

**Editorial**

# 'A Crying Need For Housing'

June 23 may have some special significance for those of us not directly hurt by Hurricane Agnes and the floodwaters it spewed last year. It is some sort of abstract milestone reminding us of what happened then.

But those still trying to regain some semblance of normalcy in the flood's year-old wake need no reminder. To them, June 23 was just another 24 hours to be utilized in the seemingly unending battle for recovery.

There is not much reason to look back and, for many, not much joy in looking forward. The importance rests in now.

What is needed most from the rest of us? In human sense, probably skilled volunteers, such as carpenters, electricians, painters; in a practical sense, affordable housing of all kinds — apartments, condominiums, private dwellings, supplied either by governmental agencies or by private contractors.

Those hundreds of volunteers who swooped down last year like so many angels of mercy have served their purpose. And no one will ever forget them, for they provided more than muscle power. Their exuberance was needed to shatter the dread of the immediate aftermath of the tragedy.

But a new kind of volunteer is needed now — one not only skilled with saw and hammer and wire and brush but one who is sensitive to the emotional and psychological stress built up in the victims by a year of frustration. They must purvey the feeling that the job will be done, and it will be done calmly and efficiently.

Father Peter Bayer of the Human Development Office in Corning points out that although some 1,200 people in his area have been returned to homes there remain 700 in mobile housing. There is "a crying need for housing," is how he describes the situation.

Over in Elmira, Frank Patterson says that 115 homes have received assistance of some kind — furnaces, hot water heaters, walls, floors, etc. He says it is difficult to enumerate how many are still homeless but uses two examples to interpret the situation. A family of four children and two parents has been living in a two-bedroom trailer. And another mobile dwelling has housed a family of nine for a year.

Patterson also needs skilled craftsmen, particularly painters. He also could use volunteers for menial jobs, debris still to be cleared, for instance. But such volunteers should be well-supervised.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to those who have been working on the spot for so long. They, in turn, take time to express their thanks to others.

Obviously so many individuals and organizations and churches have helped that it would be fruitless to try to list them. But those on the scene mention these among others:

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan who "has done a great job," as Patterson puts it.

Corning Glass Foundation, not only for providing funds but for assuring their effective use through self-help programs rather than as mere handouts.

The Mennonites, who Father Bayer says, "gave up so much of their autonomy to help the Human Development Office."

BOCES, Elmira Aid, MICA, the Rotary in Elmira, all kinds of individual churches.

Concisely, much has been done. There is a long way to go. Financial aid may be sufficient, industry generally is back on the track. But human needs, particularly in housing rehabilitation, are still unfulfilled.

The Catholic Charities office in Elmira can be reached at 607-734-5126, the Human Development Office in Corning at 607-936-3213.

You may have the particular skills needed. You certainly have the needed prayers.

# Opinion

## Pro-Lifer Hits Paper

Editor:

The Courier-Journal would do well to provide its readers with full text of Sen. James Buckley's speech proposing an amendment to the Constitution for the protection of unborn children and other persons. This speech appears in Vol. II No. 82, of the Congressional Record, May 31, 1973. Only by allowing your readers the opportunity to read Mr. Buckley's statements for ourselves: to digest his ideas, and to form our intelligent conclusions will you have performed a service to your readers, to Sen. Buckley, and to those actively involved in the pro-life movement.

I am thoroughly disgusted with the headline of June 6, and the editorial of June 13, both regarding the possibility of a "rift" among the pro-life forces. Rather than presenting in totality Sen. Buckley's proposal and allotting time for readers to judge the merits of his carefully thought out proposal, the Courier chooses to jump right in to what could be an apparently divisive issue. For two weeks emphasis has been placed on remarks made by one Mr. Callaghan (of whom the great majority of your readers are totally unaware); remarks which certainly are nowhere near as important as the words of Rep. Hogan and Sen. Buckley. Who is Mr. Callaghan? For whom is he speaking? Why is the Courier determined to grant so much publicity to those who would seek to promote divisiveness and disunity?

The Courier speaks of the possibility of "jealousy" among supporters of the Hogan and Buckley amendments; let me quote directly from Sen. Buckley's speech:

A number of constitutional amendments have already been introduced into the House of Representatives designed to restore protection to the unborn. One of these, the amendment introduced by Congressman Lawrence Hogan, has already drawn widespread national attention. I urge the Committee on the Judiciary to schedule early hearings on my proposed amendment, as well as the Hogan and other amendments which seek to restore the full protection of the law for human life at every stage of development from the time a distinct biologically identifiable human being first comes into existence."

Finally, I should like to point out that the outcome of the National Right to Life Convention was one of unity and support for both Mr. Hogan's and Mr.

