

Cardinal Cooke Slams Court Abortion Ruling

New York [RNS] — In a scathing denunciation of the U.S. Supreme Court's abortion decision of 1973, Cardinal Terence Cooke called upon Catholics and "all who stand for life" to manifest their opposition to abortion and become "advocates of life."

"Only by courageous advocacy, by our constant witness, our untiring efforts, and our never-ceasing prayers, can we hope to restore the protection of law to every human life," he declared.

Cardinal Cooke made the plea in a statement during a Family Life Celebration at St. Patrick's Cathedral (Jan. 13) a week prior to the first anniversary of the

Supreme Court ruling on abortion. He asserted that "no person has the right to say that the innocent life of another human being may be taken at a particular point in time."

The prelate also said that the approval of a constitutional amendment protecting the unborn child "is essential and urgently needed."

"Such an amendment would clearly establish that the unborn child is a person in the eyes of the law," he added. "It would insure that the child would no longer be victimized by a so-called right of privacy which in fact permits abortion as a matter of convenience."

"We call upon Congress to conduct hearings and move speedily to pass a pro-life amendment."

Noting the forthcoming anniversary of the "infamous decision" of the Court which he said permits abortion-on-demand, Cardinal Cooke said respect for human life was "cheapened" by the ruling. He said the Court's action was, in effect, "an attack on human life" and "we must reaffirm that what is legal is not necessarily moral."

Cardinal Cooke claimed that despite the Court's opinion, millions of Americans hold that all human life is sacred "from conception through . . . death," and that life is "to be valued and cared for as a God-given trust."

"We hold that deliberate abortion at one end of the life spectrum and deliberate euthanasia at the other are fundamental moral evils to be opposed in every instance."

The New York prelate went on to say that "we cannot remain silent, for to do so is to allow the slaughter to continue."

He pointed out that all agencies of the archdiocese are "open and available" to the needs of all people "as a manifestation of the care and concern of New York Catholics for all their fellow residents of the metropolitan area."

"But even this is not enough," he declared. "Because an abortion mentality is widespread, and because an euthanasia mentality is being foisted upon society, I call upon the Catholic people of New York and all men and women who stand for life to become 'advocates of life.'"

TOURS ANNOUNCED

Clyde — A three-day bus excursion to Washington, D.C., is scheduled to begin here April 18. The Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and other landmarks will be visited. Those interested may contact Mrs. Margaret Colasurdo at 172 Lock St., Clyde, N.Y. 14433; telephone, 315/923-3261. Mrs. Colasurdo is arranging also the annual pilgrimage to the shrines of Canada for Aug. 11-16.



Pope's Interest in Newman Recalled

Announcement that the Vatican is working towards the beatification of Cardinal John Henry Newman in the forthcoming Holy Year recalls Pope Paul's special interest in the famed 19th century English convert to Roman Catholicism.

Christmas of 1974 to Christmas of 1975. He added, however, that it was not certain whether all the necessary investigations and documentation would be completed in time.

In any event, revival of interest in the cause of Cardinal Newman, which was actually introduced in 1958, may well reflect Pope Paul's profound admiration for the Oxford University professor and Anglican theologian whose conversion in 1845 created a sensation in England. [RNS]

The prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes, Cardinal Luigi Raimondi, in making the announcement, said it was "our hope" that Cardinal Newman "will be beatified during the Holy Year," which runs from

SENIOR CITIZENS

WHY NOT LIVE AT PARKSIDE MANOR?

- NO OIL OR GAS RATIONING.
- NO WALKS TO SHOVEL.
- NO LAWN TO MOW.

- BRIDGE, BILLIARDS, AND BINGO
- TOURNAMENTS WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
- THREE DELICIOUS HOT MEALS A DAY
- WITHOUT AN EFFORT.

- MAKE PARKSIDE YOUR CLUB.
- COME AND GO AS YOU LIKE.
- CALL MRS. NEYLAND. 586-8010.

