

# The Person, Morality, and Conflict, 1776-1976

By RONALD J. BUTTARAZZI

Mankind's journey to moral awareness has been marked by man's insight, or lack of it, into the meaning and significance of person. By the expedient of relegating a human being to a non-person, totalitarian and even democratic governments have rationalized inhuman acts against the less fortunate, the less powerful, and the helpless. By designating Jews as non-Aryans, the Nazis rationalized atrocities; by labeling the black person a "chattel," the Supreme Court of the United States in the Dred Scott decision constitutionally deprived blacks of their rights; by designating a child as a fetus, the Supreme Court in Roe vs. Wade deprived the unborn of constitutional protection.

The morally sensitive in this abortion-euthanasia culture can re-establish the full significance of person in our indifferent society by perceiving and reaffirming the great principles of our human heritage.

A few unique men have charted a true course through governmental moral relativism.

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These men have bequeathed their principles as a moral compass for guiding nations and men.

Our fundamental principles were best stated by Thomas Jefferson:

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." (The Declaration of Independence, 1776)

Nearly a century later, Lincoln affirmed those principles in arguing for the recognition that black persons were entitled to those same "unalienable rights."

"Most governments have been based, practically, on the denial of equal rights of men . . . ours began . . . by affirming those rights . . . We proposed to give

all a chance; and we expected the weak to grow stronger, the ignorant, wiser; and all better, and happier together."

The responsibility for courageous leadership is not diminished by the extent of governmental or societal hostility to basic human rights.

"I want to be the crying voice of our people as one called to be a herald, knocking on the doors of souls delivering my people and the nation eternal truth in the midst of errors. I will try to awaken the sacred traditions of our nation without which individuals may, but nations can never endure." (Cardinal Mindszenty 10-7-45)

That responsibility does not diminish although the principles of human justice grounded on sound moral principles have lost the force and sanction of law.

"Morality is always higher than law. And we cannot forget this ever." (Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn 6-30-75)

The acceptance of their legacy insures neither public nor private tranquility. Their principles clashed with the prevailing values of their culture resulting in societal conflict such as the American Revolution and the Civil War. Personal martyrdom was their lot: Thomas Jefferson suffered political defamation; Abraham Lincoln was assassinated; Cardinal Mindszenty was tortured and imprisoned; and Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn was relegated to political exile. By the principles they bequeathed and by the self-sacrifice of their lives, these men added a new dimension into the meaning of personal responsibility.

Knowledge of the gross evil of abortion on demand imposes a moral imperative for all who perceive the chasm between good and evil. Knowledge alone is meaningless unless it motivates action—educational and political; educational action to better understand the issues and inform and alert our neighbors as

to the nature and extent of the evil; political action to support those who favor the Human Rights Amendment, and to oppose those hostile to that Amendment.

The responsibility for fearless political action on a moral issue to secure basic human rights was argued long ago by Abraham Lincoln:

"But thinking it (slavery) wrong as we do, can we yield to them? Can we, while our votes will prevent it, allow it to spread . . .? If our sense of duty forbids it, then let us stand by our duty fearlessly and effectively . . ."

"Let us . . . dare to do our duty as we understand it."

If all of us, individually and collectively, by personal sacrifice and intelligent action, set in motion a moral revolution toward the enactment of a Human Life Amendment, then perhaps in 1976, our Bicentennial, we can celebrate the fulfillment of the promise of the Declaration of Independence "That all men are created equal" with the same "unalienable" right to life.

"has need today more than ever" of Catholic universities.

But he said, "The Church wants them to be Catholic."

A healthy dialogue between the Church and all cultures, all faiths and those who profess no faith, must be done "while maintaining intact the character of the Catholic university. By achieving always in teaching, in publications, and in all forms of academic life, complete orthodoxy of doctrine, respect for the magisterium of the Church, fidelity to the hierarchy and to the Apostolic See, without indulging in doctrinal relativism or a moral permissiveness incompatible with the characteristics of a university wishing to call itself Catholic."

