

**Editorial**

**Consistent**

It follows.

Newsday, a Long Island daily, reports that the U.S. Department of Defense has authorized 5,000 abortions involving women in the armed forces or the wives and daughters of servicemen despite a presidential order forbidding them.

The Pentagon, our war-making agency, long has shown its lack of regard for human life.

**Eye of Beholder**

It is amazing to what degree some of us will think "sex" when seeing nudity of any kind. A recent example provided by the city of Dallas, Texas, is even more outlandish than most.

Dallas has an ordinance which prohibits the display of "sexually explicit material" where persons under 17 can see it. We think this is a fine law and have editorialized in its favor on the local scene here.

However, when the Dallas city fathers recently hid an issue of Newsweek magazine because its cover shows a Vietnamese woman carrying a naked, burned, bloodied, and muddied child as "sexually explicit," it is missing the point and showing a strange comprehension of obscenity.

**Helping Refugees**

It is nice to be a Catholic when you can read of the efforts of the United States Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Services, to help resettle the thousands of Vietnamese refugees seeking surcease in this nation.

In the past when similar refugees poured in from other parts of the world — Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Cuba — Catholic agencies were responsible for settling more than half of the refugees. Hopefully we will do the same job this time.

In fact, since World War II, Catholic agencies have resettled more than a million people here — more than a half-million in the last eight years alone.

Migration and Refugee Services helps people without regard to religion, race, or political affiliation. The criterion is human need. That, coupled with the President's fervent request for help for the refugees, is the kind of leadership needed in this situation.

**Food for Thought**

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops have designated May 25 as a National Day of Prayer for a Good Harvest. The reason for such a day is obvious; more food is needed for our world.

Yet such a day hopefully would also provide food for thought. We should reflect on the fact that our harvest is a gift of God. The food of the land is not something to be owned but something to be shared. We who are lucky to be living in a land of plenty must see to it the banquet is opened. Too often we have kept even some of our own countrymen from sitting at the table.

Such practice must be ended not only for those close to home but also for our brothers and sisters in other lands.

Each meal when we say "These Thy gifts which we are about to receive from Thy bounty" it should remind us of the source of our nourishment and what the stewardship obviously entails.

**Opinion**

**Objection To Changes**

Editor:

I have been meaning for some time to write on the changes in the Church. A short time ago (2/26/75) in Father Hohman's The Open Window, a question was asked on whether or not the diocese directs the rules to which each church must adhere. The reason for asking the question was that a couple had been to Mass at three different churches a short distance from their new home. In one church one still kneels at Communion, in another one stands, one has altar girls, one has altar boys. Father Hohman's answer was and I quote, "Since . . . Vatican II . . . there are many options allowable . . . Personally I don't think any of these matters have enough importance to be very concerned about . . ." In other words, forget Canon Law 813, forget the Holy Father, and last but not least by any means forget the lay people who have built and supported "Our Holy Mother Church" for many years, and are very unhappy about some of the changes.

I wonder how many of the bishops, priests, religious and lay people realize that of all the changes that have been made, the lay people have been asked their opinion on only one of them: the changing of the "Holy Days" to the nearest Sunday. The vote on that was almost 90 per cent for no change. Also I read in a weekly magazine that a poll was taken of some 3,000 subscribers on whether or not the Latin Mass should be restored. Nearly 77 per cent of those who responded said yes.

I think change for the sake of change is silly, and changing to make religion easy for the moderns is foolish and does more harm than good.

The churches look like auditoriums or a YMCA. In no way do they resemble the sacred House of God that we so loved.

Now I may be just a dull, stupid Catholic, but I would like to know just what these changes have accomplished. They certainly haven't filled the empty pews at Mass, or the confessionals on First Fridays, Saturdays, or Holy Days. The lay people better start speaking up or we may not have a Catholic Church in the not too far future. Correct me if I am wrong.

