

**Editorial**

# Of Ridicule And Rights

Although it is not factual to suggest that only Catholics are opposed to liberalized abortion, those in favor of the killing of the unborn must find it advantageous to their cause to suggest just that.

For instance in rival protests to anti-abortion demonstrations on Jan. 22 feminists demonstrating in front of St. Patrick's Cathedral crowned a woman "Her Holiness Pope Patricia the First." She gave as benediction, "In the name of the Mother, the Daughter, and the Holy Grandmother."

And in Washington, members of the National Organization of Women used a clownish figure, costumed as a Catholic cardinal to be "Cardinal Buckley."

In addition to noting the poor taste and the bigotry in such charades, it would pay to remember that Catholics are not alone in the fight against the rapidly expanding anti-life sentiment.

A fresh example was provided recently when clergymen from six denominations called abortion a "public evil" and "no mere question of private morality."

"The destruction of the innocent unborn allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court's Jan. 22, 1973 decision threatens to overshadow every other human holocaust the world has known. We urge all our fellow citizens to ponder the meaning of abortion and demand that every innocent human life receive the protection of our laws," the statement declared.

Clergymen from Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Episcopal, Baptist, Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches endorsed the statement.

Among other religions which have long and steadfastly opposed abortion are Orthodox Jewry, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) and Jehovah's Witnesses.

But while there are many religious leaders from persuasions other than Catholic in the pro-life movement it must also be noted that the ranks of the pro-abortionists also contain religious affiliations.

Groups such as the 18-member Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights have urged Congress to defeat Sen. James Buckley's amendment which would block Medicaid funds for abortions.

Far from condemning the Supreme Court ruling, this religious group cited it in assailing the Buckley amendment.

The head of the Religious Coalition for Abortion Rights said that group's opposition came about after "informal exchanges" among Planned Parenthood, Zero Population Growth, National Organization of Women and others.

The fact that the coalition is made up of members from United Methodists, American Baptist, United Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, National Council of Jewish Women and something called Catholics for a Free Choice indicates it will have some clout with Congress.

This means that those in the pro-life camp indeed have a long and tedious row to hoe and there is no time to relax.

The fact that there were 3,176 abortions in Monroe County last year, more deaths than caused by heart disease and cancer combined, should provide a new shot of adrenalin to the pro-life movement, especially right here in the Rochester Diocese.

## Making Do

There are so many blessings in disguise abroad these days that life is becoming a giant masquerade ball.

The latest such deceptively-clad fortune may well be the wheat shortage which will make bread short in supply and even higher in price.

Millions of weight-conscious Americans may adjust to this problem by seeing it as incentive to diet. Those already slim and trim will just have to find staying close to home on vacations a kind of serendipity. Perhaps not much of a blessing in disguise but who knows? By then there may well be a more suitable crisis.

# Opinion

## Editorial Criticized

Editor:

Even with the possible ties of rape (rare), for "religion" to preach suspicion, distrust, fear (Courier-Journal editorial 1/23/74) is faithless, blind in vision, distorted in belief.

Have you, too, lost your sense of proportion in your professional capacity? With me, your "magnification" of a sordid detail in life is unpopular, distasteful enough in its rationalization for me to now quit even scanning your paper.

Editorial, huh!

V.J. Benedetto  
449 Child St.  
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Editor's note: Reader Benedetto refers to the editorial "A Killer Is Loose" which advises parents and children to be extremely cautious with strangers until the person or persons responsible for the rape-murders in the city is apprehended. The editorial said "this may constitute an unhappy feeling of distrust but considering the alternative, it is extremely necessary." Following a suggestion by Rochester police officials, the original editorial was reproduced page-size to allow its posting in public places.

## Women Told: Say Rosary

Editor:

In reply to "Sexism Seen in Liturgy" (Courier-Journal, 1/16/74) on St. Paul's "Wives be submissive to your husbands."

Oh, my Lord and Saviour, why can those who have eyes be so blind to your words? Oh, angry women; oh, ungrateful wives. Do not your husbands provide for you, as our Heavenly Father provides for all?

Have you no fear of the Lord, that you dare call His word archaic and outdated?

My heart weeps for all of you who remain so blind to what equal means. Does He not promise all who believe a share in His Kingdom?

Is there any woman equal to His Blessed Mother — Mother of all His children?

Show me where Mary demanded to be equal to any man.

