

## Women's Lib

Rep. Emanuel Celler, long considered a leading congressional liberal, raised an interesting possibility upon passage in the House recently of the equal rights for women amendment.

Calling it a "step backwards," Celler says if ratified into law it would make women eligible for the draft among other things.

Linda B. Major of NC News Service carries this supposition a step further and asks if women become eligible for the draft will they then get married and/or have babies to avoid service.

The humor and threat inherent in this situation is obvious but one reader (a woman) told this paper recently that the lib movement has dangerous potential that is hard to joke about.

While she, as most people would, agrees that there are some very worthy aims in the movement such as equal pay for equal work and no major job restriction, she also senses a threat to the family unit.

If women as a class should decide to work outside of the home, make as much or more than their mates, what happens to male dignity, or ego if you will, when he no longer is the head of the family.

This responsibility as pater familias ties in directly with the physiological makeup of the male and if it is damaged or taken away, there's no surety of what will be left of the masculine makeup.

—Carmen Viglucci

## War on Alcoholism

Two significant events recently in Washington are worthy of public interest and support.

The Office of Alcohol Countermeasures in the Department of Transportation has launched an \$18 million program geared to identification and then control of the problem drinker.

Then in a separate action the Senate approved a \$385 million bill for a comprehensive program on alcoholism prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. It was introduced by Sen. Harold E. Hughes, himself a former alcoholic, and co-sponsored by Sen. Jacob Javits and Sen. Frank E. Moss.

Among other things the program would set up an alcoholic prevention and treatment institute within Health, Education and Welfare; require recognition of alcohol abuse and alcoholism as a significant health problem, and require ways for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation for federal employes and members of the armed forces.

The bill is headed for House Commerce consideration.

Sen. Hughes has told Religious News Service that if the bill becomes law it would "save thousands of lives on the highways, reduce crime, cut back the load on our criminal justice system, decrease welfare rolls and cut down the appalling economic waste from alcoholism."

Even if it only accomplishes some of these things it seems money well-spent.

Safety officials believe that alcoholism underlies much of the spiraling liquor-related accident toll on U.S. highways and that the toll will not be cut until Americans begin to attack this deeper problem.

Problems concerning drugs get more attention these days, and they are serious indeed. But at least some health officials will tell you that alcoholism constitutes an even more serious danger.

The trouble is that we have learned to live with it.

## Proper Question

Two hospitals in New York City, reports Religious News Service, have sent letters to some 50,000 doctors across the nation describing their abortion facilities, including a rundown on services, counseling, fees, etc.

A Richmond, Va. doctor had an incisive rejoinder, "Why don't they throw in a restaurant dinner and a Broadway show as part of the package?"

Courier-Journal

## Letters to the Editor

### A Time To Fight

Editor:

Some years ago when an Italian girl, screaming for help, was brutally attacked and murdered in the New York streets while her fellow Americans sat silently by and watched, these Americans were accused, and rightly so, of inexcusable apathy. Yet had one man stepped forward to try to save her, undoubtedly he would have been confronted with "kill or be killed." What did Christ mean when he said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself?" Might he have meant that either God or the devil will prevail?

I see no difference in this instance and the plight of the Vietnamese. Our country encounters the same choice.

Vatican II's statement on "Total War" makes good sense; it

is tragic that the aggressor, the Communist state, does not believe in God nor Vatican II's statement on "Total War" and will not take heed. Our country has begged for negotiation at the peace table.

Mrs. Nina McPhilly  
Foster Road  
Corning, New York

### Rosary Films Scheduled

Editor:

A week ago Sunday it was my privilege to view and hear one of the most inspirational religious films within my experience. It was filmed in Madrid, under the direction of Father Patrick Peyton of the Family Rosary Crusade.

There is a series of all the mysteries, decade by decade, of the Holy Rosary. The characters are most beautifully depicted

and the musical accompaniment artistically produced.

Locally, these films are presented through the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, Rochester chapter. The next showing will be held at St. Joseph's High School on Franklin Street, Aug. 23 at 2 p.m. There is no admission charge, but an offering will be taken to help defray the cost of film rental.

The local Blue Army chapter meets at 8 p.m. each Thursday at Holy Rosary Church. A holy hour is followed by a meeting in the school hall. The Rosary films are shown, one decade each meeting. All are welcome to attend.

