Late" this Friday and Saturday, May 1 and 2, at 8:15 p.m.

Father Elmer Schmidt will address the Rosarians of St.

Anne's parish at their installation dinner May 5 at the Party House.

Wanda Circle of St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, will hold their monthly meeting and birthday supper at 6 p.m. tomorrow, April 30, in the school hall. Mrs. Bertha Miller and Mrs. Alice Fredericks are cochairmen.

Father William Marceau, CSB., language chairman at St. John Fisher College, will be guest speaker at the annual mother-daughter communion breakfast of Court FitzSimons, Catholic Daughters of America. The breakfast will be at the Lima Country Club after 8 a.m. Mass in St. Rose Church.

The members of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Family of St. Joseph's Church will receive Holy Communion at the 9:00 a.m. Mass Sunday, May 3. Breakfast, conference and meeting in the school cafeteria will follow the Mass.

The Rosary Guild of Christ the King parish will have a mother-daughter communion breakfast May 3, after a 9 a.m. folk Mass. Mrs. C. Reardon and Mrs. J. Doyle have charge.

At St. Pius X, Holy Name men will serve breakfast to the Rosary Guild after the 8:30 Mass May 3. Sister Patricia Donovan, RSM., will speak on the Catholic school survey.

Installation of new officers will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral's 18th annual Rosary Guild banquet at 7 p.m. Monday, May 11 at Logan's. Father William Gordinier will be guest speaker. Mrs. Joseph Sullivan and Mrs. Theodore J. Houck, Jr. are chairmen.

The public is invited to a Diet Workshop Open House at Holy Redeemer School on Wednesday, April 29, at 8:00 p.m.

The 17th monthly St. Michael's Eucharistic Vigil Mass and Holy Hour will be held at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 4th, at Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Avenue. Enrollment in the Brown Scapular of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel will take place.

## The Mouths Of Babes

The biggest national problem is jubilant delinquency.

Such sage sayings have been culled from the work of children in a Detroit grade school and distributed via "The Michigan Catholic" and NC News Service.

# Rund's SPRING TIME CLAMBAKE

TUES., APRIL 28th thru SUN., MAY 3rd

Includes . . .

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