

Anti-Life Mentality Assailed in Homell Talk

Homell — "The world is now at the crossroads — it has the tools for the destruction of the human race," Father Vincent Collins told members of the Homell Area Right to Life Group at their second annual banquet recently.

Father Collins, pastor of St. John of Rochester Church, Fairport, was the main speaker at the pro-life dinner.

The "tools of destruction" are the bomb, in the physical sense and genetic engineering in the moral sense, Father Collins said.

"To me, the anti-life mentality began with contraception. When a sperm destined to unite with an ovum is prevented from accomplishing that destiny, a human being is denied existence. Once the contraceptive mentality won

practically universal acceptance in western culture, all the rest follows: Abortion, infanticide, elimination of the unfit, euthanasia, genetic engineering, and Xeroxed man," he said.

"Philosophies affecting this new biology are science itself, which seeks to formulate a human ethic to determine man's future; humanitarianism which sublimates individual rights for the supposed welfare of the community, social utility which determines the worth of an individual by his contribution to the welfare of the state, and finally, the State.

"The State is the inevitable and logical consequent of these philosophies," Father Collins said. "We don't have to belabor the point: let's merely mention Hitler, the bio-geneticist supreme, who not

only killed 6 million Jews but eliminated close to 12 million, counting the unfit and elderly. But this did not even approximate the number of Ukrainian Kulaks that Stalin, the social utilitarian supreme, liquidated."

"Mind you, I am not speaking of the Judeo-Christian ethic," he said, "but that accepted by the great pagan minds of antiquity such as Aristotle, Plato and Seneca. That ethic is rooted in the self-evident truth that man is not an animal to be manipulated or used, but a being possessing a rational nature with spiritual qualities of intellect and will with an inner consciousness that he is a free agent, respecting the rights of his fellowmen and demanding they respect his."

Contradicting this philosophy of respect for the dignity of the human person are contraception, sterilization, and abortion, he said. Prospects for the future, if present trends develop, are startling, Father Collins continued.

Speaking of the role of the doctor, Father Collins recalled the Declaration of the Doctors of North America which holds that "physicians should have respect for human life, regardless of age, illness, disability, or degree of dependence."

Present experience denies this declaration, Father Collins said. He added: "Already the physician who refuses operations sanctioned by law is subject to prosecution. As a professional man, he knows he has the obligation to the individual rather than society, realizing that medicine without a valid ethic can lead to the despotism of Dachau."

"So what can we do? We can proclaim from the housetops that the contraceptive mentality, the anti-life mentality — must be halted," he said.

Kevin Doran was toastmaster. Guests attended from Homell, Nunda, Canisteo, Dansville, Arkport, Alfred, Genesee and Rochester. The invocation was by Father William Cosgrove, first chaplain of the Homell Area Right to Life Group. The benediction was led by Father Lewis Brown, associate pastor of St. Ann's Church.

Mrs. Richard Kull and Mrs. James Giglio were in charge of banquet arrangements.

Immigrants Honored

Auburn — Parishioners of St. Francis paid tribute to the nation's immigrants at a banquet in the school hall Sunday, May 30. Dr. Frank L. DeFurio, the banquet's main speaker, traced the history of immigration to this country, and praised those "who hacked out of a wilderness a new nation" and "made their dreams come true." "From the building of subways to providing for their children's higher

education," DeFurio said, "the immigrants stand out as an inspiration."

He mentioned that while still proud of their heritage, immigrants' loyalty should center on America. He was given a standing ovation after expressing his thanks to God for his background, his immigrant parents, and for being a citizen of America and the Church.

Andrew Torma, MSC To Be Ordained

Andrew Torma, a brother of Dr. Joseph Torma of St. Bernard's Seminary, will be ordained to the priesthood Saturday for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

Auxiliary Bishop William A. Hughes of Youngstown, O., will confer the sacrament at 11 a.m. June 19 in St. Columba Cathedral, Youngstown. Father Torma will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving June 27 at St. Joseph's Church, Ashtabula, O., his home parish.

He is a graduate of Sacred Heart Seminary in Geneva, Ill., and holds

a bachelor of arts degree in history from Allentown College at Center Valley, Pa., and a master of divinity degree from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

His brother is director of field education for St. Bernard's. Their parents, Joseph and Leonie Torma, have five other sons and three daughters, one of whom is Sister Helen of the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

Father Torma is assigned to the MSC hospital chaplaincy in West Warwick, R.I. He entered the MSC order in 1970.

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