

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

[Third in a series]

Do American Catholics have the courage to be Christians?

The Christian teaching on euthanasia can be summed up in less than a dozen principles. (And I did not say values I said principles — the fundamental Christian truths accepted by every civilized society until our own). I quote John Cardinal Heenan, archbishop of Westminster, London, England:

1) "Almighty God as the author of life is also the Lord of Life. God alone is the creator. Parents are called pro-creators... they are not absolute in their authority over the life they bring into the world."

2) "No private person has the right to destroy life, whether his own or another's."

3) "Direct killing of the incurably sick, disabled or insane is never justified."

4) "It is not permissible to withhold nourishment or normal medical aids with the object of hastening a patient's death."

5) "The prolonged use of machines to maintain the action of the heart or lungs, though commonplace, can sometimes be regarded as extraordinary means of preserving life. In certain circumstances such means might and perhaps ought to be discontinued on ethical grounds."

6) "It is unethical for the surgeon, merely for the sake of research, to persuade a patient to submit to an operation which might save the patient from death only to survive in misery."

7) "Death is not a misfortune to be warded off at all costs. The death of God's friends is precious in His sight, because it is a homecoming. That is why we

need not hesitate to alleviate pain merely from fear of bringing nearer the hour of death.

8) "The moral sense of doctors and nurses must decide what is for the patient's good. It is not euthanasia to refuse to use extraordinary methods to conquer a critical condition in a patient already suffering from a chronic terminal illness."

Thus spoke a courageous Catholic leader, unashamed to emphasize moral sense and God's authority — unashamed to recognize and teach that the Supreme Deity, not the Supreme Court has the authority over life and death. "These are the general principles. If we depart from them either to co-operate in suicide or to execute incurables we trespass on God's province and we run the risk of destroying the whole moral law. With the decline of religion people have already begun to confuse legality with morality. Abortion and homosexual practices are regarded by many as morally acceptable because (in Great Britain) they are now permitted by law. If euthanasia were to become legal no sick or old person would be safe."

How many American Catholic leaders have thus used their high teaching authority to prepare the Catholic laity for the onslaught of euthanasia? How many American Catholic writers have thus emphasized the morality taught by the Vatican in order to inform the laity of our deep moral obligations concerning euthanasia?

Too few. Too few.

American Catholic typewriters and pulpits are often silent in the face of the obvious euthanasia push, just as they are silent in the face of millions of American fetal murders. I repeat

Do American Catholics have the courage to be Christians?

(All quotations from *The Hour of Our Death*, Geoffrey Chapman Publishers.) NEXT WEEK: Conclusion.

BLESSED SACRAMENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place from noon until 5 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at Blessed Sacrament Church, Monroe and Oxford. Benediction will precede the regular 5:15 p.m. Mass. The church schedules this special devotion for the first Thursday of each month.

CHRISTOPHER LINDLEY



- Chris introduced legislation to allocate funds for downtown Senior Citizen Center.
- Chris initiated a resolution requesting state laws allowing City to extend Senior Citizen exemptions for service and embellishment charges.
- Chris wants to obtain increased benefits for those who must live on a fixed income during inflationary times.

Support Christopher Lindley.
He offers the Needed Leadership for Senior Citizens!

Vote November 4th
Lever 7A

Paid for by citizens for Lindley. James Snider, Campaign Mgr.

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT



DICK SCHERBERGER

A MAN OF COURAGE AND INTEGRITY. A DEMOCRATIC LEADER IN THE COUNTY LEGISLATURE, DICK SCHERBERGER WORKS HARD TO REPRESENT IRONDEQUOIT'S 16th DISTRICT. HE DESERVES OUR SUPPORT!

RE-ELECT RICHARD F. SCHERBERGER

County Legislature, 16th District

Bi-Partisan Committee to Re-elect Richard Scherberger
Campaign Manager, Barbara Poore

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

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IRONDEQUOIT ELECT THE FIRST TEAM

DEMING

KANE

CHIPP



SUPERVISOR DON DEMING



COUNCILMAN BOB KANE



COUNCIL CANDIDATE SAM CHIPP

THIS TEAM WILL KEEP IRONDEQUOIT FIRST VOTE DEMOCRAT ROW A

SPONSORED BY DEMING FOR SUPERVISOR COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS GAIL & KARL PEARCE

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RE-ELECT



RICHARD J. ELLIOTT
IRONDEQUOIT TOWN JUSTICE

EXAMINE HIS TRIAL EXPERIENCE — Admitted to practice New York State, Federal District Court, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, Supreme Court of United States. Past President of Monroe County Trial Lawyers Association and District Governor N.Y.S. Trial Lawyers Association, Former Deputy Town Attorney in Town of Irondequoit, Presently Town Justice.

EXAMINE HIS RECORD—

- A computer system has been installed in the Justice Court to expedite and handle the volume of over 14,000 cases a year;
- Jurors serving in Justice Court of Irondequoit receive compensation;
- Implementation of Civil Small Claims Court to commence November 1, 1975;
- Stenographic record of all pleas and sentences in open court except for juveniles;
- Records are handled by a computer.

Endorsed by the United Christian Foundation for his superior qualifications as Town Justice.

JUSTICE BY THE PERSON

DEMOCRAT ROW A

Paid for by Committee to Re-elect Elliott. Committee Chairperson Evelyn Barberio