

Dr. Jefferson on Boston Case

'Malpractice Cannot Be Hidden'

By JOHN DASH

Under the "emotionalism" and "extravagant overstatements" which characterized the recent Boston trial of Dr. Kenneth Edelin, the point at hand was that physicians "do not practice in a vacuum," a noted black surgeon told the Courier-Journal in a telephone interview last week.

Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson, assistant clinical professor of surgery at the Boston University School of Medicine, and chairman of the board of directors of the National Right to Life Committee, said that "a doctor must abide by the standards of medical practice," and that malpractice cannot be hidden under "a blanket of legal abortion, no matter what the Supreme Court's decision is."

Dr. Edelin was convicted Feb. 15 of manslaughter in connection with a legal abortion he performed on October 1973. He was

given a one-year suspended sentence three days later. The black obstetrician was found guilty of allowing an aborted live fetus to die following a surgical abortion on an 18-year-old unwed mother.

Dr. Jefferson, who is a Protestant, discounted the racial designation of the defendant and the teachings of the Catholic Church on abortion as playing a part in the deliberations of the jury.

However, Dr. Edelin's attorneys plan to make racism and the alleged use of racial slurs by jurors in the case a part of their appeal of the verdict; and a public affairs spokesman for the U.S. Catholic bishops charged that "much of the media" coverage of the trial does the nation "a grave disservice by fostering anti-Catholic sentiment."

It has also been charged that the composition of the jury was

not truly representative of the defendant's "peer" group.

"A jury of one's peers is simply not possible at this time," Dr. Jefferson said. "No one has any evidence that any other verdict would have been handed up. I don't predict what will happen to the appeal; but I don't think they have grounds for reversing the verdict" on the basis of jury composition.

The jury was all white, and predominantly Roman Catholic.

She feels that the most damaging evidence against the physician came from defense witnesses. "They tended to create the impression," she said, that "they would hinder the facts from coming out."

"In abortion," she said, "just as in any other surgical procedure, the physician must expect the same scrutiny, and some will fall short."

Catholic Schools Will Consolidate

The Parish Council of Blessed Sacrament recently approved a plan to combine their K-8 school permanently with St. John the Evangelist 1-6 school on Humboldt Street next year.

Currently, Blessed Sacrament's seventh and eighth graders are attending Bishop Hogan Junior High, an experimental program based in St. John's school. According to Father John Mulligan of St. John's, the success of the two-year junior high project was a main factor in approving the consolidation.

The plan states that at the beginning of the next school year, the fifth and sixth grades at Blessed Sacrament will be moved to St. John's. The students from Bishop Hogan Junior High will then attend Blessed Sacrament. The remaining K-4 Blessed Sacrament pupils will join the others at St. John's within the following three years.

Father Mulligan and his co-pastor, Father James Boyle, have accepted the plan after consulting with their parishioners and the appropriate parish committees.

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A record of this nature is especially appropriate now that Pope Paul has called for the renewed use of Latin in the liturgy. The booklet **Jubilate Deo** (a collection of Latin hymns) was sent out "as a personal gift from the Holy Father" to the bishops of the world, according to a covering letter from the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship.

Pope Paul "expressed the wish that Catholics of all nationalities should know some Latin chants for the Mass, for example, the Gloria, Credo, Sanctus, Pater Noster, and Agnus Dei. . . . The use of Latin and Gregorian chant will serve to underline the unity of the Christian people in a particular way, and in a way that seems quite reasonable. . . ." the letter said.

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OAR Seeks Volunteers

By MARY ANN GINNERTY
Auburn Area Correspondent
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Auburn — OAR, a volunteer program organized last Fall to work with inmates in the Cayuga County Jail and provide a supportive relationship in the community following release, is seeking 15 volunteers to participate in a March 15 training session. These volunteers will join seven OAR volunteers already active in the program.

OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration) is a national movement to help persons who have served time in a local jail readjust to society through a one-to-one supportive relationship. The process begins while the person is in jail and continues with contact and counseling after release.

Volunteers must be older than 21 and residents of Cayuga County. They should feel they can contribute 6 evening hours a month for a one year period.

