

**Editorial**

**A Pin That Says PRAY**

President Ford and others trying to whip up psychological momentum as a factor in the drive against "stagflation" are overlooking a substantial ally — religion. Not organized religion as such but the basic God-fearing emotions of the American people.

When life is going well for most of us — good wages, plenty of food, no shortages — we tend to forget our Maker and His lessons. When the going gets troublesome, however, we the people tend to turn to Him and reinforce ourselves in religious values. This is not criticism; it is merely the human condition.

In the face of world hunger, our own Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, the U.S. conference of bishops, and leaders of other faiths have urged increased fasting in the hopes that the food we save will feed those starving in our world. The plight of thousands hungering around the world, incidentally, is woven into the pattern of our general economic problems. If one had only a pragmatic viewpoint it would show that a healthy world would be beneficial to our own nation.

Admittedly our economic problem is complex. We have heard we are suffering from recession and inflation at the same time. By slaying one dragon we run the risk of feeding the other. Naturally, the people are confused and looking for the kind of governmental leadership that the Church is providing in its sphere.

There is some measure of illogic in the plan to grant tax rebates and urge increased consumption at a time when there is hunger in the world. True, this may give our economy a temporary shot in the arm but still it would be only another point in the vicious cycle of economic woes besetting us.

May we risk being labeled fanatic in some quarters by suggesting that the problem may be that we as a nation have forgotten to put our faith in God. Surely He would look with favor upon a people willing to suffer a little so that others would stop suffering a great deal. Or put conversely, should we, the haves, expect much help from God if we ignore the have-nots?

Religion in its peculiar yet ever recurring way of providing the answer for many of our human problems offers Christians the perfect structure to begin to meet some of these problems — Lent.

Church leaders, from Pope Paul VI on down, have pointed out the link between the world's woes and the imbalance in the possession of the world's goods. They have urged everyone from governments on down to work to bridge the gap.

Judging from reports from such disparate sources as the U.S. Catholic Conference and Sen. Mark Hatfield, the people as individuals are willing to do their share. The government, however, wrapped in ideological red tape and encumbered by the cement feet of politics has been slow to grasp advice which now has been transformed by recent events into warning.

Instead of proclaiming WIN our pins should be suggesting PRAY. We should pray not so much for the solution to our own immediate needs but to seek the way to be better citizens of the world He created. That course is increasingly becoming more realistic.

**Ecumenism**

Recently the Times of London editorially praised the Catholic Holy Year for its theme of reconciliation but noted some reservations on whether magnifying Rome and the papacy would help the cause of ecumenism.

A letter was sent in rejoinder, criticizing the prestigious London newspaper for its past handling of papal news releases. According to Newsprint, a religious newsletter, the writer charged that the Times tends to play up the Pope's negative criticisms of deviation in the Church while overlooking his many positive and optimistic statements.

And who wrote that letter? Dr. Bernard C. Pawley, archdeacon of Canterbury.

**Opinion**

**Don't Close Our OB Unit**

Editor:

I am writing with reference to the recommendation made by the Board of Directors of the Genesee Region Health Planning Council regarding the closing of one or more obstetrical units in Monroe County by April 1975. Since my connections are in particular with St. Mary's Hospital, I would like to go on record as being opposed to any move to close the excellent obstetrical department which operates at this outstanding hospital.

I am sure that you would be interested in my thoughts in regard to St. Mary's. First of all, I have had many friends who have had their babies born there and I cannot begin to tell you of their high commendations of the service rendered. The care given is excellent! Despite the excellent care, I also understand that the cost at St. Mary's is lower than that of any other hospital in the Rochester area and I do feel that cost should be a factor.

St. Mary's Hospital is the only hospital that has chosen to remain in the inner city and is the only hospital located west of the Genesee River until you reach Brockport.

The choice of the patient and the right to give birth in a hospital that does not perform elective abortions should also be considered. I feel that the moral and religious convictions of a patient should be honored.

In your position you have a tremendous opportunity to exert influence so that this outstanding Hospital will continue its dedicated work particularly in the maternal field.

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**Why Not More At March?**

Editor:

Afterthoughts following the March for Life, Jan. 18, are not very encouraging for the future moral attitude of our society; if one expects encouragement these days.

Approximately 350 people turned out to brave the cold, wintry, Rochester weather, with the warmth in their hearts to keep them warm. Dedicated people who know they were representing those who are unable to speak for themselves.