### COURIER-JOURNAL

**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan**  
President

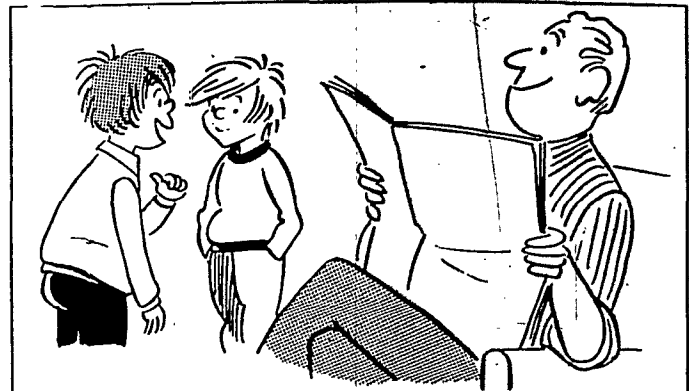
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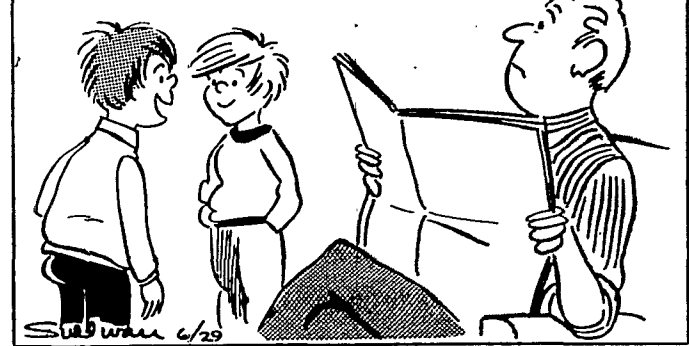
**Rev. Louis J. Hohman**  
Episcopal Advisor

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"LET'S PRETEND I'M A PRIEST GETTIN' INVOLVED IN ALL KINDS OF NEAT THINGS"



"...AN' YOU COME TO VISIT ME IN JAIL ..."

Buckley's proposals. This unity resulted in spite of those who seem to thrive upon dissension.

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**Editor's Note:** The headlines Miss Callahan finds fault with are "Rift Foreseen in Pro-Life Fight" a front page news compilation on June 6 and "Abortion Amendment... No Time for Rift" an editorial on June 13. Mr. Callaghan is Richard Callaghan who is director of the office in Washington established to support Rep. Lawrence Hogan's amendment introduced in the House of Representatives. The Courier has printed the texts of both Rep. Hogan's and Sen. James Buckley's amendments. The length of the text of Sen. Buckley's speech in the Senate precludes its printing here. However, copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Those interested also may check with their public library. Far from "promoting dissension" the Courier-Journal hoped publicly in its editorial on June 13 that there would be no damage to the pro-life movement and also urged all pro-lifers to let their federal legislators know they favor amending the Constitution to protect the right to life of the unborn.

## Women Must Aid Each Other

Editor:

I was quite surprised at your editorial regarding the Philadelphia Girl Scout Organization (May 30). You expressed indignation at the audaciousness of the organization requiring its members to visit an abortion clinic as part of a study program and also providing educational programs to familiarize young women with contraceptive methods and menstruation.

Much mental, physical and spiritual pain could be avoided if indeed our parents did take this responsibility seriously. But they do not and statistics can bear me out. The Church and society also have a responsibility to its women. It is just beginning to accept them as full, responsible human beings but it has a long way to go and only the women can decide just which way that will be.

We women must support and educate each other. We see our sisters oppressed and rejected. We see them young and unmarried and pregnant or tired and old before their time because of a large family and small income or no income at all. But there is no

way out for them because the Church has laws and guilt and rejection follows the breaking of these laws. The laws were made by men and the women suffer under them. The men of the Church are not about to change these laws and contradict themselves by saying they were wrong all these years — pride follows the lawmaker. So it is now and always has been the responsibility of the woman to care for her sister, to educate her, to comfort her and to love her; even at the cost of her own rejection.

This does not imply that we will give license to vice. Spiritual counseling is a great part of helping a sister up when she has fallen. So far, only the Church has thrown the first stone, knocked her down and stepped over her to go on to bigger and better things. Would Christ have done that to Mary Magdalene? Instead He kept her by His side, taught her and made her an apostle in the true sense of the word.

But why must we wait until the women has "fallen" (strange that we never hear of a "fallen man" when he is just as responsible). We must and we will educate our young women now. This is "honesty, integrity and honor."

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## Parish Makes Special Plans

Editor:

The Parish Council, clergy, religious and parishioners of St. Peter and Paul's parish would like to invite all former parishioners and friends to attend a special reunion Mass on Sunday, July 1, the feast of St. Peter and Paul, at 10 a.m. A social hour will follow.

In this year of renewal, why not renew ourselves by returning to the roots of our faith, where we began as young men and women. You will be able to renew friendships with your former neighbors. This can be an inspiration for a new beginning in our lives in the Church.

**Luke Perrone, President**  
St. Peter & Paul Parish Council

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.