"Individuals must genuinely care about others and be willing to give this concern to an individual," said an OAR steering committee spokesman. "The confidential nature of the relationship between the inmate and OAR volunteer is of utmost importance and will be one of the key emphases of the upcoming training session. Volunteers interested in the restoration of the person serving sentences will be asked to participate in the training session."

Registrations for the training session are being handled by Keith Batman who may be reached at the Auburn Hospitality Center on State Street. Volunteers will have the opportunity for an informational interview with an OAR steering committee representative prior to acceptance into the training program.

The training session will be held Saturday, March 15 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. concluding with a supper and guest speaker at St. Mary's Parish Hall. There will be a tour of the jail March 18 and discussion with Sheriff Robert Sponable.

Training will focus on practical ways to build the volunteer's relationship with the confined individual, and exploration of typical situations encountered working with incarcerated men and women. Volunteers will be familiarized with OAR and jail policies. Resources available within the community will be discussed.

The emphasis will be on sharpening the volunteer's inmate

skills so he can more successfully work with individuals. Problems facing the newly released inmate in the community will be pointed up.

The volunteer coordinator will review volunteer activities in a monthly feedback session. The coordinator will be available for

consultation and to provide direction so the volunteer can offer optimum help.

The training committee has drawn on personnel from local agencies, the experience of former inmates, and community citizen groups in planning the training experience.

News from Hornell

ANNUAL PARTY

Naples — Saturday, March 15 is the date of the annual St. Patrick's Day Party at St. Januarius Church. Syl Novelli and his orchestra will provide the music. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schwartz are the general chairmen and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Riesenberger are the ticket chairmen. Others on the committee are Mr. and Mrs. Roger Pötter, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Steinmetz and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Weiland. Dancing is slated from 9 to 11 with a buffet at 11 p.m. Tickets from the Riesenbergers (374-2531) or from the rectory.

RETREATANTS

Naples — Father Robert Smith, pastor of St. Januarius extends congratulations to the following men who made the parish retreat recently: Gerald Baader, Carl Dinzler, Harry Frank, Julian Fox, Michael Hamilton, William Kanaley, Charles Parker, Charles Shepard, Bill Steinmetz and Bill Vierhile.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SISTER PATRICIA!

Dansville — St. Mary's School recently was filled with surprise and excitement on the birthday of its principal, Sister Patricia Gause. A shower of birthday cakes was presented to her in the cafeteria at lunch time on Thursday, Feb. 20. Each grade mother baked a cake for her respective class and shared it with the guest of honor. Father Richard O'Connell and Father William Darling also joined the group. Another cake was

presented to her in the faculty room at lunch time.

On that same evening, St. Mary's Council meeting closed with, of all things, birthday cake and coffee. A brightly decorated card was painted by the Kindergarten class and presented to Sister Patricia during their snack time. A large, standing card signed by all students and faculty was unveiled and displayed in the school hall. Sister commented, "it's been a happy and I must say, full day."

MOZART REQUIEM

Hornell — Under the direction of Dr. Melvin LeMon the Hornell Arts Council will offer a musical performance of Mozart's "Requiem" to be sung in Latin, Palm Sunday at 8 p.m. in St. Ann's Church.

St. Ann's choir members participating in the 60-voice presentation are Delores Lamb, Anabelle Magee, Mary Candiello, Carol Shilkett, Peggy Pease, John Burns, John Bartell. Admission is free.

SUPERVISOR SOUGHT

Hornell — St. Ann's Church has announced that a part-time position for a supervisor of Religious Education is available to lay members of the parish. The parish is seeking someone to help the religious education staff in administering programs. A more detailed job description and application form may be obtained at the rectory and inquiries may also be directed to Rudy Schneider (324-3282) or Josephine Ciancaglioni (324-2167).


Parish Forms OHD Committee

A parish Human Development Committee for St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Corning is in formational stages with 20 parishioners attending a four-week training course offered by the Diocesan Office of Human Development.


The parish decided to form the committee after 35 members attended an informational meeting on the formation and work of OHD given by Sister Mary Kruckow, OHD staff member. Food and clothing are being collected by the parish in case of emergencies especially in rural areas.

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