

## THE SLOT MAN

Carsten Ughiacci

Listen, between the time I write this column and you read it, I will have left via airplane for Denver, Colo. And, hopefully, returned.

You see, flying is my second favorite thing. First is having my appendix removed with a butter knife.

But the annual Catholic Press Association meeting is taking place in Denver and duty calls, as Anthony J. Costello, Courier-Journal general manager and my veteran flying partner, has reminded me.

I am not going to say previous flights we've been on have been hairy. I hear the World War II raids on the Ploesti oil fields were worse.

But since I have been at the Courier, Costello and I have been on some dillies. To wit:

\* There was the plane that had to dart in, out and around tornado pockets over Lake Charles, La. I remember thinking, "Lake Charles, Louisiana, this is where they all go down."

\* Then there was the time we waited aboard a plane for Peoria while they foamed the wings to remove the ice before takeoff.

\* On an Ozark Airlines flight, the pilot in making his reassuring announcements to the passengers, forgot the destination. Costello however, knew everything was all right when the pilot cooed not to worry that he'd get us down there right quick anyway.

\* Once, waiting for a takeoff on a DC10 because there was a malfunction of the guidance control system, we spotted the cigar-smoking repairman arrive in a greasy pickup truck to do the necessary fixing up. Even Costello mulled that one over.

\* Another time on a flight out of Chicago's O'Hare Airport, one of the very busiest, the pilot told us all that "getting out of O'Hare is not much of a problem, only landing was."

## Harness Talents of Aging, Priest Tells Church Council

St. Paul, Minn. [RNS] — Churches should harness the talents of older and retired people to bring the good news of the Gospel to others, a Roman Catholic theologian and ecumenical leader said here.

"It would be most appropriate that people whose own life is running out would want to give witness to the life beyond this and to their hope," said Msgr. Jerome Quinn in the keynote address of the general assembly of the Minnesota Council of Churches.

## Wilson Names Local Sister To Elmira Post

Sister Mary Rene, administrator of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, has been appointed by Governor Malcolm Wilson, subject to Senate confirmation, as a member of the Board of Visitors to the Elmira Psychiatric Center.

Sister Mary Rene would fill a vacancy on the unsalaried board caused by the resignation of Carl Lackey, of Cuba, and would serve a term ending Dec. 31, 1975. She is secretary of the Genesee Region Comprehensive Health Planning Council, a member of the Administrator's Conference, Rochester Regional Hospital Council, and active in other civic, charitable and professional organizations.

\* On one particularly bad flight, we watched a stewardess white-knuckle the arm grip. On that one, a drunk yelled, "Hey, how about another Scotch?" The other stewardess, the outwardly calm one, shouted back, "Are you kidding?"

\* Then there was the time I took the bus home from Houston, Texas.

All of the above pale beside something I overheard between a pilot and smokeshop salesman at Kennedy Airport. The man was trying to convince the airman to buy a larger supply of his favorite razor blades "because you'll always be shaving." The pilot retorted, "Look, in my business, I don't know if I'm going to be around tomorrow."

He didn't realize, of course, that he was standing right next to the old pelican himself.

So anyway, here's to Denver. And back.

Recently used this space to congratulate the best fighter at Aquinas, Chris Gorman. Now his pa, Roger Gorman, editor of the Daily Record, has won the State Bar Association award for interpretative writing on a phase of the ministry of justice for his article on the Judicial Process Commission. Four awards were given — WBNC-TV, the Christian Science Monitor and the Buffalo Courier-Express got the others. With Gorman, they are in good company. Gracing more than one wall at the Courier-Journal is the literary allusion chosen by Billy Spilly for his ordination announcement. From Albert Camus, it goes: "Don't walk in front of me — I may not follow, don't walk behind me — I may not lead, walk beside me — I just be my friend." Billy, incidentally will become Father William V. Spilly on May 10. sign on Methodist church bulletin board in Orwigsburg, Pa. "Streaker repant, your end is in sight."

