

Legislative Challenge On Abortion

Last week this newspaper opened a series of editorials challenging our legislators to come up with positive proposals to aid women with problem pregnancies.

We, of course, maintain our steadfast opposition to the liberalized abortion law and will continue to push for its eradication from our state books. Such an eventuality, it must be admitted, was set back by the recent decision by the Supreme Court.

Regardless of these recent developments, legislation has been and is needed in the area of helping those women forced by circumstances into considering abortion as an alternative, even though they do not want to make that choice.

Last week we suggested that legislation may be possible that would grant aid to families who adopt a child with a medical or mental defect. Such a bill was passed by the Minnesota legislature in 1969.

We pointed out that despite a lot of talk about "unwanted" children, most children are indeed wanted, if not by their natural parents by those on waiting lists to adopt.

There are families who would adopt mentally or physically impaired children if they could afford to do so. We feel that if prospective mothers realized that homes await such possibly deformed children, they would be less likely to submit to abortion.

This week we would like to suggest that such aid be extended to the natural parents of such children.

We also ask that a bill be proposed to:

- Provide mandatory rubella testing and vaccination. If done effectively this would eliminate the problem of births which may be adversely affected by mothers with rubella.

True, studies show, according to Dr. and Mrs. J.C. Willke in their "Abortion Handbook," that only 16.9 per cent of babies born to rubella-infected mothers are born with defects.

Nevertheless fear of having a deformed baby because of rubella is a weighty consideration for pregnant women and may lead them to the abortion clinic.

Eradication of rubella as a factor will reduce the reasons why abortion looms as a reasonable choice to women with problem pregnancies.

Don't Press POW's

Freedom of the press has always been one of the hallmarks of the unique greatness of the United States. One of the most precious rights in our Constitution, this principle generally is zealously guarded by both friend and foe of the press.

Thus it smacks of danger when the government begins to get involved in what has overtaken of a vindictive battle with the public press. Forcing reporters to reveal their sources of information makes them, as Earl Caldwell of the New York Times pointed out, "undercover agents" of the government. This, of course, is the antithesis of what a free press must be.

Still there are times when the press must practice self-restraint. One of these times perhaps is in regard to the release of our prisoners of war. We feel that these men should be given every opportunity to relax, wind down in private, get accustomed to life again before facing the inevitable barrage of questions. We hope the government also affords them that courtesy.

In the face of the almost insatiable curiosity of the American people, this won't be easy for the media. But a short wait would be humane.

LETTERS

Letters to the editor should be addressed to the editor, Courier-Journal, Richford Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. They should be no longer than 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced. Names and addresses should be included. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.

Trappist Work Commended

Editor:

I was impressed by Laurence Keefe's coverage of the Trappist vigil for peace in Piffard (1/24-73). It prompted me to add my own "coverage".

I wasn't there for this particular function they had, but I have had the good fortune of spending some days with them in the past. Through it I came to know something of monasticism in general and a monk (Bro. Anthony) in particular.

The entire experience of visiting the abbey and of continuing a correspondence with Anthony has convinced me of the importance of the Trappist attitude and spirit.

For everything at Genesee has a bearing on life "out here". The writings of Thomas Merton (Getsemani Abbey) and the personal contact at Genesee Abbey bears witness to this. Your own coverage of these men and their message bears further witness.

Hopefully people will realize the searching that both monk and non-monk share. From it, perhaps will arise a more down-to-earth attitude concerning these men. May we let them search with us, as they let us search with them. It's good to have them in this diocese. Every diocese should have them. Maranatha!

Patrick Connor,
41 West Main St.
Canisteo, N.Y.

Catholic Press Alive, Well

Editor:

Congratulations on your recent awards from the New York Press Association. These citations to the Courier-Journal clearly indicate that both Catholic thought and Catholic journalism are alive and well, and can in fact be a lively and beneficial influence in American society.

Carmen Viglucci's editing is informed, fair and readable. Bishop Hogan, in his lucid and yes, loving, weekly column demonstrates the great concern he has for his flock, especially the neglected and lost sheep. Laurence Keefe is to be complimented not only for his technical photographic skill but also for the subtle and sympathetic manner in which he approaches his subjects.

Though no longer living in Rochester I look forward to receiving the C-J each week. God bless your entire staff!

Larry Coleman
Mashpee, Mass.



"WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT BUGS ME? IT'S YOUR LACK OF HANGUPS... YOU NEVER HANG UP YOUR JACKET, YOU NEVER HANG UP YOUR SWEATER, YOU NEVER..."

A 'Gala' For Many

Editor:

And a "gala" it was! The "Evening with Mary" at Holy Rosary Church on Jan. 31 in her honor and that of St. Louis de Montfort was a real success.

Despite bitter cold, more than 350 devotees of Our Blessed Mother gathered to do her honor and to memorialize St. Louis de Montfort.

The church's charm was enhanced by beautiful flowers, candlelight and inspiring organ music. The pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima, complete with crown and bridal veil, was a beautiful sight.

The message of Father Charost was simple, direct and workable as was that of Louis de Montfort centuries ago. The "To Jesus through Mary" message was artfully presented by a banner suspended from the pulpit.

Father Shamon, spiritual director of the Blue Army chapter, had requested through Our Blessed Mother a "full house." His request was realized.

The hope now is for a follow-through by many of those professed followers of Mary through attendance at Blue Army devotions at Holy Rosary Church as follows:

Thursday (except preceding First Friday) holy hour: 7-8 p.m.

First Friday, 9 p.m. to 6 a.m., all-night vigil.

Kay Sullivan
Blue Army
1 Lilac Drive
Rochester, N.Y.

An Enriched Marriage

Editor:

We were delighted when we read Bishop Hogan's warm endorsement of Marriage Encounter in the Courier-Journal, Jan. 31. We firmly believe, as he does, that the strength of the Church depends on the vitality of Christian families.

We made our marriage encounter in October and our lives have been changed. We have grown spiritually by realizing the full impact of the sacrament we received 14 years ago. We have grown closer to each other and to our children through the daily use of communication techniques that we learned on our encounter weekend. We have been enriched by the fellowship of the encountered couples and priests. We have committed ourselves to a major role in spreading this movement for renewal to others.

Marriage encounter is not a one-time event for us. It is a way of life which offers all couples the opportunity to experience real renewal every day. We renew ourselves and our sacrament so that we can participate more fully in the renewal of the Church.

We believe the strength of Christian marriage will be the solid bedrock upon which the revitalized Church of the next several generations will be built.

Dan and Martha Reagan
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Rochester

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COURIER-JOURNAL

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Wednesday, February 14, 1973

COURIER-JOURNAL

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Welcomes Readers' Comments

If you feel moved to communicate your thoughts with the rest of diocese. Use our LETTERS TO THE EDITOR space.

Some rules:

Typed double-spaced
Keep letters to 1 1/2 page maximum
Include name and address
Remember good taste embellishes every thought.

Send to: Courier-Journal
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