

## Life, Liberty and Law

Karey Murphy

Loneliness has always been a dull and pressing reality of human life, one of our common denominators. It can exist wherever human life exists. There is loneliness in the unwanted womb, loneliness in the mongoloid life, and in the courageous and awkward gait of the severely handicapped. Surely a man knows almost total loneliness prior to suicide, and the lonely cocoon of age is sealed by society's pathological emphasis on youth. The stroke victim is lonely, the orphan, the terminal patient, the prisoner, and the starving. Those unable to give birth, unable to speak, unable to share love are lonely.

Woven of hopelessness, fear and anxiety, loneliness is the most unnecessary of man's system of burdens, for its relief lies in the simple offer of the human hand, the gentle tone of the human voice, and the degree of human involvement. But self-sacrifice is not today's mode, and few of our political and religious leaders even recognize it. Their courses seem to be charted instead by either the mob syndrome which is the destruction of human life for the sake of personal privacy, social convenience, and economic gain — or by an unhealthy conspiracy of pious silence.

The syndrome and the silence destroy not the loneliness but the lonely. They destroy the unwanted baby and the mongoloid and the handicapped, all before birth if possible through genetic selection. They would allow the jettisoning of those who politely announce through 'living wills' that they have become bored with life, and the expedient destruction of the non-productive. They encourage the destruction of the silent, the dying and the burdensome, the great ungeneration of America. It verges on mass immorality.

Of course, one expects politicians and political candidates to flirt with appealing mischief. At least one is not surprised when they do. But are we obliged to sit in grim silence and accept the tactics of avoidance when they come from our pulpits — from our pulpits where social nuisances are often identified as evils, and evil itself is benignly ignored?

Loneliness is cultivated, and we are all aware of this, by the alluring nontheology of the self. America has amassed an unparalleled material wealth, and she has power. But she may become encrusted with her affluence. Possession may become her national religion. And what would this religion promise for us?

### HEW GRANT

The Learning Resources Center at Nazareth College of Rochester has received a \$15,310 matching grant from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The grant, to be matched equally by Nazareth, is earmarked primarily for the purchase of audio-visual equipment and also for the acquisition of additional nonprint materials in the college's Learning Resources Center.

spiritually? Probably damnation. For we have allowed a widening of the evil gap between those who are wealthy, powerful and flawless, and those who are poor, defenseless and flawed. Between those who have and those who seek.

Every time we allow a lonely human life to be destroyed in order to save an athletic career, every time we allow the deliberate destruction of one lonely human life for the convenience of another, every time we allow a churchman to ignore the brutal realities and promises of selective human killing, we become accessories to the fact and we widen the gap.

I fail to see what humanity can gain by destroying those among us who are imperfect. Nor do I see justification for either eliminative medicine or genetic engineering. If it is our burdens we wish to set aside, I submit that it not the imperfect who hinder mankind so much in the long run, as the uninspired/uninspiring pulpits, coldly visionless leadership, and the continued obsession with genetic perfection. For there is neither justice nor mercy in killing innocent human life.

I suggest instead that we learn from our loneliness, and form it into a well of compassion, a source of both strength and inspiration. Aware of the brief beauty and fragility of each human life, we could reach out to save the unborn, the child, and the man or woman whom society threatens to destroy.

For if we flatter ourselves with the notion that the good Lord will grant to us the ultimate justice and mercy, we had best grant justice and mercy to those among us now who are lonely and threatened. We'd best speak up for the silent. And listen to the lost. If we hope to avoid the dark damnation of eternal loneliness for ourselves, we had best resist the powerful anti-life tide now.

Loneliness is not an evil. Allowing it is. Please let the courageous and awkward gait of the handicapped become an inspiration.

We are not yet overburdened.

**Area Congressmen:** Frank Horton, [34th]; Barber Conable, [35th]; Howard W. Robison, [27th]; William Walsh [33rd]; and James Hastings, [39th]. U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

**Sensors:** Jacob Javits and James Buckley, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

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### TOYS NEEDED

**Hornell** — Mary Ludden who heads the child-care program during Mass at St. Ann's has indicated a need for toys. The nursery is open for the 9:45 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sundays.

