

Editorial

A Wish for Shalom .

Israel, a nation historically used to adversity, must be on guard for more even as it celebrates the 25th anniversary of its independence next month.

With pilgrims from all over the world journeying to that Mideast country the situation will be rife for terrorism on the part of the enemies of this tiny land.

In a recent editorial, L'Osservatore Romano called the current situation in the Middle East where terrorism has begotten terrorism a "tragic chain."

The paper urged Arabs and Israelis to take concrete steps to break "the chain of attacks and reprisals."

Referring to the April 9 attack on Israeli property in Nicosia, Cyprus, and the Israeli commando raid in Beirut, Lebanon, on April 10, the editorial warned:

"Nicosia and Beirut are two new links in that tragic chain of terror which begins from far away and threatens to go still farther, unless moral wisdom and political reasoning produce the courage needed to break it."

The world stands by helplessly as the vicious cycle of terror continues at an accelerated pace. Because the upcoming Israeli celebrations obviously present a stage for even more acts of international brutality, they also represent an ideal time for the chain to be broken. If this anniversary can come and go without bloodshed it will be a sign to both sides and the world that the terrorism which serves no nation has been avoided.

Then when most of the world wishes the birthday nation "Shalom" it will have deeper and truer and more joyful significance.

Hope It's Contagious

Score one for Billy Graham. Not for his temperate remark concerning castration for rapists but because of his courage in admitting his mistake.

At a news conference when he was crusading in South Africa, Mr. Graham said he felt that rapists should be castrated. The conference occurred just after a 12-year-old girl had been raped by seven men, and a psychiatrist said that she would probably suffer life-long personality damage.

Following publication of the remark, criticism was heaped on Mr. Graham from all corners of the world, mostly pointing that it was hardly the place for a man of religion to be setting punishments for crimes.

Mr. Graham has now told newsmen that he "deserved" the criticism and that the furor which his remark raised was "merited." According to Religious News Service, the evangelist said, "Listen, I don't mind getting criticized when I deserve it, and this was one of those times. It was one of those times I stuck my foot in my mouth."

Graham also didn't duck behind that shibboleth so often used by those who pop off in public that he was "misquoted."

I was quoted correctly, he said, "it was just that I was wrong."

This paper, for one, appreciates such honesty and hopes that it starts spreading.

Easter All Year

Easter Sunday 1973 has come and gone. But while Easter week is still with us it would be worthwhile to remember that this is not a one-day, or even a one-week celebration.

As Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has said, we are "Easter people." Such a race must live the joy of the meaning of the Resurrection throughout the year.

Opinion

AIM Leaders Criticized

Editor:

One of the misconceptions concerning the takeover of Wounded Knee, S.D., is that the Indians there speak for all or most of the 800,000 American Indians.

Yet, according to Human Events, a weekly newspaper out of Washington, D.C., and the Detroit News, "The leaders of the American Indian Movement (AIM) almost to a man, had lengthy histories of convictions for such crimes as burglary, strong-armed robberies and assaults long before they organized this militant organization."

These same news sources also stated that these radical Indians were given \$40,000 in September of 1971 by the Catholic-sponsored, Campaign for Human Development.

Jane O'Mara in her letter to the editor (4-4-73) indicated her desire to help the American Indian. I think most Americans feel the same way only I don't think we will help the plight of the American Indian by funding the less than 500 Indians that comprise AIM.

Robert Bart
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Who Pays For Survey?

Editor:

Considering the space and, I would guess from the number of papers it appears in, its cost, somebody must consider this survey analysis important. Oh, by the way, who is paying for all of this?

If this survey is important, may I ask two questions? First, why don't "you" give the actual results of the survey? The numbers of people who answered each question and their answers would be interesting. Many of the interpretive comments leave a very confused picture of what the real results were.

Second, if this is important why does the Bishop choose to ignore the results. On Page 7 of the April Courier-Journal the following is quoted:

"Turning to the survey undertaken by the diocese as part of the Time of Renewal, Bishop Hogan said that it revealed many Catholics thought the role of the laity should be limited to finances. This is bosh," he said."

