

## Editorial Sign of Violence

Pre-natal euthanasia. A Catholic psychiatrist used that term recently to describe a practice of Nazi Germany. Of course, by another name that is abortion.

The psychiatrist, Dr. Frank Ayd Jr. of Baltimore, says that the mass extermination policies of Nazi Germany originally were directed toward mental patients, handicapped and the like. Starting from there it developed into genocide.

Lest anyone think that such heinous practices are all in the past, Dr. Ayd claims that during medical seminars some have offered such schemes as offering the option of euthanasia to mental patients so that their healthy organs could be placed in donor banks and giving scientists "the power of generals" to make life and death decisions for the benefit of research.

placed in donor banks and giving scientists "the power of generals" to make life and death decisions for the benefit of research.

Frightening? It should be, regardless of what religious caste one claims.

Dr. Ayd goes further. He reminds us that: "Ten years ago when some people predicted that abortion-on-demand was coming, others scoffed (now) experimentation on live aborted babies is being widely practiced, financed in large part by tax dollars."

The idea of mercy killing also is gaining favor. Is there anyone who can comfortably predict that it, too, won't become a part of our laws?

Then comes the obvious extension.

"Can it (mass extermination) happen again?" asks Dr. Ayd.

"Leaders have always known that if you want to brainwash people you shock them a little at a time until they become so blase they will accept anything."

Dr. Ayd concludes by noting that we all have become conditioned to death and violence in recent times and that we are losing our concern for human life.

"If human life is not sacred," he asks, "what else can be?"

## Idea Man

Two of the most respected Cardinals in the Church were doing their respective "things" last week.

Cardinal John Heenan of England, archbishop of Westminster, who is very ill in a hospital, wrote a pastoral letter telling his people to begin to think about his successor. He advised that if any of them had any suggestions to send them along to the apostolic delegate.

Another famed cardinal, Paul-Emile Leger, also is ill. Eight years ago he resigned as archbishop of Montreal to devote his productive years to the lepers of Africa. Now he is coming home not as the ordinary of any great diocese but as pastor of a Montreal parish, Ste. Madeleine Sophie.

Such actions by cardinals are liable to set the hierarchy back 2,000 years.

## Great American Day

A recent article in this newspaper urged a national holiday be set aside to honor on Jan. 15 the memory of Martin Luther King. Apparently one of the difficulties in accomplishing this is that there are already so many holidays that officials look askance at creating more.

John D. Fahy, district principal at Phelps-Clifton Springs Central School, has now offered a suggestion that makes sense.

"Maybe the solution might be to institute a 'Great Americans Day,'" Fahy writes. "Celebrate it in honor of such men as King, Washington and Lincoln. Birthdays notwithstanding, I would opt for the first Monday in February as an appropriate day for such observance."

We wholeheartedly endorse the idea and feel that it would be an appropriate action as part of the nation's bicentennial celebration.

## Opinion

### Nun's Value Constant

Editor:

In answer to Father Cuddy "What do we think of the nuns of today?" I think they are the same wonderful women they were 50 years ago. In my estimation what they wear is not what counts. It is their beautiful minds and souls. The nuns of today, Father, are beautiful dedicated women, most of whom can relate to the young people. And believe me, Father, I don't think it is what they wear that really matters. I know so many of the young and older nuns and can see no difference.

Mrs. Mary M. Eagan  
122 Linden St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14620

### Food Shortage And Socialism

Editor:

The World Food Conference in Rome laid most of the blame for the current world food shortage on the United States.

In my opinion this is most unfortunate because the United States has been and is now very generous when it comes to helping poor nations.

The United States in just two decades has given more than \$25 billion in food aid. What other country even approaches this figure?

Naturally with our great wealth we have a responsibility to the poorer nations. However, our responsibility ends when we are called upon to finance systems (governments) that are both morally and economically bankrupt.

The "wheat deal" is a good example of such folly. Here we are helping a repressive anti-religious government feed some of its people. This in turn leaves them with a surplus in their economy which is then devoted to increase their military strength.

