

Karen Quinlan Case Provokes Discussion

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By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Aurora — A living room dialogue, reflecting on the Karen Quinlan case, was held recently at St. Patrick's Rectory.

Father John S. Hayes, pastor, indicated that the meeting was held in response to Bishop Hogan's appeal in his pastoral "Living Stones." The Bishop stated that, "The painstaking analysis of complicated medical moral questions will be a joint task of pastors and specialists leading to informed pastoral advice for the

family struggling with a real life question."

Panelists included Dr. Donald O'Neil, physician at Southern Cayuga Community Medical Center; Professor Patricia Sullivan, biologist at the Wells College faculty who has a special interest in bioethics; Mrs. Clair O'Neil, a Cornell Law School graduate and Father Hayes, who treated the theological perspective, and has fulfilled his Master of Divinity thesis requirement with "Death: A Measure of Acceptance."

Dr. O'Neil indicated that the brain is uniquely vulnerable to the lack of oxygen and the extent of injury is often only evidenced by

recovery itself. In the Quinlan case there has been irreversible brain damage with no realistic expectation of recovery. She breathes with an apparatus, but while there is no consciousness, or intellectual life, she is not dead by current definitions of death.

He indicated the common definition of death is lack of spontaneous heart beat and respiration. Today, because of advances in support systems, it is possible to maintain people on a respirator. A new definition of brain death is just beginning to emerge where there is no evidence of any activity of the nervous system.

In most situations of this kind, the doctor and family have an understanding that a disease will be allowed to run its course. There is no question of mercy killing as no active measures are taken to hasten death.

The question arises as to when to use extraordinary measures and when they may be withdrawn. What constitutes extraordinary measures is also a consideration as what we use to be extraordinary, has now become ordinary through scientific advances.

Dr. O'Neil indicated it is unclear at present who has the responsibility to make the decision to

withdraw extraordinary measures. Should it be the doctor, family, court system or a large group of people in consultation?

Professor Patricia Sullivan discussed the perspective of life from the point of view of a biologist who sees the living organism as a dynamic, complex interplay between the processes of life and those of death which are occurring continually in organisms.

Professor Sullivan noted that the repair process is a vital part of the life cycle.

In summation, Professor Sullivan pointed out the death-life process is a continuum with death the final point. The question in the Quinlan case appears to be whether we are dealing with the death of an organism or the death of a person.

The body is one thing; the person is another and "science," said Mrs. Sullivan, can't contribute much to an understanding of the non-physical aspects of beings. The tools of the scientific method are not altogether appropriate for analyzing person-death.

Mrs. Clair O'Neil dealt with the legal precedents, indicating courts in the past have tended to rely on medical opinion to decide the final point of death.

The courts use the traditional definition of death, but do not seem to understand the life-death process on a continuum, but rather as something that occurs at one established point.

The law is interested in defining death as it affects legal rights, she said. If physicians do not consider Karen Quinlan dead, then the court is not going to let doctors turn off the respirator legally.

Father Hayes, pastor, confined his remarks to the discussion of a pastoral letter issued by Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, of Paterson,

New Jersey where the Quinlan's reside.

Bishop Casey made a clear cut distinction that the parents are not requesting euthanasia.

He cited an address by Pope Pius XII to a congress of doctors, Nov. 24, 1957. In his remarks the Holy Father referred to a situation of "deep unconsciousness, hopeless in the opinion of a competent doctor," and says, "The discontinuance of the respirator as an extraordinary means is not to be considered euthanasia in any way."

Bishop Casey's statement applies the teaching of the church to the case of Karen Ann Quinlan. "The decision of Joseph and Julia Quinlan to request the discontinuance of this treatment is, according to the teachings of the Catholic church, a morally correct decision."

EDITORS NOTE: On Wednesday, March 31 the New Jersey Supreme Court declared Joseph Quinlan Karen's legal guardian and said he could let her die if competent medical authorities agreed with him that there is no possibility of her recovery.

Summer School

St. Charles Summer School, 64 Maiden Lane will offer morning classes in reading and math, arts and crafts. The reading and math are designed for children who want to improve their skills. Small group instruction, eight children to a group, is available for students in

FIRST FRIDAY

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is held each First Friday from 12:10 to 5:20 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral.



The following Prayer Groups are predominately Roman Catholic in attendance. This directory has been compiled and will be maintained by the Communication Committee of Catholic Charismatics in Rochester. Additions or deletions should be mailed to Mrs. Donald Mikel, 3000 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, New York, 14617.

SUNDAY

St. John the Evangelist (Spencerport)
60 Martha St.
Spencerport
Frank Ferris 352-4218; 8 p.m.

St. Mary's Church
95 North Main St.
Canandaigua
Sr. Marie Albert, 394-2325

St. Mary's
Marian Center
Fulton & Franklin Sts.
Elmira
Salvatore Ruriani, (607) 732-1248

MONDAY

St. Rose's Church (women)
1985 Lake Ave.
Elmira
Jean LaBore, 582-1319
following 9 a.m. Mass

St. Stephen's Charismatic Community
DeSalle's High School
Cor. Pultney & High Sts.
Geneva
Mrs. Sam Venuti, 789-8557; 8:15 p.m.

Horseheads
Bob and Donna Lamin,
(607) 739-0234; 7:30 p.m.
St. Leo's Prayer Group
167 Lake Ave., Hilton
Al and Betty Howe; 392-8895; 8 p.m.