Katherine D. Sullivan  
1 Lilac Drive  
Rochester.

### Sisters Thank Contributors

Editor:

The Sisters of St. Joseph would appreciate your printing the following paragraphs, which are addressed to the people of the diocese:

May I extend both my personal thanks and that of all of the Sisters of our congregation for your most generous contributions to our South American missions.

As you well realize, the Sisters and priests who give so willingly of themselves in this missionary apostolate would not be able to continue without your financial support. As a result of the sacrifices which you good people made, this truly great work will go on for another year; men and women will have a new understanding of their God-given dignity; families like your own will have new hope and courage; the message of the Gospel, in all its strength and in all its tenderness, will be lived and taught by our Rochester priests and Sisters in South America because you cared enough to give.

May God himself reward your generosity in His own way. Be assured of the prayers of those whom you have aided.

Mother Agnes Cecilia Troy, SSJ.

### Coupon Appeal Gets Results

Editor:

Thank you very much for publishing my appeal for Betty Crocker coupons to get a passenger van for the retarded children at Lakemary Center, Paola, Kan.

I am receiving coupons as a result of that appeal.

We appreciate your help very much. May God bless and reward you.

Mrs. Walter Vitt  
Rt. 1 - Box 5  
St. Paul, Kan. 66771

### The Word for Sunday

## Decide Today!

By Father Albert Shamon



In the second reading of Sunday's Mass, St. Paul speaks of human marriage and the union of Christ and His Church both in the same breath. For both religion and marriage demand a choice. Thus in the first reading, Joshua said to all the tribes of Israel, "Decide today whom you will serve." And in the Gospel Christ asked His Twelve, the new Israel, "Do you want to leave too?" Decide! Religion is a matter of choice. Man must come to God by himself; he cannot choose Him by proxy.

Yet one person can influence another's choice—and should. Thus Joshua offered the tribes of Israel a choice, but only after he had set the example: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." Scripture attests how powerful that example was, for it says, "Israel served the Lord during the entire lifetime of Joshua" (Jos. 24:31). It was Peter's example, too, that confirmed the choice of the Twelve at the critical moment when Christ asked, "Lord, to whom shall we go?" Peter blurted out, "You have the words of eternal life." And that settled it.

Sometimes one hears parents justify the neglect of the religious training of their children on the grounds that "I'll let them choose their own religion when they grow up." When they have grown up, they have finished growing. Then it is too late. You can't unfry an egg.

God holds parents responsible for the religious upbringing of their children. Surely, they can be given freedom of choice—but only after the parents themselves have given their children the cogent example of their own religious lives, as did Joshua and Peter. As their example was decisive, so is parental example.

Chemists tell us that a single drop of iodine will color 7,000 times its weight of water. So a single word or act by parents affects the entire lives of their children. If family prayer, Bible reading, love of the Mass, grace at meals is in the home, you will never be able to take it out of the child. "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

And this service is urgent. Decide today! Only today is ours, tomorrow may never come. Today well-lived makes yesterday a dream of happiness and tomorrow a vision of hope. Therefore look to this day! Shakespeare intimates in Julius Caesar that the battle of Philippi, one of the decisive battles of the world, was lost because of poor timing: There is a tide in the affairs of men, Which taken at the flood leads on to fortune; Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and in miseries."

"Decide today whom you will serve." The choice is not between religion and non-religion. Man needs religion as much as he needs to breathe. Either he serves the true God or he will manufacture his own gods of power, pleasure, or money; for nature abhors a vacuum. And what man needs, the nation needs.

Joshua took it for granted that Israel needed God. Take away religion and you take away the strongest motives for social duties. This was the farewell warning Washington gave to all America. "Let us with caution indulge the supposition," he wrote, "that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds . . . reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

But it all starts with a choice—today—for God—especially in the home!

## COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

BISHOP JOSEPH L. HOGAN  
President

Msgr. John S. Randall Managing Editor  
Carmen J. Viglucci Editor  
Rev. Richard Tormey Executive Editor

Anthony J. Costello  
Advertising Director

Arthur P. Farnen  
Associate Editor

MAIN OFFICE . . . . . 35 Scio St. — 454-7050 — Rochester, N. Y. 14604  
ELMIRA OFFICE 317 Robinson Bldg., Lake St. . . . . RE 2-5688 or RE 2-3423