

**Editorial**

**Isn't It The Devil?**

The devil exists and he is not merely the personification or dramatization of evil.

This conclusion was published by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. According to Religious News Service, the Vatican study expressed concern over the belief among some Catholics that the devil does not exist.

"It would be a deadly mistake to behave as if the work of the redemption had already been completed. Satan, whom Jesus met in the desert and during his passion, cannot be the mere product of man's tendency to storify and personify his beliefs. Nor can Satan be the aberrant leftover of a primitive cultural language."

The report alluded to Pope Paul's words that the devil is "a living, spiritual being, perverted and perverting. A terrible reality. Mysterious and frightening . . . dark and disturbing spirit who really exists . . . and still acts with treacherous cunning, the secret enemy who sows errors and misfortunes in human history."

At about the same time this report was being issued, but in an entirely separate context, a noted Jewish leader, Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, was warning the Continental Assembly of Christians and Jews meeting in Windsor, Ont., of mounting terrorism and violence in the world.

Rabbi Tannenbaum cited the present era as "a period in which a faltering economic system has condemned millions of able-bodied workers to redundancy . . . a time of global overpopulation and scarcity of food . . . the prospect of disposing of surplus population becomes a temptation more likely to be enhanced than diminished."

"Usual progress in death-dealing has been reckoned in terms of weaponry," the Rabbi noted. "Too little attention has been given to the 'advances' in social organization that made it possible to cross moral barriers and massacre millions."

Rabbi Tannenbaum cited the Nazi era and the death by government edict or by "callous starvation in Africa, Asia, South America" as specific examples of the violence in our world. He also pointed out the prevalent amoral mood that is the hotbed for such seeds of evil — "the fundamental depreciation of the meaning and value of human life. In theological terms, the biblical affirmation that each life is created in the sacred image of God and is therefore of ultimate worth and preciousness is being battered from every side."

The Devil must be playing some role in the world's troubles. How much and where only he and God know for sure. However, the Vatican report warns against using the devil as a "facile" means to explain "unusual human happenings."

The present anti-life mood which sanctions abortion, euthanasia, war, cruel disregard or perhaps even aloof permission for genocide through starvation are not Godly pursuits. Whether the devil is playing a direct role is impossible to discern. One thing is certain, such spiritual anomalies are being carried out by man. Until he changes — and he can change — there is plenty of camouflage for devilry.

All of us, regardless of religious persuasion, must renew our pro-life efforts. Almost every community in the area has pro-life organizations which need help. Admittedly most are concerned principally with abortion and rightfully so because that is the extensive and predominant example of anti-life reaching into our very communities.

But there are other facets of anti-life. We must join in the good fight to expose them and end them. They are a devilish problem.

**Opinion**

**Inner City Story Lacking**

**Editor:**

For one deeply involved in the history recounted in your article "What's Coming Down in the Inner City?" there seemed to be a whole lot missing that could have brought us closer to an approximation of the truth, or at least to an enrichment of our understanding of the facts.

The sick humor about sending in helicopters to transport inner-city Catholics to the suburbs might not be as far-fetched as you make it out to be. With the inner city Catholic school system gone, the Diocese of Rochester gains the dubious distinction of allowing the entire inner city school system to collapse simultaneously by virtue of a single resolution. That the bishop did block a fairly well organized CICP fund-raising campaign; that the resolution to recommend closing the school system originated from the department of the Diocese — the Office of Human Development; that the resolution did receive approbation and blessing of the Bishop whose liaison to the CI-CP stated in no uncertain terms that the bishop interpreted the resolution to mean that there would be no more schools in the inner city; all this tells a sad story of the state of the bishop's commitment to the inner city area. No conscience-soothing is possible because at some point a diocesan plan called for a single school of a couple hundred students which was voted down as totally inadequate.

The closing of St. Lucy's Church is another long story, and its failure to achieve the goals spelled out in a Resolution of the Priest's council is due to many factors. Surely, my own shortcomings played a part. But history will not erase the benign neglect of the diocese that allowed one to work under the expectation of financial assistance and that had over \$20,000 designated for a Black Apostolate sitting in the bank gathering interest, while at the same time withholding assistance from St. Lucy's Church that they had designated to minister to Black Catholics. If anything positive can come out of the death of a church, hopefully it will be a call to the ecclesiastical power structure to come to an awareness of itself as a self-sacrificing servant church. One has to say something to offset the collapse of badly needed ministry of the church in the inner city, and that's exactly how many will take all the talk about "new and meaningful ways of serving inner city," and producing more effective and appropriate ministries which are affordable.

