

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

[First in a series]

If abortions were three for a dollar, and the government offered tax incentives; if abortion clinics and "Family Centers" were on every street corner issuing credit cards; if abortifacient research courses were taught in the high schools; there would be neither profit nor glory in the destruction of the unborn if at the same time Christian churches taught the truths of the horror. There would be no one in line at the clinics and centers because women would know through Christian education that abortion is, in moral reality, an act of murder. It is an unspeakable crime — only incidentally against mankind — primarily against Christ. The clinics and the centers would close.

Somewhere along the line our generation has failed the succeeding generations. Somewhere along the line we have taught (or allowed to be taught) a philosophy wholly opposed to the philosophy of Christ. We have allowed self-fulfillment and knowledge of the self to replace self-sacrifice and the fear of God. We have allowed the salvation of the eternal soul to be replaced by the pleasures of the body, and the natural to obscure the supernatural.

In modern American times, it started in the thirties.

In 1933 a group of 34 liberal humanists in the United States defined and enunciated the philosophical and religious principles that seemed to them fundamental. They drafted the Humanist Manifesto I, that rejected the orthodox and

dogmatic positions, and provided meaning and direction, unity and purpose to human life. It was committed to reason, science and democracy.

This is from the preface of a booklet copyrighted in 1973, Humanist Manifestos I and II. The blurb goes on to say that significant though it was, Humanist Manifesto I did not go far enough, so that 40 years later Humanist Manifesto II was drafted to meet the problems not only of religion and ethics, but the pressing issues of civil liberties, equality, democracy, the survival of humankind, world economic growth, population and ecological control, war and peace, and the building of a world community.

"What more pressing need than to recognize in this critical age of modern science and technology that if no deity will save us, we must save ourselves? It is only by assuming the responsibility for the human condition, and marshaling the arts of intelligence that mankind can hope to deal with the emerging problems of the twenty-first century and beyond. If we are to succeed in this venture, must we not abandon the archaic dogmas and ideologies that inhibit creative explorations and solutions?"

"Humanist Manifesto II was first signed by 114 individuals of prominence and distinction, and since endorsed by countless numbers of human beings from all walks of life as a document of our time, committed to both human fulfillment and survival." Both manifestos were presented in a spirit of on-going and cooperative inquiry — the expression of a quest for values and goals, a quest for meaning.

Discerning readers will recognize in this and following columns on the Humanist Manifestos I and II, many premises, phrases and goals which are now echoing through the halls of our schools and our churches, our United States Congress and our courts.

I'm sorry, but I hope it frightens you.

It did me.

NEXT WEEK: Humanist Manifesto I.

Capitol Letters

Because the Supreme Court Decision permitting abortion on demand was handed down Jan. 22, 1973, pro-life advocates across the nation are planning commemorative activities for the third anniversary of that black decision. The most impressive demonstration will take place in our nation's capitol Jan. 22.

Miss Nellie Gray, Washington attorney and chairman of the national March for Life, hopes last year's crowd of 60,000 will be equalled or exceeded. Activities there will open at 8:30 a.m. with the 1976 National Prayer Breakfast for Life, held for pro-life advocates and their congressmen. During the day, the pro-life advocates will also meet with their congressmen to discuss this issue. Pro-lifers will also bring to Washington nonperishable foods which will be shipped to an area of need.

Those of us who cannot travel to Washington may enhance the effectiveness of those who do by flooding the President, our senators and representatives with letters indicating our concern for the unborn and our support for a

ESSAY CONTEST

Feb. 1 is the deadline for entering a national essay contest sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary, Ancient Order of Hibernians, Irish Patriots in the Revolutionary Army of '76 is the topic assigned for grades 6-8. Irish Participation in the Continental Congress is the high school topic. Detailed information on the national competition has been supplied to the schools.

Two Parishes Offer 'Life Issues' Series

A three lecture series presented by the Rochester Area Right to Life Education Committee is being sponsored in two parishes. The program began Jan. 13 at St. Jerome's in East Rochester and will continue on Tuesday nights, Jan. 20 and 27. It will be offered on Sunday nights, starting Jan. 18, at Holy Spirit in Penfield. In both cases, the meetings begin at 8 p.m. and are open to the public.

The lecture entitled "Death with Dignity and the Euthanasia Movement," presented Jan. 13 at St. Jerome's, will be repeated Jan. 25 at Holy Spirit. Included in the program is the film "Who Should Survive."

The World of the Unborn program features a film depicting life before birth, "First Days of Life." It will be offered at St. Jerome's on Jan. 20, and Jan. 18 at Holy Spirit.

"Legal Aspects of the Abortion Issue" and "Alternatives to Abortion" will be the topics of the

final lecture, scheduled for Jan. 27 at St. Jerome's, and Feb. 1 at Holy Spirit.

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REAL ESTATE AUCTION

The City of Rochester will offer the following properties for sale at Public Auction on Wednesday, January 21, 1976, at 10:45 A.M. in the Public Safety Building Auditorium, Room 229.

ADDRESS	TYPE	MINIMUM BID
253 Anderson Avenue	One-story frame single	\$100
743 Brown Street	2 1/2 story frame single	\$100
59 Cleveland Street	1 1/2 story frame single	\$100
720 Clifford Avenue	1 1/2 story frame single	\$100
12 Concord Street	2 story frame single	\$100
64 Eddy Street	1 1/2 story frame single	\$100
217 Frost Avenue	2 story frame single	\$100
129 Hawley Street	2 story frame single	\$100
296 Lyceum Street & lot	2 story frame single	\$100
735 Mt. Hope Avenue	2 1/2 story frame single	\$100
303 Seward Street	1 1/2 story frame single	\$100
4 Staudinger Place	2 story frame single	\$100
315 Troup Street & lot	2 story frame single	\$100
44 Wald Street	2 1/2 story brick single	\$100
35 Doran Street	1 1/2 story frame single	\$100
832 Exchange Street	2 story frame, two-family	\$100
191 Hawley Street	2 story frame, two-family	\$100
319 South Goodman Street	2 1/2 story frame, two-family	\$100
97 Woodward Street	2 1/2 story frame, two-family	\$100
333 Clarissa Street	One-story frame commercial	\$100
308 North Street	Three story brick store and FOUR APARTMENTS	\$100
149 North Union Street	2 1/2 story frame, four-family	\$100
501 North Goodman Street	2 1/2 story frame commercial	\$100
1053 Exchange Street	Vacant lot (Permitted use-duplex)	\$100
683 Lake Avenue (Corner Glenwood)	Vacant lot (Permitted use-commercial)	\$100

All structures must be rehabilitated and vacant lots developed in compliance with the City Building Code and Zoning Ordinance. Terms and conditions that the purchaser must comply with shall be available for inspection at the office of the Division of Real Estate, 158 State Street, and will be announced at the time of the auction.

CITY OF ROCHESTER
DEPT. OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF REAL ESTATE
428-6951

Human Life Amendment to restore legal protection to all human beings.

President Gerald Ford, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C. Senators James Buckley and Jacob Javits, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510. Congressmen Barber Conable, Frank Horton [or your respective congressman], House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Don't miss the 1976 March for Life and Prayer Service for Life in Rochester Saturday, Jan. 24.

Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney

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