

### Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

Shiftless and homely and so black he was nearly impossible to photograph, Dred Scott was severely handicapped in the 19th century America, a society which worshipped the veneer of elegance and the safety of moral sterility. He was but one slave in a system of slavery in a nation within a network of slave nations. Unspeakably brutal years, Scott's counterpart in the sleek new world of the 1970s is the lowly unborn.

Dred Scott's life and rights were dominated by doctors who owned him, attorneys who fought to ensure his subhuman status, and aging jurists who defined him out of the Constitution. The lone contribution by the unborn to this formula is the rejection by a mother. Scott's birth date was inaccurately recorded which was not uncommon for slaves. We witness the same casual approach today to the recording of post-abortion complication rates. (Both the American government and the American press, secular and religious, have ignored the report issued this Fall by the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota which predicts a "high increase in post abortion mortality morbidity and complication rates" in the United States. The report is a review of abortion and post abortion complication statistics on a global scale, over the past fifty years.)

Dred Scott and all other "persons of color" existed for the convenience and for the profit of those who wanted and could afford them. Slavery was touted as beneficial for the Blacks as it would save them from starvation, and prevent them from becoming public burdens. Today, financially gifted family planners with the same philosophy envision a similarly controlled existence for millions of unborn by selectively destroying or breeding out the "unwants" among them, the costly eaters.

During the 19th century, America caromed through years of windy debates and meaningless slave protection laws which left the slaves pathetically vulnerable to the masters' whims and choices; we allowed the masters to beat them with impunity; we had slave states and free states. Today we follow the same superficial route with our euphemistic conscience laws, our definitions of "therapeutic" abortions, and our closed maternity wards. And many powerful and verbose spokesmen plan to divide us into abortion states and human life states.

James Buchanan was a

## Mini Courses on Mass Scheduled in Auburn

Auburn — A mini course on the Mass will be offered later this month to give the theology behind the recent changes in the Mass and the history behind the theology. The course, given under the auspices of St. Bernard's Seminary's Office of Continuing Education, will be held at Holy Family School, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Jan. 22 and 29, Feb. 5 and 19.

Father Albert J. Shamon, pastor of St. Mary's, Waterloo, and Courier-Journal columnist will be the lecturer.

"The heart of the Church community is considered to be the theology of presence. To appreciate the richness of this

cosigner of the 1854 Ostend Manifesto which proposed, if Spain refused to sell Cuba to the United States for an offered \$120 million "to wrest it from Spain if we possess the power." It was generally accepted at the time that we wished to use the new acquisition as additional slave territory. An irresolute leader President Buchanan personally disapproved of slavery, calling it a "moral evil" but he repeatedly sided with the powerful and wealthy pro-slavery forces. Correspondingly President Gerald Ford who finds abortion personally distasteful, selected Nelson Rockefeller as his vice president to guide the directions of a congress with two stalled Human Life Amendments before it.

Legally or illegally slavery brought degradation, humiliation, pain and a subhuman existence to the Blacks; but it was promoted by some of the strongest intellects of the day. Just as abortion, whether the hand with the scalpel is licensed or not, terminates a human life; and today we read as the final conclusion drawn by the splendid doctorates of Harvard University's Center for Population Studies "abortion must be available, otherwise there will always be unwanted children."

The Supreme Court margins in both the slavery and abortion decisions was 7 to 2 with dissenting justices noting among other objections that the Court had overstepped the limitations of the cases directly before it, the Missouri Compromise and the abortion laws in all 50 states were declared unconstitutional.