It might be too early to look for



**Bishop Joseph L. Hogan**  
President

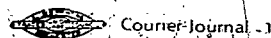
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some concrete form that these new and more effective ministries are taking, but if the present is any indication of what is to come, it seems that so far, the inner city parishes are interested in becoming landlords for private and public agencies that are able to come up with rent. The community programs that ought to have space available don't have a chance if they can't pay rent.

And, by the way, don't call off the helicopters yet, for beneath the humor is a serious apprehension on the part of us inner city folks that the Catholic Church is slowly but surely becoming a white, suburban, middle class church.

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**Hospital Report One-Sided**

**Editor:**

The recent tempest over the chaplain's resignation from St. James Hospital in Hornell has become an issue which the Courier-Journal must resolve. Your article reporting Father William Cosgrove's move failed to cover both chaplain and hospital staff thinking in this matter. The result does gross injustice to Sister Mary Rene and the staff at St. James.

Father Cosgrove has been lauded for his stand on the issue of tubal ligation. Many of us are "right to life," which condemns abortion, sterilization and euthanasia. However, we are aware that extenuating circumstances have in the past mandated the use of abortion and/or sterilization even in Catholic hospitals.

Sister Rene and her staff have led St. James through a quiet and unheralded era of dedicated service to the vast area of the Southern Tier for which we are humbly grateful.

**Richard L. Reinhardt**  
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**Editor's Note: The hospital has not made any statement in regard to Father William Cosgrove's resignation or in regard to its staff thinking in this matter.**

**ERA View Re-stated**

**Editor:**

Because of the serious disastrous effects for the pro-life movement if the ERA is passed we feel a second letter is necessary to strengthen our source of information and its validity.

We would like to clear up our so called "misconceptions" revealed to us recently when we threw some light on the ERA and the St. Joan's Alliance. Our reasons for this previous letter were based on many facts some of which follow.

In 1972 the Catholic Bishops Ad Hoc Committee on Women in Society issued a report to the nation's 283 bishops describing the proposed ERA as "doctrinaire" and stating that if enacted it might "very well destroy the unity essential to a stable family relationship."

The two largest Catholic women's organizations in the nation, the National Council of Catholic Women (11 million members) and the Catholic Daughters of America (182,000 members) are opposed to this amendment. The former in 1973 stating: "Under the guise of equality, the proposed Equal Rights Amendment would in reality wipe out the many legal safeguards which protect women's position in the family. Because it proposes an idea of women foreign to the Christian concept of women's co-equal, but

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individual, dignity with man . . . we oppose the proposed Equal Rights Amendment."

The St. Joan's Alliance is listed in the pamphlet "Catholics and the Equal Rights Amendment" as supporting the ERA thus ignoring a recent warning from the National Council of Catholic Women that "ERA will repeal all anti-abortion laws and deprive Congress and the state legislatures of the right to enact future anti-abortion laws or laws regulating abortion." Since we all know how powerful the NOW organization is in promoting abortion and that St. Joan's is closely associated with NOW, we see no room left to doubt where the pro-abortion labels should be placed. Their "diversified" opinions and their support of ERA is what is meant by "you shall know them by their fruits." Documentation sent on request.

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**Some Queries On Abortion**

**Editor:**

I am reminding Catholic readers that July marks the fifth anniversary of the abortion law in New York State. This allows the killing of unborn babies in hospitals. I am wondering what we're doing now to prevent the golden anniversary of this law?

Parents, do you understand and help your pregnant, unwed daughters or do you rush them to the hospital to abort so the neighbors won't talk?

Single people, do you help your pregnant friends, contribute your time and money to Birthright and Right to Life or do you brag about liberated women's control over her body and ignore the death of a baby?

Religious and teachers, do you teach the value of sex and responsibilities that come with it or do you question God's law, "Thou shall not kill" and offer abortion as a solution?

While you ponder, God is suffering the loss of his children.

**L. Perry**  
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**Special Mass In Webster**

**Editor:**

As the charismatic community grows in this area, more and more prayer groups are being formed and the number of functions for praising Jesus multiplies. I am happy to send you this news item about one such occasion, for publication in the Courier-Journal. St. Paul's Church will celebrate its second charismatic Mass at 8 p.m. on July 22. Father Ron Harley will say the Mass at the church at 783 Hard Road in Webster. All are invited to come and join other Spirit-filled Christians to praise the Lord joyously.

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