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Editor's Note: Reader Hogan's citation from Father Hohman's



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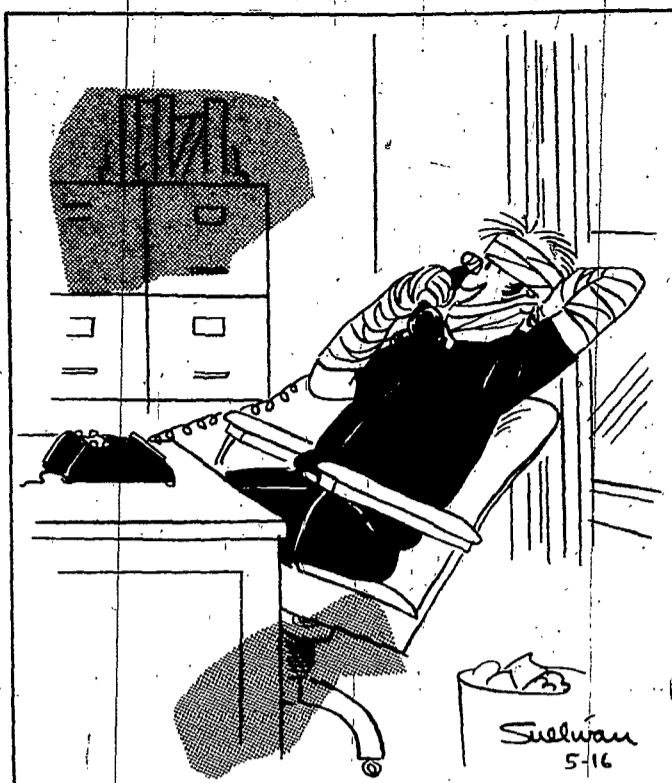
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Courier-Journal



"HEY LISTEN, FORGET IT! IT WAS A GORGEOUS DAY, THE OUTDOOR SETTING WAS PERFECT, AND MARRYING YOU TWO WAS A PLEASURE! I WAS JUST DUMB ABOUT THE POISON IVY, IS ALL."

column was taken from several sources in that column, and, as such, is incomplete. The entire writing of the second sentence was printed: "Personally I don't think any of these matters have enough importance to be very concerned about, but in my own case as pastor I feel that as long as they [the bishops] have so stipulated, I should go along with it."

**Liberation, But from Sin**

Editor:

Letter writer Judith Kiehl wrote in the Courier-Journal 5/14/75 that she withdrew her support of Right-to-Life because Nancy Murphy, who is favored in Right-to-Life literature took swipes at the gay libbers, ERA, NOW and UNICEF.

Ms. Kiehl defends all except the abortionist and uses a quote, "Everything that lives is holy." It seems to me life is holy, but what that life does is not necessarily so, and too often isn't.

I heard a very informative talk on the Gay Liberation Movement by a former head of that movement, Guy Charles. Unfortunately, gay libs are not merely dedicated to a "share in human dignity," as the writer may think. Although Charles faults so-called Christians who do nothing but condemn, saying Gays need our love, yet he says the gay liberationists are demanding acceptance of sin and the condoning of sinful marriage. He knows this life. He asks are they to dictate to God and to the churches?

Charles issues a magazine called Liberation, published quarterly by Sanctuary House, a Christian evangelical ministry to homosexual men and women (1719 Willard St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 10009) and his ministry came because of his own liberation from sin by the power of God. He is vehemently against the dictates of the gay libbers, but he himself is dedicated to helping them, through Christ.

Liberation as I see it, must be from sin, not dedicated to liberating sin itself by giving it equal status with good and right.

Aren't women liberationists led by gay women who want to be equal with men? I fear this kind of eventual freedom may well be showered on women: to raise children alone, to dig ditches, have free sex, bar hop, brandish a gun, serve in war and worse. Is this what women want?

Since we are all sinners we needn't condemn, neither need we line up with those dedicated to eradicate decency in humanity and dignity in women.

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**Bishop's Action On Gallo Lauded**

Editor:

I wish to express my sincere thanks to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan for his support of the United Farmworkers and Caesar Chavez. The bishop's articles on the problems of the farmworkers in the United States were very helpful in clarifying the issues. They showed deep sensitivity as well as extensive research and study.

It was especially important that the bishop was able to discern clearly the basis of the current crisis with the Gallo Wine Company. He correctly pinpointed the issue as one involving the need for free elections. His practical suggestions to the Rochester community were especially helpful so that an effective response can be made by almost any individual: 1. Do not buy Gallo wine or any wine bottled in Modesto, Cal; 2. tell restaurant and store owners not to sell Gallo wine; 3. support your local United Farmworker Support Committee.

I found the bishop's direct and forthright approach refreshing and encouraging. We need to hear from responsible moral leaders on these issues so that we can make informed moral judgements and decisions. Rochester has come to expect this from Bishop Hogan, and we are indeed fortunate. He has consistently spoken for the poor and the oppressed when their rights have been threatened. May he continue to do so!

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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.