

More Opinions

Some Happy To Be Deaf

Editor:

This is in regard to Bishop Hogan's Pastoral Perspective of Nov. 26. While I agree wholeheartedly with a great deal of his prayer of thanks, there were some ideas included in it I do not fully agree with. To be thankful for not being blind and not being deaf is indeed a great gift to express thanksgiving for.

HOWEVER, I feel that on behalf of those in the area who are either blind or deaf or both that they would strongly disagree that sight and hearing are worth

thanks and somehow lack of these gifts do not occur to some as a gift for which thanks is given. I know many deaf who would never want to hear — silence is a gift they cherish.

Please remember: We are all deaf to people at times! We are all blind at times!

I also truly enjoy the liturgical series of writings that have occurred in the past few weeks. As a lector, I find it very informative! At this time of year, let us give thanks to the Lord for each other as we are — regardless of if we can truly see or hear!

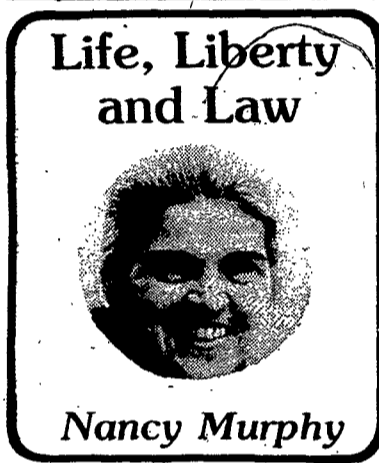
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Capitol Letters

The National Right to Life Committee in Washington has announced that the subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee on Constitutional and Civil Rights (Chairman, Rep. Don Edwards D-Cal.) will begin hearings on a Human Life Amendment to the United States Constitution on Jan. 7 and 8, 1976.

Rep. Donald Mitchell (R-31-N.Y.) has been of great assistance in properly organizing the House hearings. Please thank Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Edwards for their efforts in bringing about these hearings and let them know you support the Human Life Amendment. Write to them and to your respective congressman. Address: House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney



Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

[Fourth in a series]

I hope this won't embarrass her.

But she has an intriguing quality — at once evident and elusive — which lingered in my memory after I first met her. And until I watched her striding across the flower-framed lawn of her hospital a fortnight later, the exact definition of it escaped my ability to define.

Strange, it was immediately evident in her walk. I saw a strength, clarity of purpose, a concentration not easily distracted. She has a certainty of destination, with neither bitterness nor aggressiveness in her style. The temptation (currently in theological/educational vogue) to reinterpret and redefine the Vatican directives — to "shed new light" — on abortion-sterilization-euthanasia is no obstacle, and seems not even to appear before her. She is, in a word, an amazing display of natural grace. Moral, physical, spiritual and intellectual.

You see, I never expect a person's soul to be apparent. Yet that is the elusive reality, and that is the personality of Sister DeChantal La Row, administrator of St. Mary's Hospital.

Abortions and contraceptive sterilizations and euthanasia are not redefined at St. Mary's. Therefore they are not performed at St. Mary's. Because it is a Catholic hospital in both name and practice; in both theory and purpose. "We must witness Christ," she said. "That is of course the reason we exist. If we were to eliminate the word Catholic from our identity, we might as well turn the hospital over to someone else to run."

So, while the government of one nation after another fosters increased involvement in abortion-sterilization-euthanasia in order to control "unwanted's," while some Catholic clergymen

support and defend euthanasia councils and/or Planned Parenthood; while the secular press bombards our homes with mealy little phrases like "the right to die," "meaningless life" and "quality of life"; while hospitals, universities and world leaders strive to justify and market contraceptive sterilizations; and while the Genesee Region Planning Council demands abortions and sterilizations; Sister DeChantal holds fast.

I think she knows that her hospital will not bend to the pressures of a permissive and fickle society. I think she knows that if every hospital in the nation performed abortions and sterilizations and euthanasia; if every hospital in America destroyed the defective newborns because they "cannot respond meaningfully to us"; Sister DeChantal would stubbornly hold fast to her faith. She would continue to recognize the image of Christ Suffering in every human life; and she would continue to administer her hospital according to the directives of the Catholic Church.

Because Sister sees more than the abortion issue. She sees beyond the sterilization fad and euthanasia and fetal experimentation. Sister DeChantal sees the potential horror . . . the virtual extermination of the Catholic hospital system itself. "If the obstetrical units close, what of the gynecological departments? And if they are forced to close, what of geriatrics and pediatrics and surgery and research and education?"

Yes, if the Catholic hospitals falls where will we find legal/medical recognition and protection for the sanctity of human life?

I believe she is right. We must stand now and fight or forever hold our peace. Surely if Sister DeChantal had been born Eve, we would all still be living in the Garden of Paradise.

NEXT WEEK: What we can do.

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Women: Be Grateful

Editor:

I should like to comment regarding Sister Joan and a group of nuns who attended a weekend conference on Women in Future Priesthood Now: A Call for Action.

It is really pathetic to listen to a group of supposedly intelligent women who seem to be at odds with what they have or believe they should have.

A woman patterned by God to perform the duties of a woman needs no further enhancement. And certainly a woman dedicated to His service should have neither the time nor desire to concern herself about a woman's worth.

Mary loved her womanly duties whether it was caring for her family or standing at the foot of the cross.

Somehow I simply cannot picture some of our gung ho sisters at the foot of the cross while they are so concerned

about "woman's worth" in this temporary haven.

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