

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

"Neither the United States nor any State shall deprive any human being of life on account of illness, age, or incapacity."

There is beauty in those 21 words. But tucked into a pocket with the recognition of that beauty is a nagging sense of guilt. We instinctively turn away from the truth that these words are absolutely necessary in the United States today. Our Constitution must be amended to include them. We have become accustomed, as Alexander Schmemmann says, to putting the blame for all tragedies on someone else or something "alien" and it is neither simple nor pleasant to open our minds to this the hardest reality of all, in an age which has made the easy life a required and ultimate goal.

Understandably, we do not want to be reminded of the striking similarities between the German nation of two generations ago and our own fine and noble America; we recoil from the obvious. We are not butchers. We are not a destructive people. We finally have the things we've wanted. The camper, the sail boat, the skis, the education, the soft clothes that travel as well as or better than we do ourselves. And all we want now is to get My Lai and napalm behind us, to enjoy the fruits of our affluent society.

Well, we've had the affluence for some time now. We control the once elusive and still enticing possibilities fathered by the industrial revolution. Extraterrestrial space is within our grasp, and the graceful underwater worlds are familiar to millions. There are precious few luxuries we are not dependent upon.

We have become encrusted with our achievements. We are encrusted with our intellect.

Some of us.

Congressman Lawrence Hogan (R-Md.) introduced his Human Life Amendment within days of the Supreme Court decision on abortion. And the amendment goes beyond the immediate problem of legally destroying the silent and vulnerable unborn. It goes to the heart of the national predilection: It states plainly that all human beings shall retain life; the young, the old, the unborn, dependent, ill, incapacitated, the "unwanted." Quite obviously it denies euthanasia as well as abortion. It prevents the deliberate destruction of the imperfect baby. It stills the cry for blood.

But the Hogan Amendment is stalled. Congressman Don Edwards of California has made it clear as Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Constitutional Amendments that he will never call for hearings. He knows of course that the only path left to Congressman Hogan is the Discharge Petition. And he knows far better than just how time consuming and rugged that path is.

For or against abortion/euthanasia, I submit that every Congressman in this area should sign that petition. A man's signature does not prove him pro-life; it marks him as a fair and reasonable legislator anxious to set this vital problem before Congress and the people. The abortion problem will not go away, unheralded and unpublished by the press, pro-life letters are flowing into the halls of Congress. The Hogan Amendment deserves to see the light of legislative day.

The credit card is the symbol of the 70's. But there is no card to cover our moral debts. We must urge our Representatives to sign the Hogan Discharge Petition, to get the Amendment onto the

floor of the full House for debate and a vote.

Hogan Amendment
[H.J. Res. 261]
[Identical to the Helms Amendment in Senate]

Section I

Neither the United States nor any State shall deprive any human being, from the moment of conception, of life without due process of law; nor deny to any human being, from the moment of conception, within its jurisdiction, the equal protection of the laws.

Section II

Neither the United States nor any State shall deprive any human being of life on account of age, illness, or incapacity.

Section III

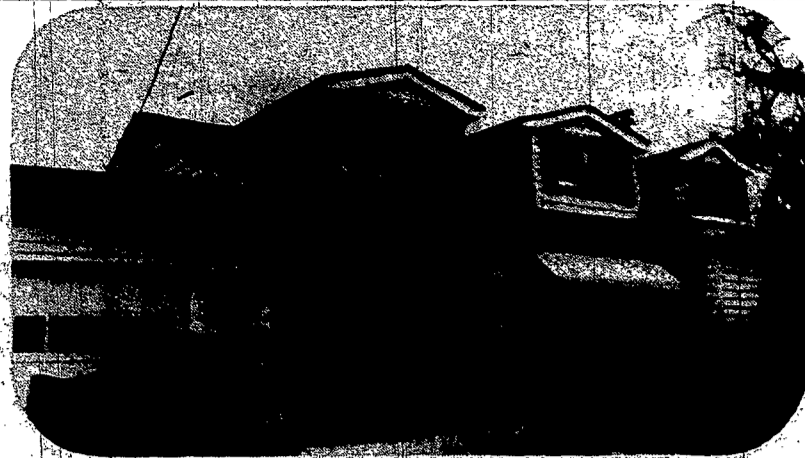
Congress and the several States shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

Nazareth Announces Fund Drive

Nazareth College of Rochester announced last week a 50th anniversary capital fund drive designed to raise \$3.75 million for a new college-community center. The announcement was made by Dr. Alice L. Foley, president, and Supreme Court Justice Emmett J. Schnepf, chairman of the board of trustees.

Schnepf said that pledges totaling more than \$1,300,000 have already been received for the new center which will incorporate three major segments: a student union or commons; an interfaith religious center; and a life activities and physical education building.

Corporate and special gift solicitations are now underway. The public phase of the fund drive for the new building, viewed by Dr. Foley and Schnepf as a "unifying force in the life of the college," will begin this fall. Ground-breaking is tentatively scheduled for September 24 of this year, 50 years after the college welcomed its first class.



New Group Home

An open-house was held Tuesday, April 23, at this home at 260 Nestor St., near Franklin High School, the site of the new group home for St. Joseph's Villa. The home, which opened in October, accommodates seven 12-to-17-year-old boys from the Villa, and is staffed by several full-time adult workers. St. Joseph's Villa operates two other group homes in addition to this, the newest.

Father Hoffman Lists Schedule

Father Douglas Hoffman, director of pastoral ministry, during May will attend two regional conferences — Southeast and Chemung-Schuyler.

Rochester; St. Ann's, Palmyra; St. Michael's, Lyons, and he will attend a meeting of the Pastoral Council Formation Committee in Geneva.

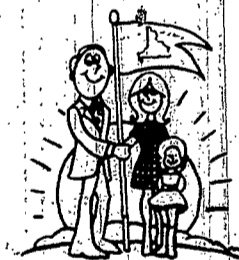
He also will attend the Northeast Regional Conference at Mercy High School.

During the month, he also will visit Our Lady of Mt. Carmel,

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