



May Be Rabbi

Sally Priesand, 24, of Cleveland, Ohio, takes a Torah from the Ark in the Temple Beth Israel in Jackson, Mich., where she is "filling in" while the congregation searches for a permanent rabbi. Miss Priesand hopes to become the first woman rabbi in history, breaking a 4,000-year-old Jewish tradition.



Lutheran Pastor

Elizabeth A. Platz, 30, is ordained the first woman Lutheran minister in the U.S. in a service at the University of Maryland chapel in College Park, Md. Miss Platz is assistant chaplain at the university. (RNS)

U.S.-Sponsored Abortions Lashed by Churchmen

Boston — (RNS) — A group of 18 Catholics, Protestants and Jews have called upon President Richard M. Nixon to curtail "government sponsored and government-paid abortions."

A Value of Life Committee, composed of prominent Roman Catholic physicians and members of legal and academic professions, invited other signatories to its letter to Mr. Nixon.

In addition to the committee members, signatories included Dr. James M. Gustafson, United Church of Christ clergyman and professor of ethics at Yale Divinity School; Dr. J. Robert Nelson, United Methodist clergyman and professor of theology at Boston University; Dr. Walter G. Muelder, United Methodist clergyman and dean of the Boston University School of Theology and Dr. George H. Williams, United Church of Christ clergyman and professor of church history at Harvard University.

Also, Dr. Paul Ramsey, United Methodist theologian and professor at Princeton University, and two scientists, Dr. Arthur J. Dyck, professor of population ethics at Harvard and Dr. Robert E. Gross of the Harvard Medical School.

The group stressed the "evil" of any legalization of "abortion on demand" that allows one person to make an "enforceable judgment about the right of another to continued life."

"Mr. President," the letter stated, "It will cause us anguish if further moral polarization of this nation alienates us from our government. We submit that the proper fulfillment of a vow to uphold the Constitution's most basic premise should cause an immediate halt in

government-sponsored and government-paid abortions in federal installations on the grounds of due process and of the embryonic person's right to life and liberty."

To remove an unborn human being at any stage from the mother's life sustaining womb because it is merely "unwanted" is "incompatible with the legal tradition of equal protection and due process fundamental to American constitutional law," the letter stated.

The committee took issue with a Defense Department directive describing abortion as "termination of pregnancy" and allowing abortion in military hospitals in several states where it is prohibited by local statutes.

Signatories also took issue with a report by the presidential task force on the mentally handicapped (Sept., 1970) which calls for "voluntary sterilization and abortions."

They rejected as "sociologically unsound" the commission's statement that "today's unwanted children are likely to be tomorrow's alienated, violent, mentally disabled or criminal."

PATRIARCH DIES

Jerusalem — (RNS) — Archbishop Alberto Gori, OFM, 81, Latin Rite Patriarch of Jerusalem, died here Nov. 25, following a heart attack. The sixth Latin Rite Patriarch since the patriarchate's renewal in 1847 — all have been Italians — Archbishop Gori will be succeeded by Patriarch-designate Archbishop Giacomo Beltritti, appointed coadjutor with right of succession in 1965.

BACK TO ROME

Fatima, Portugal. — (NC) — Msgr. Antonio Antunes Borges, rector of the Fatima shrine here for 11 years, will return to Rome to resume his former post of rector of the Portuguese college of St. Anthony. Msgr. Borges will also be ecclesiastical adviser to the Portuguese embassy to the Vatican.

Married Priesthood Foreseen

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Cardinal John Dearden of Detroit, President of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, said he foresees the day when married men will be ordained to the priesthood.

The prelate, who is president also of the U.S. Catholic Conference, made the comment during a press conference concluding the NCCB-USCC semi-annual meeting here. He ruled out the possibility that priests who marry after ordination might return to a Church-authorized ministry.



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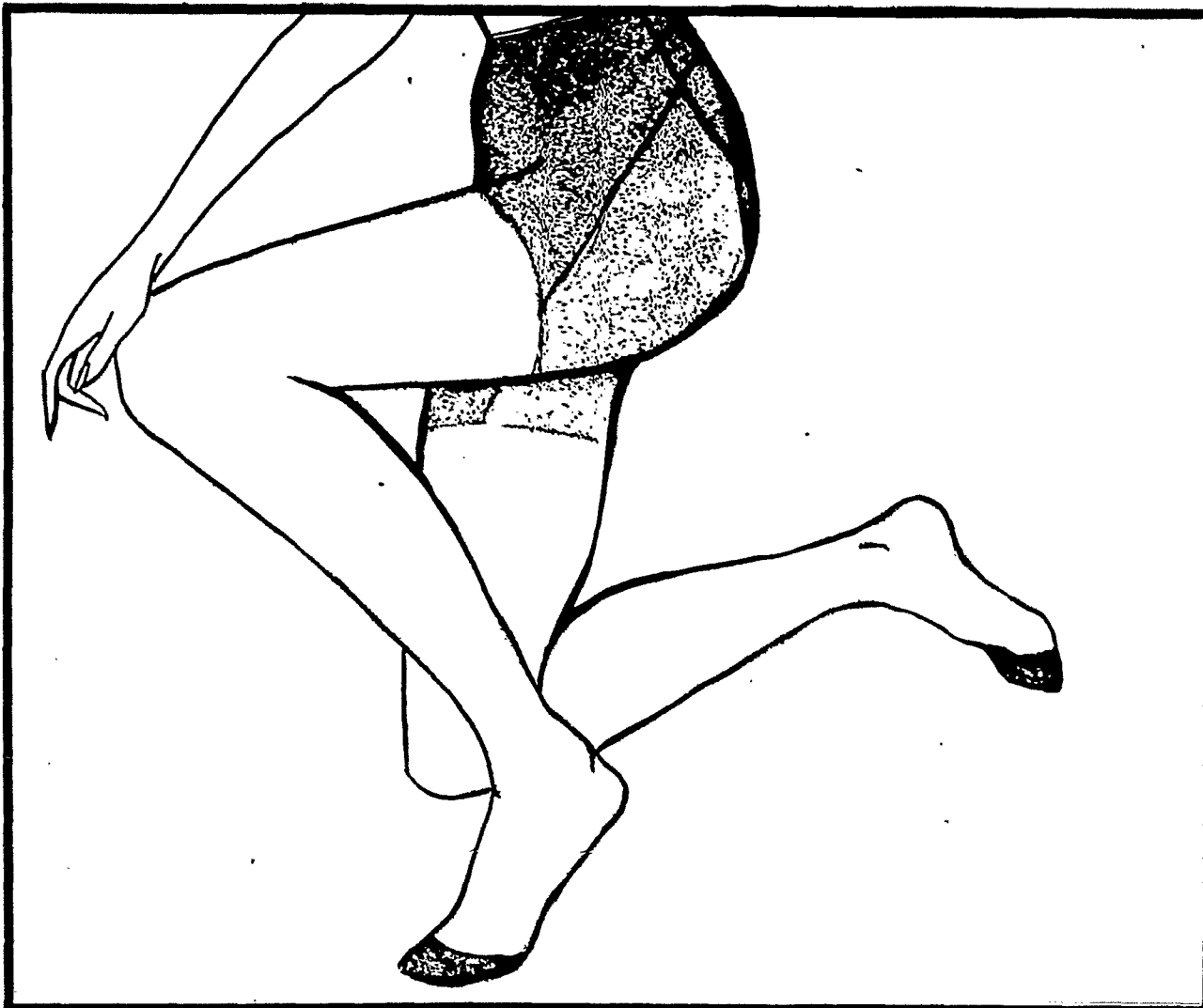


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