

More Opinions

More On Chile

Editor:

Sister Loreta Jordan in her reply to my Sept. 25 letter was rather inaccurate.

The main fault I find with Sister Jordan's comments about Chile (10/16/74) is that they are practically the same as those voiced by Communists. It was well known that during Allende's reign he allowed Communist guerrillas from different countries to use Chile as a training base.

It also was well known that the Allende government received foreign aid from the Communists. Thus I fail to see why the CIA is being criticized for their part in helping Allende's opponents.

David Belnap, writing of Allende's repressive policies in the Los Angeles Times, stated that the printed and broadcast media were penalized financially if they did not support Allende.

This would explain why Allende allowed his opponents the right to criticize him via the news media. He knew he could silence the news media's criticism.

This was accomplished by ignoring requests of radio stations for magnetic tapes and tape recorder heads while at the same time trying to take over the nation's only independent paper manufacturer which was the source of all newsprint in Chile.

These actions by the Allende regime hardly indicate a government interested in observing the democratic process.

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refrain from saying that abortion is socially evil." On the contrary, he used the words "condemnation" and "heinous crimes."

Robert Knille
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ERA Issue Defended

Editor:

As a member of the National Organization of Catholic Women for the ERA, I feel obliged to respond to the article in the Courier-Journal (10/23/74) headlined "ERA Faces Opposition, etc."

As usual, anti-right groups insist on scare tactics and continue their line of misinformation. Presently there are over 1,000 Federal and State laws that discriminate against women and the ERA applies only to governmental action. Private relationships between man and woman will not be affected.

According to the Citizens Advisory Council on the status of women, the ERA would not nullify the so-called "protective" labor laws or benefits, but in fact would extend equal benefits to men. Social Security benefits will be equalized enabling a husband to draw on his wife's social security just as any wife now draws on her husband's account. Criminal laws against rape will not be invalidated because they are and will remain crimes against persons. As for the integration of public restrooms or prisons, the constitutional right to personal privacy will still prevail. The ERA will not force a mother or wife to work outside the home since this is a purely private

matter between husband and wife. Individual rights and liberties will not be denied. Regarding the military, the fact is that Congress has always had the power to draft women and since we longer have the draft, the ERA would simply require equal qualifications and equal benefits for all volunteers which is not the case now. I do not want my daughter drafted any more or less than my sons. But I do not want my daughter doomed to a whole lifetime of second-class citizenship.

Those opposing the ERA include the National Council of Catholic Women, the Southern Baptist Association, the John Birch Society, the Ku Klux Klan and the American Communist Party; whereas, the League of Women Voters, the National Welfare Rights Organization, AAUW, Women Theologians United, the National Coalition of American Nuns, the Deaconess Movement, the American Home Economics Association, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Church Women United, the National Education Association, AFL-CIO, and the YWCA are just a few of at least 40 national organizations that support the ERA.

Finally, I too would urge all to seek out the facts on this issue from reputable sources and come to their own decisions.

Sharon Crist
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Invitation Extended

Editor:

After reading the Courier-Journal we were so anxious to write and thank Father Straub for his beautiful letter (10/16/74) — for sharing his view of Ecumenism and his love for the Catholic Church. We too had preferred to be labeled "Christian" rather than "Catholic"

— so we wouldn't be identified with some of the things we didn't like about our Church. But the more we've come to believe that we, people, are the Church, the more we've come to love her — and the harder we're trying to make our faith a part of every aspect of our lives, not just something we think about on Sunday morning. And the beauty we see too in Father Straub is his obvious love and respect for the people he's working with, who are deeply committed to their faith community — who are trying to be the very best of who they are.

We were also very excited by the response in that issue by Father Hohman. Until recently we were confused about the sacrament of baptism, thinking it was baptism that saved us, and if not baptized we would, at best, end up in limbo. We now believe that Christ has already saved everyone, and that baptism is the celebration of our special call as Catholics to spread this Good news.

We are now getting ready to celebrate our daughter's baptism and feel tremendous joy in welcoming her into our family. As she grows we want so much for her to see how beautiful and special she is, and to see her call to reach out and share that love with everyone.

We will be celebrating her baptism at Mass on Nov. 29 at 2 p.m. at St. John of Rochester Church in Fairport. We want to invite all of you, our family, to share our joy and welcome Christine.

