

Editorial

The Opportunity To Help Others

For the first time special diocesan celebrations of Respect Life and Human Development will be combined this year into one program. Human Development Sunday is Nov. 11, Respect Life Sunday Nov. 18, on which day the Human Development collection will be taken.

The Respect Life theme will be carried on throughout the year with a special diocesan-wide liturgical celebration for the Christ Mass during Holy Week. Individual parishes will plan their own programs.

Father Robert Collins, diocesan Family Life Office director, said the two apostolates were combined because "they are one and the same thing. Respect Life is the attitude and Human Development the action."

The Human Development collection is obviously an important one. Funds raised are distributed to people who are trying to help themselves through such projects as neighborhood or rural area day care centers, meals-on-wheels programs for the elderly or infirm, help for Spanish-speaking citizens community centers, etc. Some of the Human Development programs are described in this week's centerfold, which also includes a financial statement, an open accounting which the Human Development Office, to its credit, has always done.

So the money is needed. It is spent well. The assistance it provides is a step toward bettering the lot of all of us.

But there is more. The spirit generated by the whole Human Development programs outweighs even the material help. It has always been a necessity, and in this troubled world perhaps even more so, for the Christian community to show the world that we do indeed care. That we are not only ready to share our goods with others, but that we also are willing to share in their lives.

Being a part of a program that may turn a neighborhood's cynicism into positive action, that may replace despair with hope, that may rechannel anger into constructive work will prove uplifting to the giver as well as the receiver.

Look over the centerfold, contemplate the unusual service being rendered by the diocese through its dedicated Human Development workers, remember that this is one of the faces that our Church shows to the world. Think about it.

Then on Nov. 18 don't miss your chance to be part of it.

Time to Pray

Of all the proposed solutions for ending the Washington problem we find one advanced by some charismatics the most intriguing.

Several prayer communities in the Washington-Baltimore area have called for a national day of fasting and prayer for the spiritual and political welfare of the nation. Although their chosen date, Nov. 15, may be too early for effective nationwide planning, their basic concept is worth copying. If the critical nature of the situation negates effective national organization, then it behooves each and every American to pray privately for the nation.

Prayer never has hurt anyone and in this case it may be the most proper and effective recourse available.

A Unifier

In a recent critical editorial discussing the Danish movie *The Loves of Jesus Christ* we alluded to William Shakespeare's oft-used quote about something rotten in Denmark.

Now we find it a pleasant duty to make a retraction. A national poll in Denmark disclosed that two thirds of the Danes also feel that the movie should be prohibited. Wonderful!

In addition to the Danish people, the movie has been castigated by Pope Paul and Catholic, Protestant and Muslim groups throughout the world.

At times the reaction to dastardly situations can prove to be unifying.

Opinion

Buckley View Espoused

Editor:

Since I assume that relatively few Courier-Journal readers subscribe to the National Right to Life Newsletter, I refer to a report from this newsletter regarding a Senate debate between Sens. Edward Kennedy and James Buckley concerning the prohibition of research on aborted fetuses. Sen. Buckley presented the following amendment to the Human Subjects Act:

"The Secretary may not conduct or support research or experimentation in the U.S. or abroad on a living human fetus or infant; whether before or after induced abortion, unless such research or experimentation is done for the purpose of insuring the survival of the fetus or infant." (Sec. 1205)

Sen. Buckley charged that:

"It is the children who are aborted in the elective abortion situation who constitute the largest class of human guinea pigs now given over to the practitioners of the black arts of a perverted science. Condemned to death by their mothers, removed by physicians from their life-support systems, such children are now being subjected to the inhuman indignity of becoming grist for the experimenter's mill."

Sen. Buckley, who has already led the movement in the Senate for the passage of a Human Life Amendment and has spoken out eloquently in defense of the helpless unborn, the retarded, and the aged, raised here the issue of "how we choose to treat those who are about to die."

