Life, Liberty and Law

Often while idly contemplating the clear rivers of northern Michigan, or the cold creeks off Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, I have noticed that minnows as a group will swim in one direction, then startle me when they dart suddenly into another course. Similarly, on a humid summer evening porch, I have observed the silent antics of the amusing midge. In a stationary cloud of hundreds of its own kind, it will hover in a fixed spot momentarily: Suddenly the entire cluster will flit abruptly to another point, perhaps only three feet away. Minnows and midges; wild ducks and antelopes. It is probably a natural phenomenon to engage in mass imitation.

Anyone who has watched a crowd waiting for the Walk-sign on a midtown Manhattan corner at noon has witnessed the same behaviour. For man too is prey to mass imitation. Charles Mackay wrote in the preface to his Memoirs of Extradordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds:

"In reading the history of nations we find that they, like individuals, have their whims and their peculiarities; their seasons of excitement and recklessness when they care not what they do. We find that whole communities suddenly fix their minds upon one object and go mad in its pursuit; that millions of people become simultaneously impressed with one delusion and run after it, 'til their attention is caught by some new folly more captivating than the first. We see one nation suddenly seized, from its highest to its lowest members. with a fierce desire of military glory; another as suddenly will become crazed upon a religious scruple; with neither of them. recovering its senses until it has shed rivers of blood and sowed a harvest of groans and tears Men, it has been well said, think in herds; it will be seen that they go mad in herds, while they recover their senses slowly, and one by one.

Despite the studied denials and/or the pecular evasiveness of some Congressmen, school board members, teachers and librarians, I suggest that there is just such a "captivating folly" in the United

popular and profitable anti-life philosophy: No matter how (or by whom) it is cloaked; colored or confured, this ethic requires a deliberate act or an intentional omission by one human being to destroy his own or another human life.

Legalized abortion is a case in point. Euthanasia is a case in point. We have seen the Supreme Court of the United States, with a. seven-to-two majority, sweep aside the unborn's right to due process of law — indeed his very right to life itself. And it was simple. The Court refused to recognize the baby as human (as-though he could be anything else) We are now being urged by legislators from Florida, Wisconsin, Hawaii, Washington, Montana and Oregon to change the euthanasia laws as we did the abortion legislation.

But to do so would simply extend the abortion mentality; it would simply add the aging and the burdensome to the list of those who, under American law, do not qualify as human beings.

Physicians are morally and legally obligated to do all in their power to comfort and protect human life, to alleviate pain and to console the dying patient. They are not morally and legally obligated to prolong human life with a plethora of mechanical devices when there is no evidence of human psysiological response, and no hope of benefit: And, I submit, we do not need additional euthanasia legislation. We do not need an additional method of population control. Good death and good killing are not synonomous.

There is now, coming into focus, that power which stimulates senseless mass imitation. I suggest that Mackay's prophesy is so close to an accurate appraisal of this nation as to be truly frightening. Our. nation could, in this decade surrounding her 200th anniversary, go mad in herds I urge you to begin the reversal. We can return to our senses.

One by one.

Start with your Congressman

Deaths

Sr. Joseph Mary

Saint Joseph, were held Aug. 1974 at the Motherhouse Chapel.

Monsignor William Shannon chaplain of Nazareth College concelebrated the Mass with Father Edward Lintz and Jesuit Fathers William Poorten, James Foley, James Smith and Joseph Schuck Father Joseph Reinhart. Motherhouse chaplain, served as Master of Ceremonies. Also present was Father Joseph Trovato, CSB, of St. John Fisher College

Sister Joseph Mary, a native of Oswego, was well known in educational circles throughout New York and the eastern United States. She was professor of education and chairman of the education department, which she began at Nazareth College, until her retirement in 1969.

She began her teaching career at Nazareth in 1928 and after obtaining her Master's and Doctorate degrees at Catholic University of America, returned to the college in 1932.

Before entering the Sisters of Saint Joseph she received a Normal School certificate from Oswego Normal School and a BS degree in education from Columbia University, She also taught for several years at the University of Pittsburgh Experimental School

Funeral services for Sister During the Dewey Centennial Joseph Mary Raby, of the Sisters Year, 1960, Sister was one of two women and eight philosophers in the United States asked to contribute to Blewett's John

> She is survived by two sisters also educators, the Misses Isabel and Ruth Raby of Oswego.

Dr. Callahan

The death of Dr. Edward T. Callahan, former Rochester obstetrician, was reported to the Courier-Journal last week by Paul McFarland of Sun City, Arizona.

The funeral was Aug. 2, 1974, at St. Clement's Church, Sun. City.

Dr. Callahan was a graduate of the University of Rochester School of Medicine. He served in the Navy during World War II and was decorated for heroism at Guadalcanal. He and his wife, Mary, moved to the Arizona retirement community last Spring as did the McFarlands, who formerly lived in Pittsford

Survivors besides Dr. Callahan's widow include three children. Mrs. McFarland, the former Esther Callahan of Augustine Street, is a first cousin.

Support of ERA Given by Feminists

Using Martin Luther's technique of demonstration, members of St. Joan's International Alliance will display its endorsement of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) by tacking a proclamation of support to various diocesan doors. 'The Women's Proclamation," produced by the Catholic Women for the ERA, will be part of the celebration for Women's Equality Day, Aug. 26.

The day commemorates the

passage of the amendment which granted women the right to vote. It also will be celebrated with the first in a series of feminist liturgies. The Catholic caucus of the task force for Women in Religion is presenting the "Future of Religious Freedom for Women" on Tuesday, Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m. at St. Bernard's Seminary.

The task force is a subcommittee of the local chapter of the National Organization for Women. (NOW)... Other

denominations involved in the series include Episcopalian, Presbyterian and Methodist.

Coordinating the liturgy for Women's Equality Day will be members of St. Joan's Alliance, a Catholic feminist group of men and women, both religious and lay. David Tinnes and Sister Eleanor Celantani, both members of the alliance, will give the homily. Father Edward Zimmer. pastor of St. Monica's will officiate.

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