Currently the Soviets devote 40 per cent of their Gross National Product to their defense budget while the United States spends only six per cent of the GNP on its defense budget.

Instead of beating our breasts and lowering our heads because of our failure to feed the entire world, we should be working to remove the causes of famine.

Natural causes such as weather conditions play a part in any food shortage, but I'm convinced that socialist collective farming is the one biggest reason for food shortages.

## COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President

Anthony J. Costello  
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci  
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 89 No. 33 December 18, 1974

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 15c; 1 year subscription in U.S. \$6.00; Canada and South America, \$8.50; other foreign countries, \$9.50. Offices, Richard Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 454-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal 1



"I THINK WE'D BETTER COME BACK LATER!"

Why? Well because it destroys incentive and incentive is what is needed to increase production whether on the farm or in the factory.

Before the Russian Revolution in 1917, the Czars could export wheat, but after 1917 there were always food shortages in Russia.

We can help feed the hungry of the world by refusing to bail out the failures of communist and socialist planning.

Robert W. Bart  
P.O. Box 594  
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

### More Advice For Writer

Editor:

This is a reply to the letter of P.J., which appeared in Father Hohman's "Open Window" (11/27). P.J. states that she is "excommunicated" because she attempted marriage with a divorced man many years ago. However, she has continued to attend Mass and she has raised her children in the Catholic faith.

P.J. can return to the sacraments if she and her husband will live together as brother and sister. I have had considerable experience with situations such as P.J. describes, and I have found that in many cases the parties can be brought back to the sacraments and a life of grace, if only someone will explain to them the brother-sister possibility. I recall the case of a school teacher who told me that he was planning marriage and the woman whom he wished to marry was interested in the Catholic faith. However, she was divorced. After looking into the case, I told him that a valid marriage was impossible. The couple, consequently, entered into an invalid marriage. After a couple of years, the man again came to me and repeated what he had formerly told me, "My wife would like to become a Catholic." I said, "Well, you know the rules. Are you willing to live as brother and sister?" He replied, "Yes." I then gave the woman instructions and received her into the Church. Both became excellent Catholics.

To mention another case, I learned of a Catholic woman who did not practice her faith because of an invalid marriage. Both she and her husband had been formerly married and divorced. I asked the woman if she and her husband would be willing to live as brother and sister. She replied that they had been living that way for over ten years. "When I first learned," she said, "that he could not be my man, I wanted nothing to do with him." The woman subsequently returned to the sacraments. I instructed the man and received him into the church. He became one of our most devout parishioners. On Sunday morning, he was always the first person in church.

The Church tells us that brother-sister marriages can be permitted only if danger of scandal can be avoided. I see no problem here. The way to avoid scandal is plainly to tell the truth. Scandal was given by the parties when they contracted an invalid marriage. Scandal is removed by telling others that they are no longer living as husband and wife.

I have known of a number of instances where parties to an invalid marriage have been able to return to the sacraments and the state of grace by accepting a brother-sister relationship in their home life. Lay people, as well as priests, can sometimes offer this guidance. What has been said here of those involved in an invalid marriage can also be said of validly married couples who find that marriage is a source of sin to them, instead of a means of grace, because of the practice of contraception. Let them recall the words of the Savior, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and suffer the loss of his own soul?"

Rev. C. Stuart Hogan  
789 East Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y.

### Pilgrim Virgin Pictures Needed

Editor:

I would greatly appreciate any good pictures taken during the Pilgrim Virgin visit here in the diocese this past November. We are interested in making a documentary of national importance.

I believe the Fatima message will have greater significance in all our lives as time goes on — and so will the importance of documentation. It is history in the making.

Please contact Mary Kelly, 7 Harwood Lane, East Rochester, N.Y. 14445 or Holy Rosary Church, 414 Lexington Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14613 if you have any photographs to offer and also for those wishing to have prints of pictures taken. This may take several months so please be patient.

Mary Kelly  
7 Harwood Lane  
East Rochester, N.Y. 14445

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.