

More Opinions

Greeley Briefed On Pro-Life

Editor:

In commenting on Father Andrew Greeley's Jan. 29 column, I must, first, thoroughly agree with him that we cannot pick and choose our respect for life and applaud his suggestion that Church leaders form a broad coalition with all those who are involved in protecting and defending human life.

Secondly, I'd like to discuss what he calls the "respect life movement" as I see it. The Pro-Life Movement (the name it has gradually adopted) is a fledgling social action movement awakened by the seemingly sudden but actually insidious onset of abortion on demand. In a short period of time pro-life has attracted more followers and generated more activity than any comparable phenomenon. Its basic common denominator is a deep concern for the value of human life and a belief that killing human beings does not solve human problems.

As pro-life evolves, more emphasis is encouraged within it to broaden its base. For example, the National Youth Pro-life Coalition led by Tom and Sue Hilgers, Tom and Chris Mooney and others, urge a revolution of values — to solve human problems without resorting to expedient violence. Their meetings include representatives from many social action groups in order to rally awareness and understanding of the scope of human needs. Father Greeley and others who focus on what they judge to be rigidity in the movement should take heart in the influence made within it by these splendid, sensitive young leaders.

As to whether the Roman Catholic Church will form a broad coalition with all those who are involved in protecting and defending human life, as Father Greeley suggests, will depend

upon the interest the Church leadership has in these issues and the priority they give them. Also, it will depend on the extent to which those directing the various social causes in the church will communicate with each other and work toward mutual understanding and cooperation.

Pro-life will continue, it will broaden its base, but it must keep its eye on target. To change a society's acceptance of killing people instead of solving the problems of people and reversing a Supreme Court decision will take commitment plus constant prayer and action.

Jeanne D. Sweeney [Mrs.]
[Board member Rochester Area Right to Life Education Fund, Inc., Area Representative of American Citizens Concerned for Life]

135 Nob Street
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Right to Life Thanks Marchers

Editor:

On behalf of the Rochester Area Right to Life Committee, I would like to thank those three hundred plus people who weathered freezing temperatures to stand up publicly in support of human life on Jan. 18. Also, a special thanks to the very capable and dedicated chairmen of the march, Mary Ellen McCarthy, Raymond Buonemani, and Richard Hussar, whose hard work and ability made the march a success.

Hopefully, the special sacrifices made by these fine people will serve as a stimulus to those who are sitting back. Many have joined our efforts, but many more are needed.

William P. Polito, Chairman
Rochester Area Right to Life Committee
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up pictures of shovels and other tools himself.)

"Oh, yes," she said softly, her brown eyes growing darker and larger by the second. "Things like little lambs." "Ah," said her father, understandably enchanted with the answer, "and when you are not dreaming of little lambs, what then?"

Again quickly. "Well then I dream of tulips in the grass and frogs in winter." She'd been dipping into Walt Whitman obviously.

A week or so later she was watching "Little House on the Prairie" with her older brother and sister when a scene of a pioneer woman in labor suddenly riveted everybody's attention until the cry of an infant signaled the birth.

She turned to me and asked for the umpteenth time (her best friend has a new baby brother) "Now, how is it that the baby gets inside the mother?"

And I began my usual preliminary, trying to gauge just how much information she would want, this time.

"Well, you know," I began, "the father gives the mother a seed

"Oh yes," she interrupted excitedly, thinking just one step ahead of her words, "and the seed packages have pictures of babies on them, right?"

In her concentration she didn't see the eyes of those around her soften and mouths crinkle at the imagery she had evoked. No idea at all that she had just composed a poem.

Cenacle Sister to Lead Watson Homestead 'Shop

Sister Rita Anne Houlihan of the Religious of the Cenacle will be the principal speaker at the annual religious workshop at Watson Homestead in Coopers Plains Feb. 28 and March 1. The topic this year is "Be Still and Know

8 p.m. The Eucharist will be celebrated at 9:30 p.m.

After 8 a.m. breakfast on Saturday, March 1, Sister Rita Anne will give a program at 9 a.m. She will present another at 2 p.m. Between the two presentations will be a liturgy preparation a celebration of the Eucharist and lunch.

Persons wishing to attend the workshop should send their names, complete addresses, church, and a check or money order payable to Christian Formation Board for overnight accommodations (\$12) or for the commuter rate (\$7) to Judy Wardell, 3026 Wynnwood Road, Big Flats, N.Y. 14814. No refund after Feb. 19.



SISTER RITA ANNE

Dryden Holy Cross Establishing Council

Dryden — Forty-five members of a steering committee under the leadership of John Gilmartin, Lorraine Drazek and Barbara Ivers are working with enthusiasm and diligence to form a parish council for Holy Cross parish here.

Beginning with an informational meeting last August when Father Douglas Hoffman, director of Pastoral Ministry, spoke to a group of interested parishioners, steady progress has been made toward having a functioning council by July of this year. The steering committee was carefully selected to represent all villages and rural areas composing the parish, as well as all age groups, both sexes and varied educational and career backgrounds. Thus there are high school students, retired persons, housewives, researchers, educators, farmers bringing their thoughts and experience to the work.

Members of the steering committee have carefully studied the literature concerning parish council formation and activity, and have visited parishes with working councils to report their findings. Work sessions of

subcommittees and the entire group are geared to forming a council which will be an effective instrument representative of the entire parish community with the responsibility of encouraging and facilitating actions directed at accomplishing the purposes of the parish community.

Holy Cross will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its establishment on Low Sunday, April 6, this year, and Father Thomas Cleary and the parishioners look forward to the parish council as a fitting action to commemorate this important occasion.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sarah Child

One of the pluses of raising children is that in their first few years at least we are sometimes privy to their inner thoughts, to the turnings of the mental process.

Before they master the succinct phrase, the ambiguous shrug, the duplicitous rejoinder, they tell it like it is. Sometimes it comes out pure poetry.

Not too long ago our youngest and her father were having a quiet talk, the five-year-old on his lap.

"Tell me," I heard him question her at one point, "what do you dream about when you go to sleep."

"Oh," she said quickly without a pause, "things in barns."

Strange, I thought, my own mental image of things in barns consisting of tractors and hay rakes and other mundane implements.

"Things in barns?" echoed her father puzzledly. (He later confessed he'd been conjuring

Dr. Wiggins To Lecture in CIM Series

Elmira — Dr. James Wiggins of Syracuse University will be the speaker at the continuing series of Christian Institute of Man Lectures at 8 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10, at the Park Church. The theme of the lectures is The Spiritual Challenge of Modern Technology: The Revolution of Hope.

Wiggins is the acting director of graduate studies of religion at Syracuse University. He is known for his work in religious education and is the author of numerous books and articles.

Among his books are The Embattled Saint-Monograph on John William Fletcher, 18th Century Methodist Theologian; Readings in Judaism and Christianity, and Foundations of Christianity, which he co-authored with J. Bruce Burke.

The CIM lectures are sponsored ecumenically by Catholic and Protestant churches and laity. All lectures are open and tickets at \$1 may be purchased at the door.

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