Frank and Sue Staropoli
7 Healthcare Court
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Used Cards Needed

Editor:

If you have used Christmas and Easter cards, but in good conditions, after you enjoyed them at

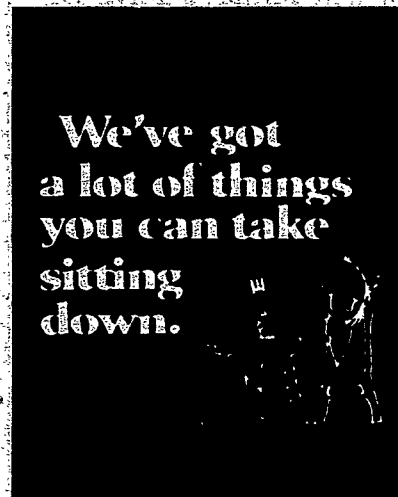
home, instead of burning them or throwing them away, please send them to our poor children in India so that they may enjoy them as you did. They will cut holy pictures out of them and make new cards; so to give them such a joy, please mail them by ordinary package to:

Father Eugenio Petrin, St. Paul's Catholic Mission, P.O. Binnaguri, 735203, Dist. Jalpaiguri, W. Bengal, INDIA. To avoid customs duty in India, these words must be written on the package:

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Fr. Hohman Disputed

Editor:

This is in reply to Father Hohman's attempt to justify Hugh Carey's condoning of abortion (23 October). A Catholic doctor, for example, is bound to obey the moral law. He may not murder unborn children even in a pluralistic hospital. He is bound, that is, to oppose evil where his position in society impinges on moral issues. Likewise, a Catholic legislator is bound to oppose abortion (or any other evil) where such an issue comes within his purview. This is, in fact, a large part of what being a Catholic is all about: to bear witness according to one's vocation to the truths of the faith and to what is morally right — both being expressions of Christ's love.

Far from acquiescing to an immoral attitude of the majority, it is specifically the obligation of a Catholic in any public office to do all that he can to oppose social wrongs. This is really about the only reason that a Catholic should seek such an office: namely, to work for the good of society and to do what he can to oppose its evils.

A few months ago, Pope Paul, in speaking to a United Nations committee, said:

"Above all the precious right to life must be affirmed anew, together with the condemnation of that massive aberration which is the destruction of innocent human life, at whatever stage it may be, through the heinous crimes of abortion or euthanasia."

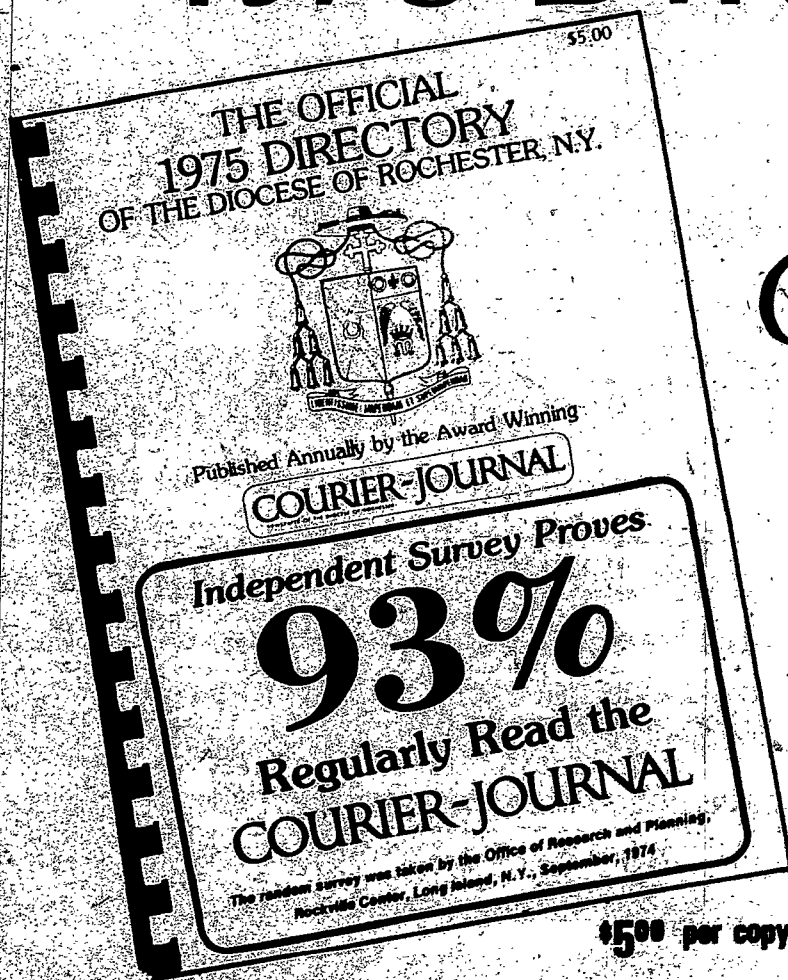
The Pope did not say to himself: "Since I am addressing a pluralistic committee, I should

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