



The Pilgrim Virgin, carried by Alfred Williams arrives at Auburn Correctional Facility. With the statue and Williams is Father Edward Shamon.

Pilgrim Virgin Visits Auburn Facility

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Auburn — "Walls are no barricade to communication with God," said Father Edward Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, as he addressed over 200 residents at the Auburn Correctional Facility attending special devotions at which the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, the Pilgrim Virgin, was presented.

Concern with prayer, style, dedication, sacrifice, denial and discipline can be lived in the institutional setting, he affirmed. He encouraged men not to forget their value in the sight of God where all are equal. The potential of becoming a saint is as real within the facility as it is without. Father Shamon said the residents must not make the error, because of their problem, that they are limited in the supernatural order.

Your potential is great, he said, and a great deal of success and peace of mind in life is due to that type of approach in life.

The statue of Our Lady of Fatima was a gift to the people of the United States from the Bishop of Fatima, Portugal, where miraculous appearances of Mary are believed by many to have taken place.

Father Shamon, the official host for the statue while in the diocese, was the main concelebrant. Msgr. Joseph Gefell, regional coordinator of the Cayuga Seneca Region, and Father Clarence Gardiner, prison chaplain, also concelebrated.

Alfred Williams, international escort for the statue spoke on the message of Fatima. Father Ernesto, OFM addressed the group in Spanish.

The rosary was prayed by the residents. The institution choir sang.

Also accompanying the statue were George Diehl, Margaret Lee, organist; Joan Salesman, producer of the WCNY show, View Point; Councilman George Shamon Jr.; Bernadine Bearsch, Mrs. Jane Pigott, head of the Syracuse Right to Life Movement; and her daughter, Penny, and Miss Martha Palmer.

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I read with interest your reply to T.K. on the attitudes some Catholics have toward abortion.

I take issue with your sentence "I would much prefer that the majority of people believed the same and would indicate that in their code of laws."

Now, the sad thing is that the majority of people don't really understand what abortion really does and how it is done. Many persons think that the cord from the baby's navel is connected to the mother. There is complete lack of understanding and as you say, "Let's work to teach the meaning of life and respect for it."

Another point is that the majority did not change the law. New York State changed to a liberalized abortion law by one vote in the legislature. That made it law. Then the law was repealed in the legislature but vetoed by Nelson Rockefeller. So the original change to a liberalized law still stands. The Supreme Court has since upheld that law.

I feel very strongly that in New York State and the Supreme Court these decisions are very definitely minority decisions and don't in any way reflect a majority.

Sincerely,
E.D.

Dear E.D.,

I'm afraid I was guilty of bad communications in the article of Oct. 23. In that article I was trying to explain how I thought it was possible for an elected of-

ficial to be against abortion and still uphold (in the sense of not violate) laws which were contrary to that conscience. And I think here we are really speaking of the absence of a law prohibiting abortion and get is (abortion with Hugh Carey being a Catholic and being governor of New York State. If the question had been, "Would you prefer someone in office who would work wholeheartedly to overturn the Supreme Court decision by a constitutional amendment protecting the unborn?" I would say "Yes". However I would probably vote in terms of how the candidate saw all the issues, not just one.

Feedback on that column, however, seems to concentrate on my references to a majority. I do not have statistical proof that the majority of Americans favor abortion. I believe as you do that the majority are either quite indifferent to the whole question because of ignorance or lack of personal involvement in the problem or are quite ready to accept it as a "solution" if the problem arises. If you or anyone has statistics to the contrary I would be only too glad to print them with an apology. My opinion is based on the number of legal abortions performed during the year 1973 in New York State 208,788. If less than half the population of the state is women of childbearing age and only a percentage of those are pregnant in 1973 and only some of those who are pregnant want an abortion. So I see no problem outnumbered live births in New York City in 1973) it appears to me that very large numbers of people in New York State — taking into account those who come from outside that state for abortions — go along with legalized abortions. Combined with those who couldn't care less, I think there is a majority.

In any case I am interested in educating to respect for life. Majority is important only when it produces broad enough ground swell to convince our politicians that guaranteeing the rights of the unborn is the will of the people. Also, please read Ken O'Loane's letter to the editor in the C-J Oct. 30. He says it much clearer than I.

ST. JOAN'S

St. Joan's International Alliance, a Catholic feminist organization that welcomes members of all faiths, will meet at 7:30 tomorrow evening, Nov. 14, at Immanuel Baptist Church, 815 Park Ave.



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