Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

I. "It is a basic Catholic principle that parents have the primary duty, the prevailing right, to supervise any so-called sex education . . . Even when parents fail to exercise this right and perform this duty, **the responsibility remains theirs.** In no way does the responsibility devolve upon the schools to provide sex education . . . The treatment of the subject in **special classes** in the schools is not disapproved however. It is here that the legitimate concern of the parent **must be especially recognized.** Sex education must be parent-oriented; classes must be arranged for their benefit, to supply them with the guidelines and material which will help them fulfill this serious duty. Classes may be established outside of school hours at which both parents and children would be in attendance. **If** parents desire sex education in the schools, the following conditions **must apply:** a) The course must be completely optional with parent approval of student participation required. b) Parents must be completely informed and must have access to **all** materials. c) Periodic consultations with the parents is required of the teacher.

"The teacher must carefully **avoid** giving the impression that any premarital sexual activity can be regarded as **not sinful** which in certain situations might be permitted or condoned. Likewise to be **avoided** are detailed descriptions of human sexual activity . . ."

These are some of the guidelines from the Catholic Diocese of Wichita Kansas. Their booklet on the subject opens with the CREDO of Pope Paul VI, not with dissenter Father Marc Oraison or SIECUS member (and former priest) Walter Imbiorski. Their booklet quotes the Vatican, not the SIECUS/AASEC philosophy.

II. "The Vatican Council clearly states that one aspect of the education of children which parents **may not overlook** is sex education. As children **advance in age** the Council affirms they 'should receive positive and **prudent** sexual education'. Parents have the primary responsibility for their childrens' education regarding sex. (Even) in delegating such responsibility, parents are in no way relieved of personal responsibility. These restrictions must be placed on the 'Rochester Plan' (Education in Love) and must be observed. The program **must be presented in formal specific and limited classes.** This will provide an opportunity for the parents to withdraw their children from these classes if they wish. Charts and diagrams shall be used in place of the suggested photos and/or movies. The following chapters entitled 'understandings' in the Teachers' Manual **do not adequately emphasize the authentic moral teaching** of the Catholic Church . . . Understanding 21 deals with birth control; no. 22 with abortion; no. 23 with prostitution/promiscuity; no. 25 with homosexuality and no. 26 with necking, petting, making out and nudity. All 'understandings' referred to are 8th grade level. Special attention must be given to the authentic moral teaching of the Church in these matters." (Evaluation of the Rochester Plan — Education in Love—by the Diocese of Oakland California.)

III. **My personal thoughts include:** sex should not be taught in the classroom as early as Education in Love is taught, the first grade. Toilet training is not a part of sex education. Adoption should never be discussed in the elementary classroom. SIECUS and AASEC in the classroom should be avoided. Vatican Declarations on sexual ethics and sterilization and contraception and abortion should be actually **taught.** Marc Oraison and Walter Imbiorski (one a dissenter, the other a former priest) should be omitted. Natural Family Planning should be taught in high schools. The spiritual dimension should be stressed again and again. The rudiments of birth should be discussed, including the physical appearance of the newborn as well as care of the umbilical cord until a doctor can be in attendance, etc. And of course, parents (whose lives are dedicated to their childrens' eternal souls) should have the option to withdraw their children from Education in Love or any school sex education course.

Next week: The Church in the Captive Nations . . .

KOLPING MASS

The Catholic Kolping Society will commemorate the International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia the first week of August by sponsoring a Mass on First Friday, Aug. 6, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Anne's Church. Msgr. Charles V. Boyle, pastor of St. Anne's and the group's spiritual director, will be principal celebrant of the liturgy. Father Paul J. Freemesser will deliver the homily.

KNIGHTS PICNIC

Elmira — The Knights of Columbus' Annual Family Picnic will start at 1 p.m. on Aug. 8 at the Harris Hill Youth Camp. Each family is requested, by the Knights, to bring a dish to pass. Everything else will be provided by the council.

Diocesan Priests Attend Renewal Meet

Nearly 1,100 priests gathered late last month at the College of Steubenville, Ohio, for the second National Conference for Priests on Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Among them were three from this diocese—Fathers William Trott, spiritual director at St. Bernard's Seminary; Paul McCabe, co-pastor of St. Augustine's, and James O'Connell, associate pastor of St. Mary's, Bath.

A report from the conference described it as "the largest gathering of priests ever held in the U.S. and perhaps anywhere in the world." The priests came from 48 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and 16 foreign countries. There were 10 bishops in the assembly.

Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, president of the college and general chairman for the conference, told them, "We have to make a decision to be a servant. Society doesn't teach us that. It teaches us to be master of our lives. Rather, we should thirst to obey the Master and His every word."

The key to achieving social justice, Father Scanlan added, lies in the strength of the foundation. Without a foundation in Jesus, he said, the work will crumble.

Father John Randall said, "We need to get out of the bag of being a tongues movement, a Baptism in the Spirit movement, a prayer group movement, and so forth.

"All we are is a people who want to live the Gospel without compromise, who want to radically follow Jesus and every inspiration of His Holy Spirit so that the Father can build His kingdom here on earth, and we can become the leaven of that kingdom."

Conference leaders included Fathers Francis McNutt, OP, John Bertolucci, Francis Martin and George Kosicki; Sister Ann Shields and Ralph Martin. The meetings took place June 21-25 in a large tent on the college campus.

Dr. Foley Honored

Supreme Court Justice Emmett Schnepp, chairman of the Board of Trustees at Nazareth College, recently said that the board had voted to fund, "in perpetuity," the Alice L. Foley Lecture Series and the Alice L. Foley Prize for Photography, both annual college events. Dr. Foley was also presented with a travel package "in appreciation for her four years of dedicated service to Nazareth College."

She officially retired as president of the college June 30 and has been succeeded by Robert A. Kidera, formerly president of Sacred Heart University in Bridgeport, Conn.

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