I have found joy in reading the words of the Holy Father. Orthodoxy, magisterium, duty, responsibility, obligation, obedience. Not once has he mentioned self-knowledge or self-fulfillment. Not once has he felt obligated to present both sides of any moral issue confronting the Christian world today. He condemns that which is contrary to the blessed word of God, and prays for those who blindly or otherwise embrace amorality. To Pope Paul, love is not love, but related intimately to peace, tranquility and order.

I am in awe of his gentle restrained use of power and his eagerness to lead and forgive.

I conclude with the motto of the L'Osservatore Romano, printed in Latin beneath the masthead. "Unicuique Suum. Non Praevalebunt."

To each his own. They shall not prevail (against the word of God).

Next week: Thorns among the roses in my mail.

## ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Norman W. Brugger of Owassa Drive, Rochester, celebrated their golden anniversary on Sept. 1 with a Mass at St. Salome's Church celebrated by Father Conrad Sundholm, pastor.

Fifty years ago in this same church, the former Frances E. Kuebel was married to Norman W. Brugger. The wedding was solemnized by the bride's uncle, Father Mathias J. Hargather. The Bruggers have been active in St. Salome's for more than 50 years.

Following the Mass, the couple were honored at a party at their home given by their family. The Bruggers have one son, Jerry; five grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.

## Many Social Problems On Pro-Life Agenda

The 1975 New York State Right to Life Convention at the Rochester Downtown Holiday Inn on Sept. 26-28, will feature several seminars dealing with a broad range of current social problems. Topics such as food, population, euthanasia, appreciating the handicapped, youth, teaching pro-life issues, and political action will be undertaken.

One of the leading speakers in the Population Perspective Seminar, will be Dr. Reginald Gallop of the University of Manitoba. Prof. Gallop, qualified authority on the subject of food resources, was a delegate to the World Population and Food Conferences at Bucharest and Rome. He will emphasize the need for positive responses to the food population problems, consistent with human dignity. Also participating in the same seminar will be Fred Domville of Chicago, president of the Population Crises Council.

Other speakers will include Prof. Robert Byrri, constitutional law professor at Fordham University; Drs. Joseph Mancini and Nino Trunfio; Father John

Aurelio, chaplain of West Seneca Development Center, for Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children; Marie Stengel, chairwoman of the National Apostolate to the Retarded; Sandy Ciesla, chairwoman of Parents Who Care; Rev. William Smith of Yonkers; Peggy Finucane, head of the Rochester Area Right to Life Speakers Bureau, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leavey, chairpersons of the Buffalo Youth Groups.

Besides the seminar speakers, the convention will feature several other national figures, beginning on Saturday morning with Sen. James L. Buckley, and followed with a convention address by Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson, president of the National Right to Life Committee. A Friday evening social hour will feature Johanna Jankowski, president of the State Right to Life Committee. The guest speaker at the Saturday evening dinner will be episcopal priest Father Charles P. Carroll, an authority and lecturer, who will speak on "From the Freedom of 1776 to the Enslavement of the New Biologism."

Assisting at the dinner as

master of ceremonies will be former Rochester Public Safety Commissioner Mark H. Tuohy Jr. with entertainment by folksinger JoAnn Hartman.

Complete fee for the convention, including workshops, luncheon and dinner is \$28.50 per person; student \$22. Tickets for the dinner only are \$15. per person. Reservations may be made with Carol Reichert, 192 Rogers Parkway, Rochester, New York 14617, Area Code 716-342-8849.

## VIETNAMESE SUNDAY

Ithaca — All masses at Immaculate Conception Church for the Vietnamese Sunday being held on the weekend of Sept. 13 and 14 will reflect the parish's concern for the new Vietnamese refugees in this community.

As part of the special celebration, Kitchen Cupboard has asked every member of the parish to plan to donate canned food and cash.

Requests have also been made for specific items: 2 table lamps, a floor lamp, end tables, bookcase, blankets, raincoats, umbrellas, small sized adult clothing, or boy's sizes 16-18.

## COURIER-CALENDAR

**Sunday Afternoon Series** — At Nazareth Arts Center: Profile 76, Eastman Kodak's multi-media Bicentennial show, Sept. 14; Kazooophony, Sept. 21; highlights from American musicals, presented by Nazareth-St. John Fisher Drama Club, Sept. 28. All at 3 p.m., all free; tickets available at box office and Gannett Newspapers, required for Kodak movie only.

