

**Life, Liberty and Law**



**Nancy Murphy**

**L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO**  
[Fourth in a series]

Please Note: Dr. Walter Sackett for six years has sponsored the Death with Dignity Bill in the Florida State Legislature. He has repeatedly suggested the logical extension of that bill to include and to terminate hundreds of patients now housed in Florida mental institutions. And he has estimated the savings this would represent for the state in terms of dollars. His bill, as do other euthanasia bills now before state legislatures, bluntly defines euthanasia as the termination of human life by the painless inducement of death.

Elsewhere, 11 years ago, in the cold of a mid-January Thursday, a Federal Administrative Court made the following declaration: "Every man, so also the sick or the mentally deranged or the deformed man, is entitled to respect for his human dignity and to protection by the legal system of his right to life. This right is guaranteed by the legal system which is based on constitutional principles. The destruction of human life and so also the procuring of a premature death for the sick violates, therefore, the constitutional principles even when the deed is prompted by pity. For no member of the community has the right to flaunt the constitutional principles binding on every citizen, or to place himself above them according to standards which contradict these principles materially, even if personal motives correspond to human feeling — whether genuine or misconceived. According to constitutional principles therefore, the killing of a man can neither be permitted nor tolerated by a formal law."

Unfortunately for the expendables in the United States — the unborn, the mentally ill, the deformed, imperfect and non-functional — this noble recognition of man's absolute right to life is not an American declaration. It is not a reflection of America and her attitude toward human life. It is from the West German Court of Federal Administration, and it was quoted by the Roman Catholic Bishops of that Republic in their recent Pastoral Letter.

Somehow this letter from Germany has a special poignancy. It has the haunting

authenticity of a personal plea, so direct as to be almost embarrassing. For it comes from the depths of the German conscience. When American writers refer to the unspeakable atrocities allowed by an apathetic German people during the 30's, we produce the faint but unmistakable ring of the coldly academic; for when we speak of those horrors, we speak from the relative safety provided by distance.

But we are no longer anonymous observers. It's our turn now. Abortion and euthanasia are with us. Listen please to the warning voices — respond to the advice given us by the good German Bishops — for it has actually been paid for in human blood.

The letter concerns itself with euthanasia, and it does not give both sides of the issue.

"We consider it our duty to take a position on euthanasia. Many voices have been raised to demand that the killing of men on request should no longer be penalized. Those who favor it try to delimit their position with regard to the practice of National Socialism (the German Nazi Party) which drew up a criminal program of euthanasia calling it 'the annihilation of unworthy life' when tens of thousands of persons suffering from mental illnesses were murdered. The memory of these crimes is still alive in our people.

"Today an increasing number of people maintain that direct disposal of one's own life, as well as killing-on-request in cases of need, is morally justifiable. . . . It must be said in reply that man has no such right to dispose of human life. He has certainly the right to the alleviation of his suffering, but he is not the master of life and death.

There is an essential difference between letting someone die, and killing him.

"Euthanasia is inhuman. What we need are veneration and respect for human life, and a readiness to help all . . .

"If the value of human life, even the most wretched human life, is no longer considered as founded in God, by what standards will man be judged?"

Yes. By what standards? It's our turn now.

**Next week: The eloquence of Paul VI.**

**FEAST DAY**

**Scottsville** — Friday evening, August 15, at 6:00 p.m. St. Mary of the Assumption Parish celebrated its feast day with an outdoor Mass at the New shrine to the Blessed Mother. After Mass, a tureen supper was held in the parish center.

**Capitol Letters**

Sen. Edward Kennedy, in defending his role in defeating the Bartlett Amendment which would have prohibited federal funding of abortions, stated that he could not support the measure because of flaws he saw in it. He did not comment on the "flaws" inherent in the Supreme Court decision on abortion which has not only resulted in legalized killing of the unborn on demand but now tax-paid legalized killing of the unborn on demand. Sen. Kennedy then smokescreens his de facto pro-abortion position by proposing a program of alternatives to abortion — the same tactic used by Hugh Carey in successfully pursuing the New York State governorship. Ironically, the alternatives to abortion program was originated by the Pro-Life Movement to be used in addition to restoring legal protection of the unborn, not in lieu of it.

Kennedy and Carey both use alternatives to abortion to dodge the central but controversial core of this issue — the social justice due each unborn child by restoring his or her right to life. The most effective means to this is the passage of a Human Life Amendment.

The Democratic party machine needs to know that you support a Human Life Amendment. Write Sen. Edward Kennedy, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510.

How about a "quickie" thank you to Rep. Don Edwards (D-Cal.) who has reported the Human Life Amendment out of committee for hearings in the House of Representatives? The Honorable Don Edwards, House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney

**Episcopal Priest to Be Speaker at 'Life' Fete**

The Rev. Charles Carroll will speak on the medical, scientific, and economic ethics evolving in our society entitled "From the Freedom of 1776 to the Enslavement of the New Bilogism" at the Right to Life dinner, Saturday, Sept. 27 at the Downtown Holiday Inn.

Father Carroll is an Episcopal priest of the California diocese, author, researcher at the Harvard Law School, and graduate of the University of Berlin and Yale University.

Father Carroll was an early opponent of the permissive abortion laws, speaking out in many state legislatures, including New York State. An ardent defender of human life values, he marched with Martin Luther King in the civil rights movement, when it was not popular to do so. Prior to joining Harvard in 1973, Father Carroll was executive director of the Center for Human Values in the Health Sciences in San Francisco. His assignment as special assistant in the U.S. Office of Military Government in Germany in the late 1940s led to his being an observer and authority at the Nuremberg Trials. He is currently writing a book on the trials. Widely published in medical and legal periodicals, his writings depict a vital socio-moral message on the dignity of human life.

The fund raising dinner, highlight of the two-day convention, will have Mark Tuohy Jr., the former Rochester commissioner of public safety, as toastmaster. Joanne Hartman, folk singer, will be included in the dinner program.

In addition to Father Carroll, other national figures will address the convention. Sen. James Buckley will keynote the Saturday conference. Dr. Mildred Jefferson, president of the National Right to Life Committee, a graduate of Harvard Medical School, and a witness at the recent Boston trial of Dr. Edelin, also will address the convention.

Complete fee for the con-

**Widowed Parents Meet Sept. 5**

The Catholic Widowed Parents Club will begin the fall program on Sept. 5 at 8:30 p.m. at St. Theodore's Church, 168 Spencerport Road.

All Catholic widows and widowers are invited.

Judge Donald J. Mark and William D'Anza will be the guests. Refreshments will be served during the social hour following the meeting.

**RICHARD INSTITUTE**

The Rochester Center of the Gabriel Richard Institute will offer demonstrations of their personal development course at 7:30 p.m., on Thursday, Sept. 4, at Mother of Sorrows School; and Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Laurelton United Presbyterian Church. The course is a series of 10 learn-by doing classes open to people of all walks of life. It is non-denominational in nature. The institute, founded by the Christophers, is a non-profit organization which aids people in the development of self-confidence, discovering hidden abilities and building poise.

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vention, including workshops, luncheon and dinner is \$28.50 per person; \$55 for husband and wife; student \$22. Tickets for the dinner only are \$15 per person. Reservations may be made with Carol Reichert, 192 Rogers Parkway, Rochester, N.Y. 14617, 716-342-8849.



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