Sen. Kennedy, whose voice has been noticeably lacking in defense of the unborn and who has stated his approval of the Supreme Court abortion decision, raised the question of informed consent, and asked, "Where the parent has decided to abort the fetus, who can uphold and speak for the rights of that fetus?"

Sen. Kennedy went on to say:

"Part of the problem that is suggested by the amendment of the Senator from New York is its restrictive nature. Scientists are on the verge of some important breakthroughs in the area of genetics. These breakthroughs will have the potential to correct genetic defects affecting thousands of our citizens. Cures for diseases such as sickle cell anemia, diabetes, Tay-Sachs, several forms of mental retardation, and PKU may depend on this kind of genetic research."

Taken in isolation, Sen. Kennedy's reasoning will no doubt be viewed by many as

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"OH DEAR! I THINK WE'D BETTER APPOINT A NEW DISCUSSION-STARTER!"

"humanitarian" concern on the part of the senator from Massachusetts. If one considers, though, that perhaps 2 million unborn babies will be aborted in the next year and made the "guinea pigs" on behalf of "important breakthroughs in the fields of genetics," Sen. Kennedy's rhetoric takes on an entirely different light.

I know not what others may think about the merits of Sens. Kennedy and Buckley, but my own personal thought at this time is — "Thank God for the Buckley's! May they receive the support, encouragement, and attention they so greatly deserve."

Jane Callahan
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Help Needed For Project

Editor:

I am hoping that I may impose on your readers' generosity, so often displayed in Courier-Journal letters, for help in finding a benefactor for the Marist Missions at 214 Commercial St., New Brunswick, N.J.

I have a great many canceled stamps and can obtain a good deal more. While they mean a lot to the Marist Missions, it is impracticable to pay the high shipping costs, if it can be avoided.

I have in mind that there may be someone, who occasionally visits or, perhaps, a salesman who goes there; or a truck driver, who could get permission to drop off a package of stamps there, now and then; or some freight company might feel inclined to be the benefactor.

I would also appreciate hearing from anyone interested in saving canceled stamps, especially foreign, commemorative, air mail, special delivery and high denominations. If by phone, 482-4401.

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Mission Sunday Coverage

Editor:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your assistance this year during our annual Mission Sunday appeal. Never before did we receive such wonderful and generous usage of our press releases, news items, photos, cartoons, fillers and posters.

We were pleased too, to note that preferred space was allocated to paid ads of our Mission Sunday poster. Also, we appreciate the assistance rendered so many diocesan directors on the local level.

It is this continued cooperation by members of the Catholic press which assists the Church so greatly in its missionary activities of supporting our missionaries and those they serve.

I will remember you and all our benefactors at Mass on Sunday morning.

Most Rev. Edward T. O'Meara, STD
National Director
The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

President Defended

Editor:

This is in regards to the editorial, Oct. 31, "Only the Truth." Just to point out a few things: quoting you, "Cox represented integrity at a time..." Do you call it integrity for Cox to have leaked "accidentally" to Sen. Kennedy and Sen. Kennedy's cohorts Sen. Hart and Jack Anderson, confidential documents, etc., that were placed in his trust? Do you really call this integrity? Why wouldn't President Nixon fire him when he was insisting on getting his hands on more documents to leak?

You along with many people have tried and found President Nixon guilty without any facts or any proof of any guilt at all. What happened to the American way that a man is innocent until he is proven guilty? Or doesn't that apply to the President?

Can you tell me why you weren't so anxious to have the truth be known about Kennedy and his "accident" and consequent coverup? Or do you prescribe to the same philosophy as Senator Weicker that how much a man drinks or how he conducts his sex life, etc., has nothing to do with his political life? I and a few others still think your personal life and your work have an effect on each other; but in the society that we live it seems that an abortion (murder), adultery, drunkenness etc. are acceptable both in private life and public life. God help us.

My personal opinion as to President Nixon's being guilty is that if they really had any facts or proof of guilt he would have been impeached long ago. He sure has been tried by the press and news commentators over and over.

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