**Kilbourn Hall Series** — Sixteen Tuesday evenings of chamber music, beginning at 8 p.m. Sept. 16 with Barry Snyder, pianist.

**Music of America Series** — First performance features Beale Street Bandwagon, Sweet Adelines, Searchfield and Wiggins, 8 p.m. Friday, Xerox Square Auditorium.

**Folk Concert, Highland Park Bowl** — Featuring Mitzi Collins, Somebodys Mothers, Michael Leach, Mark Smith, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 20; free.

**Screen Classics** — Humphrey Bogart and Claire Trevor in Dead End, 8:15 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, Bristol Valley Playhouse, near Naples; also, The Plow That Broke the Plains, dust-bowl documentary with Virgil Thompson score, Sept. 20; Laurel and Hardy short, The Music Box; Busby Berkeley's musical, Roman Scandals.

**Clothesline Art Show** — Annual exhibit and sale on grounds of Memorial Art Gallery, 490 University, Sept. 13 and 14, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Rochester National Horse Show** — Rotary Sunshine Camp money-raiser; 9 p.m. Sept. 11-14, Dome Arena, Monroe County Fairgrounds.

**Chicken Barbecue** — And parish fair, St. Joseph's, Rush, 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13; Mass at 9.

**Kearney Kamival** — Seventh annual tuition fund benefit sponsored by Bishop Kearney High School parents' club, Sept. 11-14 on school grounds.

**Workshops on Aging** — Conducted by New York School of Psychiatry for people who work with elderly; 1-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays, today through Oct. 1, Marine Midland bank downtown.

**Northwest Seniors** — Monthly meeting, 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Sept. 11, St. Peter and Paul school hall.

**Current Topics** — At St. Paul's, 783 Hard Road, Webster, third Wednesday of each month; Sept. 17, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Tim Manning of Drug and Alcohol Council. Free; child care provided.

**Aquinas Sports Boosters** — Dinner Thursday, Sept. 18, at school, social hour at 6:30 p.m.; football coach Nick Teta speaker. Reservations through 254-2020 by Monday, Sept. 15; \$5.

**Forum on Justice** — Patrick Monserrate, Broome County district attorney, on functions of the DA's office; 12:15-11:15 p.m. today, First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Plymouth. Next Wednesday, Sept. 17, functions of county court judge's office.

**Women's Forum** — Employment opportunities for women, Wednesday noon, Sept. 17, YWCA, 175 N. Clinton; Marcia Marriott of Rochester General Hospital, speaker.

**Nazareth Arts Center** — Subscription season opens 8:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 19 with Betty Comden and Adolph Green in program centered on their musical comedy hits.

## Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

## Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

L' OSSERVATORE ROMANO [Conclusion]

This series of columns concludes, as it began, with words of Pope Paul VI. Among the thousands to whom he spoke during the summer months, were two groups I found to be of special value . . . the American jurists (July 12) and the directors of Jesuit universities around the globe (Aug. 6).

To the judges, Paul quoted Proverbs 31:9. "Open your mouth, decree what is just; defend the needy and the poor."

He went on to say, "With a sense of even greater urgency we repeat today the words we spoke to you on a former visit: 'We hope the deliberations for which you have come to Rome will strengthen you in your commitment to uphold human dignity with liberty and justice for all. And it is our prayer that in your work you will always be effective defenders of the sacredness of human life and of man's inalienable right to life. In particular, may your efforts be successful in ensuring for the unborn child the due protection of the law.'"

And to the Jesuit leaders Paul noted the "doctrinal relativism and moral permissiveness" found, he said, in some Catholic universities. "Some Catholic universities in recent years have thought that they could respond to the questions of man and the world by weakening their Catholic character.

"And the consequence? They have helped in the weakening of Christian values by putting in their place a humanism that transforms itself into a true and real secularization. They have helped in lowering the standards of behavior in the sphere of the university campus by letting the fascination of many virtues drop from the students' sight."

Pointing to what he called "the doctrinal and moral mimicry of non-Catholic beliefs and practices" at some Catholic schools, the Pope stressed that the Church