Msgr. Quinn, a professor at St. Paul Seminary and chairman on the mission for ecumenism of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis, also urged ecumenical cooperation in caring for the retarded and the mentally ill.

And he also proposed that Christians cooperate in observing April 30 as a National Day of Humiliation, Fasting and Prayer designated by the U.S. Senate.

"We have put our trust in men, which Scripture forbids," Msgr. Quinn observed.

The Rev. Albert C. Lehman, the council's new executive director, said in a report to the assembly that the Minnesota Council has become a pioneer in making an extensive grassroots approach to ecumenism.

He said the council's constitution has been amended so that local congregations, across denominational lines within all of the newly-formed economic regions of the state, will have an opportunity to join in initiating council programs. The council is decentralizing all its work, he added.

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JAMES J. CARUSO

## Brown Square Names Chief

James J. Caruso has been named the first executive director of the Brown Square Development Corporation.

Caruso was graduated from Youngstown State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and earned his Masters Degree in Urban Planning at Wayne State University in Detroit. Formerly of Highland Park, Michigan, a Detroit suburb, he is moving to Rochester with his wife Sharon, and four children and begins his job with Brown Square this month.

Prior to the Brown Square appointment he was Urban Renewal Director in the Department of Community Development, City of Highland Park. Earlier, he had served as an urban renewal project coordinator in Warren, Ohio.

## RPO Concert: Aaron Copland, Eugene List

Aaron Copland, American composer and conductor whose works have been performed all over the world for the past half century will conduct the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in a program of American music, at 8 p.m. Thursday May 2, in the Eastman Theatre. Pianist Eugene List will be soloist in Copland's Piano Concerto (1926) and Louis Moreau Gottschalk's Tarentelle for Piano and Orchestra.

The pianist, in his 40th year of concert performances, last appeared with the Rochester Philharmonic in 1970. He is professor of piano and cochairman of the keyboard department at the Eastman School of Music. He has performed on every continent, in all of the 50 states, and with major orchestras here and abroad.

## THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

If abortion is the taking of a human life and, therefore, murder, then who is the murderer? The pregnant woman who arranges for an abortion? Or is the doctor who performs the abortion the murderer? Or both of them?

And what of the woman's partner? Is he free of guilt?

The Church is very noble, loud, and persistent about the right of the unborn fetus to life. But it could care less, it seems, about the rights of a woman who may already have several children to wash, iron, sew or cook for, not to mention chauffeur to endless Scout meetings, dental appointments, shoe stores and CCD classes.

Sincerely,  
 A Concerned Catholic

Dear Concerned Catholic,

If abortion is the taking of a human life, and we believe it is, and therefore is murder, the murderers are all those who cooperate actively or passively. Their guilt would be proportionate to their cooperation. Just as in the case of a person already born and then murdered, guilt for the murder would be upon whoever did the actual killing, whoever ordered the killing, whoever helped in the killing and whoever could have done something to prevent it and didn't. The issue is very simple — if the fetus is really a human then all the rules in respect to murder apply equally as they would for a person already born.

As for the woman's partner — if he opposes the abortion he certainly is not guilty of the killing, but his guilt of cooperation in bringing about the situation which led to the abortion is greater or less depending upon the cir-

cumstances of the situation. Obviously I cannot cover all the possibilities.

As far as the Church being very noble, loud, persistent etc., it is not really the Church's doing at all. It simply goes back to the original question — is this fetus or is it not a human life, a person? Is killing a human person murder or not? You make it sound as though this was a Church regulation like the good Friday fast.

Then you say, "it could care less about the rights of the woman." Let me ask you a question. Taking the case of a woman who was overburdened as you pictured her, would it be all right if she cheated, embezzled, stole or defrauded so she could get that chauffeur, cook, housekeeper etc. to relieve herself of the burden? Silly question? To refuse to acknowledge that the end justifies the means does not imply that the Church has any less concern or care about people who are in sad circumstances. In short, you are guilty of a low blow. Prove to the Church that a fetus is non-human and therefore its destruction would not be murder, and then we can talk about that woman's difficult situation.

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