

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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2 Sections



**Ecumenical Cattle**

Father Larry Stockman wrestles with a heifer as he prepares to ship a herd of cattle by plane to Peru. Half the money to buy the cattle was donated by a Baptist and the rest of the money came from people of other denominations. The animals were shipped to Quechua Indian-owned farmland near Lake Titicaca where Father had served as a missionary. (RNS Photo)

## Abortion Called 'Barbarism' by Pope Paul VI

Vatican City — (RNS)—Pope Paul VI has reaffirmed the Catholic Church's condemnation of abortion and mercy killing, castigating both as "barbarian methods."

He recalled that abortion had been considered murder since the earliest church and declared that "nothing permits us to consider it different today."

Of euthanasia (mercy killing), the Pope said that "without the patient's permission it is murder, and with his consent, suicide," adding, "What is morally a crime cannot, under any pretext, become legal."

The pontiff's views were expressed in a letter signed on his behalf by Jean Cardinal Villot, secretary of state, and addressed to Dr. James Farugia, secretary general of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations meeting in Washington, D.C.

Without mentioning specifically recent U.S. legislation on abortion, the Pope said in his message, "A society that, under various pretexts, moves toward legalized abortion, would be going against the efforts undertaken by centuries of civilization."

Setting abortion on the same level with infanticide and mercy killing, Pope Paul declared: "The influence of Christianity eradicated these barbaric methods little by little, but the materialistic concepts of a pagan eugenics tend to make the most wrongful practices respectable again."

He conceded that there might be "cases fraught with anguish," when pregnancy threatens the very life of the mother. However, he insisted, "the Church could not for that reason acquiesce in so-called therapeutic abortions."

The Pope emphasized that Christian "anthropology" observed "absolute respect for man, from the first moment of his conception to his last breath of life."

On prolonging a sick person's life, Pope Paul reiterated the doctrine expounded by his predecessor, Pope Pius XII. While doctors have the duty to fight against death with all the resources of science, he said, they are not obliged to use all the survival techniques developed by science. Mere prolongation of "vegetative" life in the terminal stage of incurable disease could be "useless torture," he said.

## Sr. Mary Judith Elected To Head Mercy Sisters

Sisters of Mercy of the Rochester Diocese elected Sister Mary Judith Heberle, 42, the 13th Superior General of the Congregation, Saturday, Oct. 17. Sister Mary Judith will complete the three remaining years of the current term; former Superior General Sister Mary Bride Clair resigned Aug. 31 because of poor health.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, the presiding Church representative, made the announcement to over 300 of the 412-member Congregation who had assembled at the Blossom Road Motherhouse for the final balloting and count.

Prior to her election, Sister Mary Judith had served as Assistant Superior General since 1967. During her earliest years in the Congregation, she taught Business subjects at Our Lady

of Mercy High School where also she headed the department and managed the school office.

In addition to her Degree in Business from Nazareth College, Sister holds an M.A. in Guidance from the University of Rochester. At Mercy, she was guidance counselor for students intending to pursue business.

Sister Mary Judith is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Heberle of Browncroft Blvd. Her twin sister, Sister Mary Rita, is also a Sister of Mercy teaching at St. Joseph School in Penfield. The Sisters joined the Congregation in 1946.

The Superior General is the top officer of the Congregation. She is assisted by a four-member Council, a 15-member con-



**SISTER JUDITH**

sultative Senate, as well as several standing committees and local superiors.

A new Council will also be elected, Nov. 6. Subsequent to Sister Mary Bride's resigning, her Council also resigned to enable the Congregation to choose a new Superior General and her associates as a team.

Under the Superior General, the Sisters of Mercy serve in 27 elementary schools across the Diocese. They also staff three high schools; a hospital with a school of nursing and x-ray technology in Hornell.

Thirty sisters are parish assistants, or work in various Diocesan offices, or in inner-city or in the mission fields of Chile. Nine hold positions not directly affiliated with the Congregation or the Diocese.

Various posts in the Congregation employ 15 Sisters; another 37 are fulltime students. Thirty-two Sisters are retired.

## Reverse Death Trend, State Bishops Urge

Citing "the amoral trend in our society evidenced by the passage of the abortion law in New York State," the bishops of the state have said "it is important that all concerned citizens aim to reverse this life-destroying trend."

The statements are included in a 16-page booklet, "Guidelines for Action about the New York Abortion Law," published by the State Catholic Committee, representing the state's bishops. The booklet aims at producing "an informed conscience" and at offering some practical guidelines for those confronted with an abortion situation.

Under the law, passed in 1970, a woman can obtain a legal abortion as long as she is not beyond the 24th week of her pregnancy and a physician has been consulted and agrees with her decision.

In putting this law into effect, the State Health Depart-

ment declared that no doctor, nurse, or other hospital employee or practitioner may be required to participate in an abortion nor may any person be penalized in his position or his career because he or she declines in conscience to participate, either closely or remotely.

The booklet declares: "The law of God and the law of our Church remain unchanged. To take human life is gravely wrong. This taking of human life is particularly heinous because that life is innocent and defenseless."

It continues: "The Code of Canon Law states that all those who knowingly and wilfully become directly involved in an abortion, including the mother, are excommunicated."

"In some situations, however," the booklet continues, "the employment of certain

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