

THAT GALLUP POLL

Most Catholics Favor Woman-Doctor Abortion Decision

Princeton, N.J. (RNS)—Fifty-six per cent of the nation's Roman Catholics, according to the latest Gallup Poll on abortion, now believe that the decision to terminate pregnancy should be made "solely by a woman and her physician."

In addition, the poll found, 68 per cent of Catholics approve making birth control information and services available to teenagers.

The survey, conducted in June and released here Aug. 25, showed that 64 per cent of all Americans hold that abortions should be determined by the woman and her doctor. And 73 per cent favor the availability of professional birth control services to "unmarried sexually-active teenagers."

Deacon Gonyo At Institute In Ogdensburg

Deacon Roland Gonyo of St. Bernard's Seminary was among 60 participants at the Wadhams Hall Pastoral Institute, held recently in Ogdensburg.

The institute dealt with questions of pastoral counseling.

Deacon Gonyo worked with Presbyterian, Catholic and Methodist ministers at the conference.

Bishop Hogan's Letter On Year of Renewal

(Continued from Page 1)

The challenge which I offer you this day reflects the message and spirit of Vatican II Council which asked the Church to re-examine herself and her mission so that, renewed, she might become the Light of Nations and the joy and hope of mankind.

We begin, then, with our own personal renewal which involves a change of heart—of attitudes. Our Blessed Lord issued such a challenge as He began His public life: "The reign of God is at hand. Reform your lives!" (Mark 1: 15). We can all improve in a consciousness of the responsibility of our Christian vocation. If the living out of our faith has been reduced to routine motions, to lip-service to God's truth, to a comfortable Christianity that has served as a security blanket, then we desperately need a change of heart.

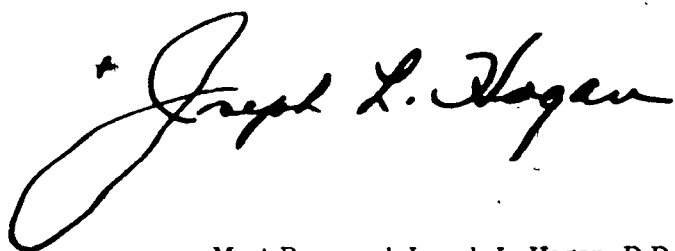
Our self-examination must include, too, structure, and institution, and leadership within the Church. We have searching questions to ask ourselves: Are we serving as a witnessing Church—as credible signs of Christ's kingdom come among men—as an institution promoting the values of human dignity, of freedom, of justice and peace? Do we reflect a community that offers loving service? Are we preoccupied with a mission to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to visit the imprisoned, to wipe away tears from men's eyes, and to preach the Gospel to the poor?

Let us, together, then set out this day on a restless pilgrimage as prayerful people filled with hope. For to be in the Church means for all of us to believe not only in what the Church is, but in what it ought to be and can be.

The beautiful documents and refined structures and well-organized programs which will be presented to you for your acceptance will not of themselves produce renewal. But the Holy Spirit of God joined to our united spirit and our combined energies and talents can accomplish my fondest hope—a new Pentecost for the Church of Rochester.

May God bless you!

Devotedly yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

Comparable statistics for Protestants on these two points are 65 per cent favoring the woman-doctor decision for abortion and 72 per cent for dissemination of birth control assistance.

Percentages of non-Christians were not included because their representation in the poll sample was not large enough, poll officials said.

When asked to explain whether the Catholic percentage on approval of the woman-doctor decision for abortion meant that the same number actually approved abortion per se or simply the means of deciding, a Gallup Poll spokesman told Religious News Service that the survey did not make that precise determination.

Answers by the poll sample of 1,574 persons, 18 and over, in some 300 localities, were recorded only on the question: "Do you agree or disagree with the statement . . . (that) the decision to have an abortion should be made solely by a woman and her physician." This statement is regarded as the key element in the liberalized abortion laws, the Gallup spokesman said.

In a release by the Gallup Organization, it was stated that majority Catholic agreement with the abortion statement is "contrary to the traditional stand of the Roman Catholic Church."

