

250 Sign Statement

Legislators Criticized For Abortion Approval

Approximately 250 parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Brighton, signed a statement Sunday, July 19, expressing shock at the affirmative abortion-law liberalization votes of two Monroe County state legislators.

Mailed the following day to Assemblyman S. William Rosenberg of Brighton and State Sen. Thomas Laverne of Irondequoit, the statement declared:

"In favoring the passage of the most liberal abortion law in the nation, you abdicated your responsibility as a legislator and failed us, your constituents, in a most serious matter.

"We, members of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Rochester, hereby express our profound shock at your inhuman attitude toward innocent and defenseless life."

The statement was originated

and proposed by Father Charles A. Lintz, newly-ordained priest who was replacing the vacationing pastor, Father James F. Slattery.

Father Lintz was ordained June 27 in the parish church and has been assisting the pastor since that time. As a member of the Columban Fathers, a foreign mission group, he will be leaving Sept. 1 to serve in South Korean missions.

Nearly 80 per cent of those who heard his sermons at five Sunday Masses July 19 signed the statement, Father Lintz said, noting that the idea originated following a pastoral letter against the state's new abortion law by Bishop Hogan which was read in all diocesan churches June 12. He was assisted in wording the statement by an attorney member of the parish, Robert J. Edelman.

In his sermon Father Lintz said he felt the New York State

bishops "failed to rally strong opposition to the bill at the grass roots level."

"We're hoping," he said, "that if enough people are in opposition to this law, it can be repealed or radically altered."

He termed the new law "an indication of the 'dry rot' in our society today, which places material prosperity and convenience above the human person. It seems rather inconsistent to scream against the atrocities in Vietnam and fail to see the atrocities of a law which leaves a true human being so defenseless."



Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pisano of Holy Name Parish, Groveland, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, July 12, at a Mass offered by the pastor, Father James Cosgrove. A dinner for 100 relatives and friends followed.

Hospital's Abortion Policy Deplored by Dansville Pastor

Dansville—The newly adopted liberal policy on abortion approved by the Dansville Memorial Hospital board was deplored in a letter made public July 19 by Msgr. John F. Duffy, pastor of St. Mary's Church.

Dated July 9, the letter was sent to board president Francis R. Henty and 26 other members. Copies were inserted in parish bulletins distributed July 19 at the church's four Masses.

Accompanying the letter to the board was Msgr. Duffy's first check to be applied against a pledge he made during the recent fund drive for a new hospital building, Msgr. Duffy wrote:

"As I send my contribution, I am aware that I am a newcomer in our community.

"But, because I have made this pledge—with God's help I will keep it—I now consider that I have a special interest . . . and that therefore I am entitled to voice my feelings publicly.

"In fact, silence on my part might even be construed as tacit approval of any new course that the hospital board may take in the matter of abortions. Therefore I wish to state in no uncertain terms that I deplore any and all abortions that may ever be performed in the Dansville Memorial Hospital."

Noting that his pledge had been made toward a memorial for the doctors' dictation room, he continued:


"If at all possible, I would prefer that my contribution be earmarked for the purchase of an isolette for the nursery. And even if this change is impossible, in my own mind that is the purpose of my contribution . . . I would prefer that (it) serve to preserve the lives of helpless, newborn babies."

Msgr. Duffy's letter concluded:

"It is obvious that we live in a pluralistic society. It is equally obvious that it is improper for us to impose our moral convictions upon others. And at the same time our society gives us the right of free speech. This I have sought to exercise in writing this letter . . .

"In closing, I would leave you with this thought. After the

legalizing of abortions, is not the next possible step for society the legalization of euthanasia or 'mercy-killing'? To me the question now is no longer: 'Will euthanasia ever be legalized in New York State?' Rather it is now: 'How soon will our state legislature legalize euthanasia?'"



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