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

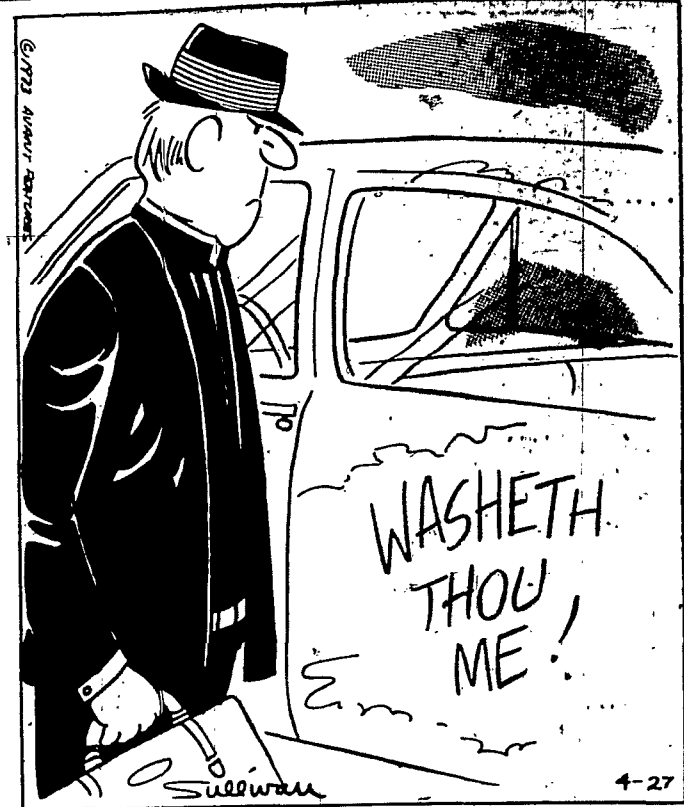
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The Bishop has then summarily dismissed the opinions expressed in the survey I am sure those opinions which follow the current "line" will be quoted ad nauseam. I can hardly wait for the next ivory tower column on the Year of Renewal-including many references to the importance of the laity and their opinions. I recall a sign I once saw — "You're entitled to your opinions as long as they agree with mine."

Donald C. Ninestine
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Poem Assails Abortion

Editor:

Abortion

Wee One in thy Mother's womb,
May man spare thee
from impending doom,
Thou were God's own baby,
from the start,
Who has the right to murder
thee, "Dear Heart"?

Those who condone
the abortion bill,
Kneel-Pray-Thank God for
giving you each day,
Then, Remember His
commandment-
"Thou Shalt Not Kill!"

Barbara Birchenough
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Right to Life Constitutional

Editor:

The intentional destruction of innocent human beings, even in the first nine months, is against the law of God and nature. Those of us who perceive this proposition as truth have a strong responsibility to work for its promulgation.

The fact that some doctors and women continue to engage in such senseless killings, whether under the guise of law or in the back alleys, does not make it right, nor it does it diminish our social responsibility to do all in our power to prevent such wanton destruction of life.

Our sincere concern for the unborn children does not lessen our compassion for the sometimes anguished mother, but, rather, heightens it. However, the individual solution of the mother to her specific problem should be and can be consistent with the well being of her unborn as well as her born children. The necessity of requiring a woman to bear her responsibilities to her conceived but unborn children is no less than her responsibilities to her born children.

It is only when the mother refuses or fails to assume her primary responsibility of her infant's protection that society

not only has a right but an obligation to the infant to step in for its protection.

The principal that no one has the right to take an innocent life forms the basis of our pro-life movement dedicated to a United States Constitutional Amendment for the protection of the unborn. The antithesis of this proposition is seen today not only in the destruction and experimentation upon "living" fetus, but also in the assault upon the very being of the defective, the aged, and the suicidal, whose lives may very soon also be declared "meaningless" by society, and, thereby, terminable by members of that society.

William P. Polito
Chairman
Rochester Area Right to Life Committee

Abortion Topic Well Covered

Editor:

As one who has long been interested in the pro-life cause may I compliment the Courier-Journal for its balanced and reasonable coverage of the situation.

Without resorting to the "sensational" pictures of mistreated embryos of vitriolic accusations the Courier has week after week pointed out not only the fallacious reasoning behind abortion-on-demand but also has called for alternatives to abortion for those women with problem pregnancies.

In the edition of April 18, for example, the Courier carried a story "Will Live Fetuses Be Used in Experiments?" which served to alert readers that live fetuses were being considered for medical experiments.

On the same page, a hearing in Albany considering legal alternatives to abortion was reported. I know that such a campaign has been waged by the Courier — before it became such an important issue in Albany.

Thanks to our diocesan paper for having the time and space and expertise to keep us informed on such an issue even while keeping with diocesan events.

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