But when queried, the Gallup spokesman could not state categorically that the majority of U.S. Catholics actually favor the act of abortion itself.

CALLED 'SIMPLISTIC' 'Raises More Questions Than It Settles' - Msgr. McHugh

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A leading Roman Catholic spokesman on family life said here that the recent Gallup Poll on abortion and birth control "raises more questions than it settles," leaving unclear Catholics' views on abortion-on-demand, the right to life and other issues.

Msgr. James T. McHugh said that the pollsters' approach was weak, "ambiguous and simplistic" because it confused legal and medical situations and did not present the fetus "as a living person in the earliest stage of human development."

"Abortion is a serious matter," observed the director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Family Life Division. "And the narrow framework of a public opinion poll does little to clarify the issues of leading the public to a better understanding of the many aspects—legal, medical, social and religious—of the abortion decision."

Observing that the Gallup pollsters placed the abortion decision in the "narrow perspective of a woman's health," Msgr. McHugh said that "since abortion is a medical procedure it seems logical most people would expect a woman to discuss her intentions with her physician."

But he added: "Had the Gallup Poll question asked if people were in favor of abortion-on-demand, there is every reason to expect that the same people would have responded differently."

The priest said the poll fails to address itself to the more relevant questions of an unborn child's right to life or whether a woman and her doctor should be free to abort a fetus after the 20th week when the child is viable.

Stating that "the vast majority of people—including Catholics—do not have a clear understanding of conception, pregnancy and birth," the USCC official observed:

St. Jude's Festival

St. Jude's Parish, the four-year-old community on Lyell Ave. will hold its annual festival Sept. 15-17, rain or shine.

Featured at the festival will be the dinners each night from 5-8 p.m. Roast beef will be served Friday, spaghetti on Saturday and lasagna on Sunday.

A "moon walk" will hold center stage for the children, and an auction at 1 p.m. Sunday for the adults.

Problem Pregnancy?
For free confidential help call Birthright: 716-328-8700.
Office Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., weekdays; 24 Hour record-a-phone to receive messages.

"Thus when presented with a simplistic question, they do not immediately think of the child as a living person . . . And, as evidenced by the latest medical data, the public and the medical profession are not aware of the serious threats to a woman's health . . . posed by the commonly used saline procedure."

Msgr. McHugh also challenged the poll's question on birth control services. He said that the results might have been different if the pollsters had confronted people with the proposition, "contraceptives should be given at public expense to teenagers who want them without consulting their parents."



HER COFFIN: THE GARBAGE CAN

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

HOW MANY MORE?

The Sister was moving among the slums of a city in India. Unbelievably, she heard sobbing coming from a trash barrel. Brushing aside the filth and debris, she looked. Beneath the filth and debris was an old lady crying from tearless eyes as her life slowly ebbed away. Tenderly the Sister lifted her, placed her on her shoulders and took her to the Hospice for the Dying. Before she died, the old lady told the Sister, "I'm not crying because I was in the garbage. I'm crying because my son put me there. He had to. There was not enough food for the family." . . . Tragically, this scene will be replayed many more times. But you can help to lessen it. Will you? Here is how . . .

WILL YOU HELP?

In the hands of our native Sisters your gift in any amount (\$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5, \$2, \$1) will fill empty stomachs with rice, fish, milk, vegetables.

Our priests can start a model farm for their parishioners and teach them how to increase their crop production for only \$975. We will tell you where it is located.

\$15 a month will enable an aged person to spend his or her declining years with simple dignity cared for by our Sisters.

A REMINDER

November is the month of the Holy Souls. Why not send us your Mass requests right now? Simply list the Intentions, and then you can rest assured the Masses will be offered by priests in India, the Holy Land and Ethiopia, who receive no other income.

SOME DON'T

Have you made your Will? Did you remember God's poor and needy? They can pray for you after you have gone. Our legal title: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION. Masses offered for the repose of your soul provide our native Priests with their only income.

Dear Monsignor Nolan:

ENCLOSED PLEASE-FIND \$ _____ CH

FOR _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Please return coupon with your offering.

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