

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

Fifth in a series

What's the difference between Utopia and Heaven?

Well, the former tends to rely on man as an almighty being, with social perfection the ultimate goal and measure of human life. In striving to build Utopia we practice situation ethics, with our sources limited to human experience and social history. We would accept nothing other than that which is visible through technological research; and we would eventually deny the existence of God.

If on the other hand it is Christ's promised Heaven we seek, we accept Him in the Blessed Trinity as the Almighty Being. Spiritual perfection (including and going far beyond social justice) is both our measure and our goal. We would practice and proclaim His divine absolutes which in their salvific vision embrace all men including those who deny (and teach others to deny) His existence.

From Humanist Manifesto II (1973): We affirm that moral values derive their source from human experience. Ethics stem from human need and interest. To deny this distorts the whole basis of life. Happiness and the creative realization of human needs and desires, individually and in shared enjoyment, are the continuous themes of humanism. We strive for the good life here and now.

From Vatican II (1963): The (Vatican) Council proclaims that all must accept the absolute primacy of the objective moral order. It alone is superior to and is capable of harmonizing all forms of human activity. Only the moral order

touches man in the totality of his being as God's rational creature, called to a supernatural destiny. If the moral order is fully and faithfully observed it leads man to full perfection and happiness." (D. 26, 6)

Again Vatican II: "Methodical research in all branches of knowledge, provided it is carried out in a truly scientific manner and does not override moral laws, can never conflict with the faith, because the things of the world and the things of faith derive from the same God.

"If by the term 'the autonomy of earthly affairs' it is meant that material being does not depend on God, and that man can use it as if he had no relation to the creator, then the falsity of such a claim will be obvious to anyone who believes in God. Without a creator there can be no creature, once God is forgotten, the creature is lost to sight as well." (D. 64, 36)

The Humanist Manifesto: We believe in maximum individual autonomy... the right to birth control, abortion and divorce should be recognized. We do not wish to prohibit (any) sexual behavior between consenting adults. (Human freedom and dignity) include a recognition of an individual's right to die with dignity, euthanasia and suicide. Innovative and experimental forms of education are to be welcomed. Excessive population growth must be checked. These affirmations are not a final credo or dogma but an expression of a living and growing faith.

Thus ends Humanist Manifesto II.

In my considered judgment, Catholics must be aware of the differences between the manifestos of atheistic humanism and the documents of Vatican II. We can thereby determine the value of leadership offered today, even that of a religious or moral nature. Then and only then, by our active witness to Christ, can we hope to aid in the salvation of all mankind, including those individuals of prominence and distinction who have signed the manifestos, as well as those who are tempted to nibble at the edges.

"Be not deceived, God is not mocked." (St. Paul, Galatians VI:7)

NEXT WEEK: The signers of the manifestos.

Call 9G1-TF, Ghana on Line

Any ham radio enthusiasts who want to talk to a friend in Ghana have a special opportunity until Feb. 15. One of the features of the Catholic exposition at the International Trade Fair in Accra, Ghana, running until Feb. 15 is a special radio station — call letters 9G1-TF.

The Church in Ghana is sponsoring a "big stand" fair, according to Father Charles Erb of the Department of Social Communications of the National Catholic Secretariat.

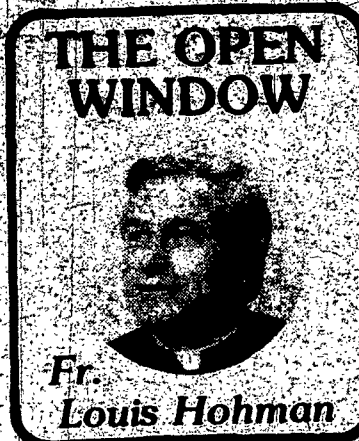
Booths showing the work of Catholics to help the hungry in the northern provinces of Ghana, statistical information on each diocese's schools, hospitals, clinics and health facilities, and Catholic book shops will highlight the Catholic stand.

The government has given Father Erb's department permission to broadcast directly from the Catholic stand. A Canadian White Father will be at the microphone with the special call sign for the length of the fair.

Aquinas Coach Receives Post

Father Michael Wesley, CSB, who is the head cross-country coach, and also the indoor winter track coach at Aquinas Institute, has been named president of the Genesee Valley Track and Field Officials Association.

Father Wesley is well known among other high schools and coaches for his enthusiasm and the special care he gives to every member of his teams.



Fr. Louis Hohman

relationship to God and our fellowman and why we are there in order to find out why we commit sins. When our attitudes are improved our conduct will be improved. The priest is there as a fellow sinner to share with you your hopes and aspirations as well as to try to help you along the path from your sins to a better way of living. It is extremely difficult to put this into words, but I think when the reality arrives you will be one of the ones who applaud it most.

CELEBRATION

Displays focusing on the Catholic heritage will be offered Feb. 13 at St. Anthony of Padua School in celebration of America's Bicentennial and Catholic Schools Week. There also will be a "street of shops." Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. The school is at 15 Costar St.

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Capitol Letters

Write to President Gerald Ford and thank him for recognizing the humanity of the unborn child and the need for a pro-life constitutional amendment. However, please urge him and/or the presidential candidate of your choice to support a HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT which will equally protect all human beings in all states.

President Gerald Ford, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.

Compiled by Jeanne D. Sweeney

CYO Sponsors Operation SIGN

The youth committee for the 41st International Eucharistic Congress has launched a program called SIGN (Service in God's Name) as a focus for the charitable activities of young people. Charles LaMattina of the Catholic Youth Organization is local coordinator.

The goal is to accumulate nationally one hundred million hours of service and place them symbolically on the altar at the IEC Youth Mass in Philadelphia Aug. 6. LaMattina said last week. He offered to help any individual or organization to develop a project for SIGN and also invited those interested to serve on the executive committee.

Services may range from large

scale activities to seemingly insignificant ventures as diversified as the needs of those they are intended to benefit. LaMattina said. He may be reached through 454-2030.

OLPH SEEKS CLASS PHOTOS

A permanent exhibit of class pictures is being prepared at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School. Eight graduation photographs are missing. Sister St. Luke, principal, noted this week. She asked that members of the following classes lend pictures for copying: 1924, 1926, 1927, 1930 and 1934, 1946, 1948 and 1949. Anyone who has any of these photos is asked to call the school office, 266-7605.

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