Women, start your day in praying to our Blessed Mother on.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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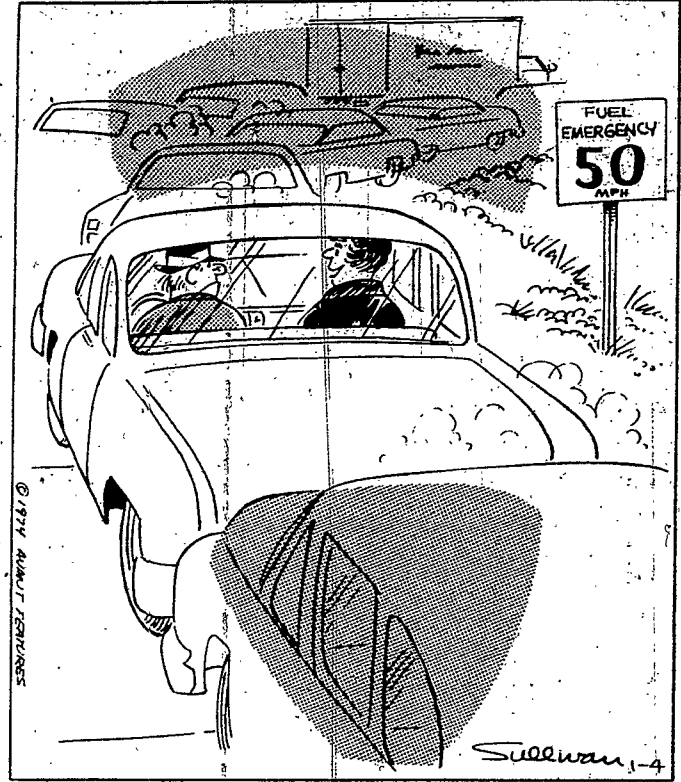
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Courier-Journal



"THIS IS TURNING INTO A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE... YOU'RE USING THE SAME LANGUAGE YOU USE IN THE CHURCH PARKING LOT!"

the rosary that we may be more like her.

Mrs. Mary LeBoeuf  
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## New Rosary Meaningful

Editor:

I began saying Mary Ellen's New Rosary last winter and have just finished the last virtue listed in the pamphlet, The New Rosary Fits Our Times.

Saying the rosary, meditating on the mysteries, and thinking of the virtue kept out distractions very well.

The mysteries and virtues were interenlightening.

I have begun to use a book of synonyms, and am finding this even more helpful, because for each virtue there is a synonym more meaningful, and more to my spiritual liking.

Bishop Hogan is quite accurate in his foreword to the pamphlet.

Brother Paschal, OCSO  
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Ed. Note: Mary Ellen's New Rosary is a method of saying the Rosary which involves word substitution in the Hail Mary. The word "life" replaces "grace," an adjective describing a virtue ("lovable," "faithful") replaces "blessed." The pamphlet mentioned above describes this rosary method in fuller detail. It is available through Father Albert Shamon, St. Mary's Church, Waterloo, N.Y. 13165.

## Fight Abortion With Money

Editor:

I think it is very important that we pro-life people are voicing our opposition to abortion and working for a right to life amendment to guarantee the rights of the unborn. However, in the meantime we must do something positive to prevent abortions which are being performed every day in our Rochester hospitals. The immediate solution is to send money to Birthright at 89 Genesee St., Rochester 14611 so Birthright can aid the distressed pregnant girls and women. We Catholics must do more than verbally oppose abortion. Let's really be against abortion so much that we send money to give life a chance.

Miss Linda Perry  
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## Sisterhood Needed

Editor:

I am responding to two letters (Anne Dezeliski and Mrs. Raymond Puff, 1/30/74) that appeared in the Courier-Journal. It seems quite evident that women are in dire need of not only scriptural re-education but also some consciousness of their own dignity as human beings.

In Scripture, upon which our liturgy relies, Divine Truths were taught through human conditions. The human conditions were not Divine Truth.

The Divine Truth of Christ never changes; only the human conditions. The Spirit of God works through these changing conditions. May we say that one of these conditions is the gradual awareness of women of their responsibility to themselves as full human beings? As women examine and define their positions, they will lead the way to the obliteration of the stereotyping of both the male and female. They will present themselves as a resource for the opportunity of change. Actually, some of the damage to the quality and character of womanhood has been done by women themselves, as demonstrated in the letters of Mrs. Puff and Ms. Dezeliski. They have accepted the representation of human beings as male stereotypes and have voluntarily lost all perspective of themselves as adult women. How can they possibly relate to the widowed, single, divorced and separated women who have no "head of the house"? Have these women become non-persons because they have no man to direct their life?

The time is right and ready for sisterhood — supportable, apostolic and available. A sisterhood envisaging an age of unity and charity, of wholeness and oneness. An age of exploration and exhortation. An age where we are exposed to every material source available to us that portrays us as full responsible human beings and not just "accidents" (a term St. Thomas borrowed from Aristotle to describe the birth of a female). I refuse to read another soapy spiritual reading book or listen to another sexist lecture or sermon that portrays me as less than I am — a woman, made to the image and likeness of God, who is neither "Greek nor Jew, slave nor free, male nor female" (Gal. 3:28), but justice, reason, understanding, mercy and love.

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