TUESDAY

St. Augustine Rectory
410 Chili Ave.
Rochester
John & Betty Bunce, 235-0235; 8:30 p.m.

St. Michael's Prayer Group
3681 Lake Ave.
Rochester
William & Mary Buechel, 663-7645; 8 p.m.

St. Mary's Charismatic Prayer Group
32 East Morris St.
Bath
Mary Biblin, (697) 776-6726; 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Maranatha Prayer Group
7369 E. Main St.
Lima
Bill & Bobbie Buechel, 624-4529; 8 p.m.

Chadash Prayer Community
830 Clarkson-Hamlin Townline Rd.
Hamlin
Helen & Warren Lynch, 964-2498; 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2:30 p.m. — Charismatic Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester. Celebrant, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 8 p.m. — Life in the Spirit Seminar begins. St. Paul's Catholic Church, 783 Hard Rd., Webster. 671-6090.

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 8 p.m. — Charismatic Mass, St. Lawrence's Catholic Church, 1000 N. Greece Rd., Rochester.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MAY 14 and 15 — Charismatic Retreat, Holiday Inn, 1525 Ridge Rd. West, Rochester. Interdenominational. Mail reservation and \$5 per person to Life in the Spirit, Box 8281, Rochester 14617. Total Cost \$35.

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 8 p.m. — Charismatic Mass, St. Paul's Catholic Church, 783 Hard Rd., Webster. Celebrant, Father Ron Harley.

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 8 p.m. — Rev. Russell J. Amend, Rector of St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Tonawanda, N.Y. at St. Lawrence's, 1000 N. Greece Rd., Rochester.

Holy Cross School
4488 Lake Ave.
Rochester
Frank Hirschgessner, 865-2650; 8 p.m.

St. Michael's Prayer Group (women)
3681 Lake Ave.
Rochester
Mary Buechel, 663-7645; 10:30 a.m.

Bethlehem Prayer Community
St. Rita's Church
1008 Maple Drive, W. Webster
Dick Mahaney, 671-1845;
Jim Dammen, 671-5839

Emmanuel
132 Illinois St.
Rochester
Judy Costello, 654-9597; 9:30 a.m.

Donald & Mary Lou Mikel
3000 St. Paul St.
Rochester
266-3749; 8 p.m.

St. Pius X Prayer Community
3000 Chili Ave.
Rochester
Bob Dunning, 247-3740; 8 p.m.

THURSDAY

St. Anne's Prayer Group
1600 Mt. Hope Ave.
Rochester
Margaret Whitney, 461-3656; 8 p.m.

Precious Blood Prayer Group
Our Lady of Mercy Parish School
600 Denise Rd.
Greece
Larry and Helen Kavanaugh,
663-9327; 8 p.m.

Santo Spirito
St. Francis (old school)
314 Bay St.
Rochester
Jose Malave, 342-7759; 7 p.m.
Isreal Santana, 482-1252; 7 p.m.

Upper Room Prayer Group
St. John's School
W. DeZerg St.
Clyde
Joseph DiSanto, 923-7865; 7:15 p.m.

ASCENSION THURSDAY, MAY 27, 7:30 p.m. — Parish Mass followed by 4th session Life in Spirit Seminar. St. Paul's Catholic Church, 783 Hard Rd., Webster. 671-6090.

FRIDAY THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 28-30 — '76 Continental Conference on the Charismatic Renewal in the Catholic Church, University of Notre Dame. Theme: "Lord, The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory are Yours". For additional information write: '1976 Continental Conference', P.O. Drawer A, Notre Dame, In. 46556.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 7:30 p.m. — Charismatic Mass, St. Ann's Church, Rochester, celebrated by Fathers Paul McCabe and Joseph Hart; Father McCabe homilist.

FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 8 p.m. — Charismatic Mass, St. Lawrence's, 1000 N. Greece Rd., Rochester.

FRIDAY through SUNDAY, JUNE 4-6 — Ogden-Spencerport area. Celebration of the Lordship of Jesus Christ with Guest Speakers, Father Phil Kelly and Leonard Evans. Call Dick Irish for information: 594-9683.

St. Charles Prayer Group
St. Charles Borromeo Church Nursery
3003 Dewey Ave.
Rochester
John Faffner, 663-4851; 8 p.m.

Women at the Well (women)
151 Dalia Lane
Rochester
Mary Termini, 544-5211; 12:45 p.m.

St. Paul's Prayer Group
St. Paul's Church
783 Hard Road
Webster, N.Y.
John Paille, 671-6090; 8 p.m.

FRIDAY

The Glory of YAHWEH Group
St. Augustine Rectory
430 Chili Ave.
Rochester
Marty Lynch, 385-1035; 8 p.m.

Armand & Kathy Tanquay
311 Tobey Rd.
Pittsford
381-1949; 8 p.m.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Prayer Group
St. Lawrence School
1000 N. Greece Rd.
Greece
Klaus Schulz, 392-9846; 8 p.m.

SATURDAY

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Burgess
W. Union St. Extension
Newark
337-3841; 9 p.m.

St. Monica's Church
34 Monica St.
Rochester
John & Rita Donnelly, 328-1332; 4 to 5 p.m.

John & Rita Donnelly
9 Ellicott St.
Rochester
328-1332; 8 p.m.

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