Only half the number of last year's march, compared to two

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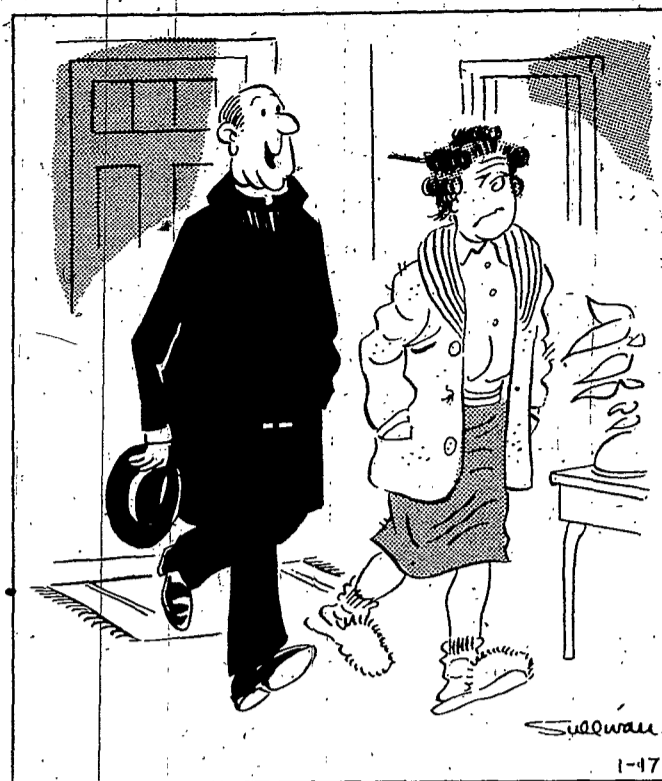
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Courier-Journal



"I LIKE TO SURPRISE PEOPLE! IF I PHONE FIRST, I NEVER SEEM TO CATCH ANYBODY AT HOME."

**More Letters On Page 6**

million more planned deaths, puts a chill into one that no freezing temperature ever could. Where were all of you who heard our call to stand up for the unborn. Radio, television and newspapers all spread the word but on how many deaf ears did they fall? How many bowlers are there, or what interesting programs were on television, what was the priority that took precedent over the struggle of the unborn for life.

But of most importance was the absence of our spiritual leaders at an event of this moral magnitude. We heard nothing about a Chavez, Callo, or Hess crises that our priests and sisters participated in. We wonder why two million souls are of no significance? From Rochester to Victor the silence was deafening to all at the sparsely filled Civic Center Plaza on Exchange St. — Where were you?

The burden cannot be carried by a few, the priorities of our religious must be reordered — that they may have life and have it in the fullest. There are only two sides, life, and death; there is no in-between, no sidelines to watch from. We can all win or we can all lose but, we are all involved.

All is not gloomy, however, from the depths of our very beings springs the consolation ever present for two thousand centuries. "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." So with His grace we will all redouble our efforts and press on, with the constant hope that they may soon realize the calamity that is upon us.

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**Help Fight Kidney Disease**

Editor:

There is now and there will continue to be a great need for General Community Education, and the need for continued funding to research, combat, and conquer the fourth leading killer, kidney disease. It is very common to dismiss an encounter with kidney disease as being something that happens to someone else and not with us, and at the same time look at it from a national level as opposed to a local level. The purpose of this letter is to briefly remind you of how fortunate we are to reside in the Genesee Valley area.

The Genesee Valley area is perhaps one of the nation's leading communities in the fight against kidney disease. We are fortunate to have the talents of expert researchers, diagnosticians, and physicians together with the excellent medical facilities provided through many hospitals in the Genesee Valley area. In addition,

the welfare of the kidney patient is supported through activities conducted by the Kidney Foundation of Genesee Valley, Inc., under the dynamic leadership of its president, William Posner, a kidney patient himself.

I am happy to say that our daughter Roberta is a classic example of the results of the extraordinary efforts of the Genesee Valley area medical facilities. Roberta had been afflicted with kidney disease and was treated for five years. She subsequently received a successful kidney transplant and is literally a new person. Roberta enjoys life to the fullest and is an active young lady who is in her third year at RIT. This was able to occur for several reasons which include the prayers of her friends and neighbors, the exceptional skills of many fine physicians, and most importantly the fact that an individual had donated his kidney to be used to continue another's life in the event of his death. We will always be grateful to our anonymous benefactor.

Roberta could have easily been a member of your family. Would you not want the same results?

To improve these efforts conducted to combat kidney disease, your support is needed. Your support can come in several ways. The first line of support may be to familiarize yourself with kidney disease and what is being done. The second line of support would be to carry a donor card so that your kidney can be used to save another's life in the event of your death. Should you need any information regarding either support, please call the Kidney Foundation of Genesee Valley, Inc. at 454-5890. The last line of support is to support through contribution, the activities of the Kidney Foundation of Genesee Valley, Inc. The Second Annual Kidney Telethon will be held starting Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. on WROC Channel 8. Please enjoy the festivities and pledge your contribution so that the efforts of the Foundation may continue.

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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.