PARKSIDE MANOR
420 MAIN ST. E. ROCHESTER

THE CHURCH 1974

Father Andrew Greeley

It is a peculiar time for ecumenism. On the one hand, the range of agreement among theologians of various denominations on controversial doctrinal points is rapidly expanding. On the other hand, suspicion and distrust among religious collectivities and organizations is increasing.

Thus, Catholics and Anglicans have reached agreement on a theology of the priesthood; but Catholic civil rights organizations are beginning to emerge as Catholics grasp the fact that nativism did not disappear from American society with the election of John Kennedy. The Supreme Court decisions on parochial schools and abortion have aroused the ire of Catholics more than anything else in a long time. Indeed, one hears considerable anger at church leaders for not fighting these battles vigorously enough.

Both agreement and controversy seem to be growing spontaneously. I would like to suggest that this is not only not so unusual, but typical for American society. Conflict and understanding must go hand in hand; any understanding on the theoretical level which does not take into account the realities of inter-group conflict in American life will not be worth very much. It is only out of conflict — carried on within the overarching American consensus — that real understanding can come.

In the first flush of ecumenical enthusiasm two things happened that facilitated religious dialogue in the short run but may have postponed long run understanding. First of all, many American Protestants apparently really thought that Catholics were going to stop being Catholics and become native American Protestants. Secondly, many Catholic leaders — motivated by the naive liberal ecumenism that thought there was no difference among denominations in the United States — began leaning over backward to avoid giving the slightest offense to the newly discovered separated brothers.

Thus one of the Supreme Court justices who voted against aid to Catholic schools is well known in his own part of the country for vehement anti-Catholic feelings. This was never mentioned when his appointment was being considered and was not mentioned after the warped decision forbidding aid to Catholic schools.

Or again, clergy and hierarchy have held back when many laity (particularly in large cities in the East) wanted to take a leaf from the black strategy in demonstrating for aid to Catholic schools. Such militancy was thought inappropriate in an era of religious good feeling.

The result was that while the scholars were coming closer and closer together, Protestant and Jewish nativism was increasing in the United States to such an extent that I believe anti-Catholic feelings are higher than they have been in the last thirty years. To a considerable extent, we have only ourselves to blame. We yielded on issues that were important to many Catholics without any sort of militant protest. Small wonder the nativists, adherents to the policy of protecting their own interests over immigrants, thought we were going to stop being Catholics.

And does anyone seriously think that all the publicity given to departing priests and nuns did not have some of the Maria Monk nativism about it?

It is axiomatic that the health of America's competitive pluralism requires that no group give up what are its absolutely essential interests. If they do — or their leaders pretend to — a safety valve is closed off; and what appears on the surface to be harmony is in reality a boiler just about ready to explode. Conflict in the United States is as much a way of communication as the theological dialogue. During the past decade we have communicated very effectively through the latter but have forgotten completely the need to communicate through the former. As a result, theologians have made rapid progress; but the National Council of Churches thinks it can return once again to its anti-Catholic stances of the past on school aid without paying any price for so doing.

Racism and anti-Semitism have been smoked out in American society. Both are unfashionable (though the recent diatribe of Father Berrigan makes one wonder if anti-Semitism is becoming fashionable again — it is interesting to see the sainted Dan endorsing a cause which starts wars on religious holy days, murders prisoners, and guns down innocent athletes and air travelers). But nativism has not been smoked out. It is alive and well in the corporate board rooms, the elite "anti-ethnic" journals and the Supreme Court. Catholics must make it clear that the permanent end of nativism is absolutely essential to the vital self-interests of American Catholics.

Theological agreement is fine; but as long as nativist bigotry in the Supreme Court denies aid to Catholic schools, only half the ecumenical task has been done.

Hicks
Home Heating Inc.
271-7414 271-4650

When you buy your new Ford from Judge's . . . you can be sure of:

LARGER SELECTIONS
LOWER PRICE
CONVENIENT SERVICE



Judge's is the only auto dealer in town open every night and all day Saturday for Service and Parts.

ROCHESTER'S LARGEST FORD DEALER
81 LAKE AVE.