**Hicks**

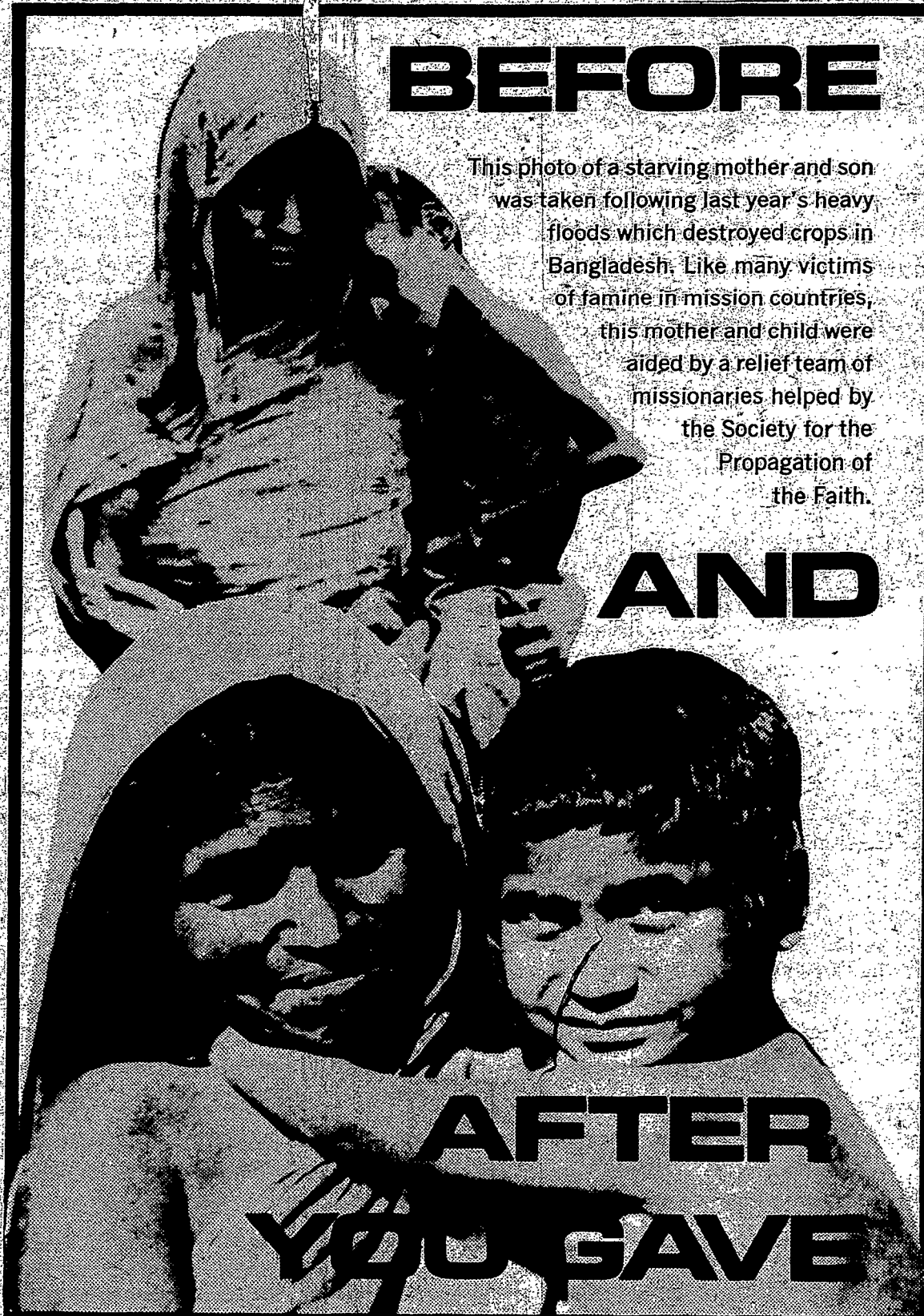
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### New Rectory

Work on St. Lawrence's new rectory in Greece is well under way. The new building is the gift of Lois and Edwin Wegman who belong to the parish.



**BEFORE**

This photo of a starving mother and son was taken following last year's heavy floods which destroyed crops in Bangladesh. Like many victims of famine in mission countries, this mother and child were aided by a relief team of missionaries helped by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

**AND**

**AFTER  
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Five months later, they were restored to health. The missionary who took these photos did so "for generous donors who wonder if their money is well used."

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