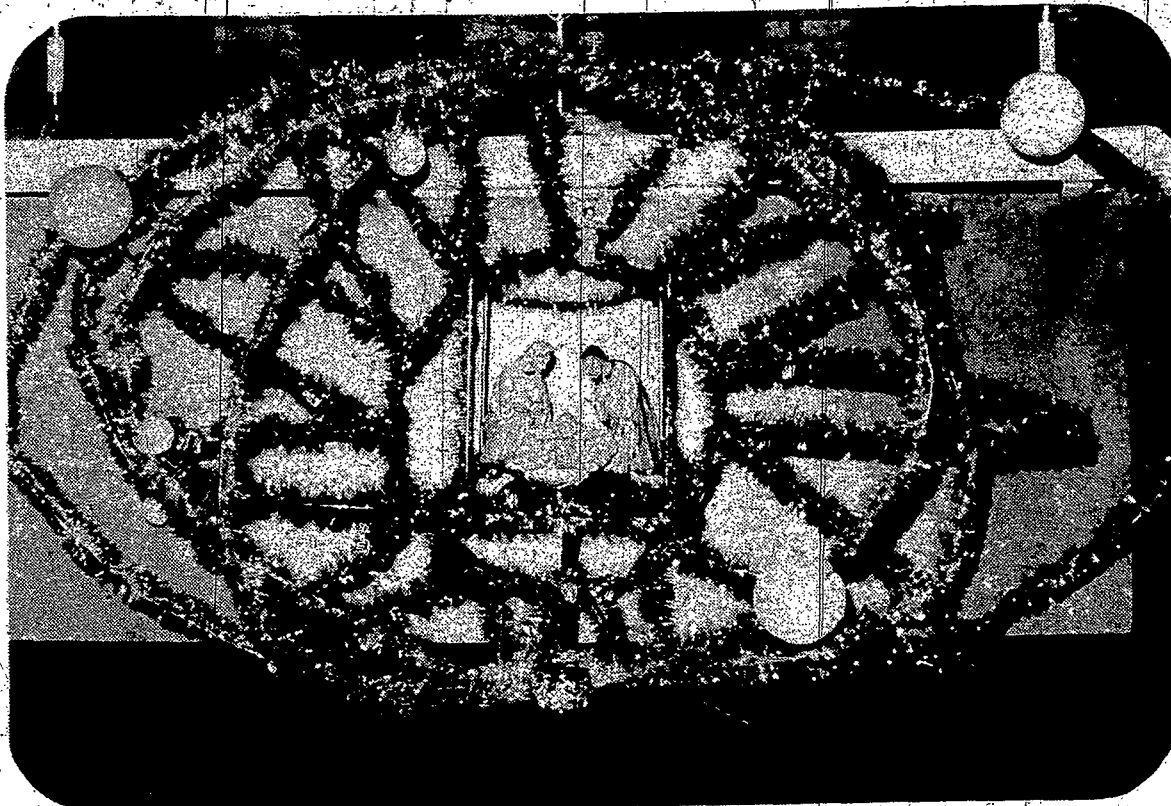
Also, in both decrees, the Court specifically forbade any state or territory the right to interfere with the "master's right to own," and the "mother's right to terminate" a human life.

Public opinion and the preferred life style of the master and the mother were advanced in both opinions as major factors. The health and well being of the master and the mother are fully defined and, tho' in both decrees the Court admitted if citizenship or personhood could be established, the slave and the unborn would have the full protection of the Constitution and the courts would be bound to respect and maintain those unalienable right... in both decrees the Supreme Court refused to define the vital words 'citizen' and 'person'.

Both Blacks and the unborn were described as dangerous to the safety of the nation, burdens or prison fodder as it were, and not entitled to free human lives as American citizens. Slavery was seen as an economic necessity in 1857 just as Dr. Louis Hellman of our Department of Health, Education and Welfare has declared abortion to be a "bargain".

Harry Truman once said there is nothing new in history except what we do not know. Do we know nothing, have we learned nothing from the 1850's and the 1930's?

I suggest we read some history.



### Pastor's Artistry

The sanctuary of Most Precious Blood Church is decorated during Christmastide by this creche, which Father Peter Nobili, pastor, designed and built against the face of the altar.

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