



"YOU HIGHWAY PATROL GUYS ARE GETTING PRETTY TRICKY ABOUT THE 55 MILE-AN-HOUR SPEED LIMIT, AREN'T YOU?"

Editorial

Think Twice

We like what a Father Henry Fehren wrote in a recent issue of U.S. Catholic. He said there is no good "reason" for missing Mass.

The priest says when someone says they no longer go to Mass because they do not like the songs, or the sermons, or the decor, or the prayers, or the language, or the esthetics, or the architecture, or the music, they are really "refusing Christ" because He is what the Mass is all about.

Not to leave the subject hanging in limbo, he has some suggestions for those who use such excuses. Visit cathedrals for "good architecture," he says. "Try the Met" for music, the Bolshoi Ballet for "ritual movement," the U.N. "If you want a language you can't understand," and Richard Burton for a "sermon delivered with a rich, dramatic voice."

Food for thought exists in the article. Too often we demand perfection from our parishes on all counts and too often we forget parish staffs are trying hard and after all are merely mortal. Our attention should be concerned more with the eternal meaning of the Mass and the perfection of Jesus Christ.

Polish Joke

The Polish-American Congress recently lost a court case in which it asked for time on a national television network to reply to what it considered jokes in poor taste — so-called Polish jokes. The Congress objected to a skit on the Dick Cavett show in which an imaginary Polish Anti-Defamation League objects to derogatory remarks, giving the comedian the situation to repeat the "jokes" in question.

This newspaper has long decried the insensitivity of such jokes. Recently, a visitor, just returned from Warsaw, related a true Polish joke. The Poles, according to the traveler, love to poke serious fun at Moscow and thus the joke.

Seems a social scientist from another country is asking a member of the Moscow Politburo about communism. "Is it true," he asks, "that you tried the system on dogs before humans?"

"Of course not," the party official replies, "what makes you ask?"

"In our country it is said that communism makes for a good life if you are a dog."

The joke may be a little too near reality for those who prefer the silly cracks long making the rounds in this country. But then again so is life in Warsaw.

Opinion

Musician Praised

Editor:

After reading "Folk Music: Call to Professionalism," I no longer THINK I KNOW that one of God's blessings in Apalachin is Joanna Lynn, our folk group leader!

Using Sister Monica's definition of a trained, professional, musical director, Joanna rates an A+! Our music is always joyful, appropriate, and we're encouraged to join in. For eight years, while working for her master's degree in music, and starting her family, she has been generously contributing her talents to us.

Thanks God! Thanks Joanna!

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Priest's Talk Commended

Editor:

I would like publicly to express my gratitude to Father Vincent Collins, pastor, St. John of Rochester, Fairport.

At the Hornell Right to Life banquet he stated: "To me, the anti-life mentality began with contraception. 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."

Thank God for a priest who will stand up and be counted when it comes to traditional Church teaching in spite of what Curran, Greeley and Co. say.

What need is there to assign varying degrees of importance on different Church teachings? Keeping the Faith means keeping it in all things. That means the full embodiment of historical, traditional Catholic doctrine. A man might never consider embezzling from his employer. Yet he will cheat on his working hours or maybe cart off company supplies. Can he be called an honest man?

"Men without the assistance of the whole of revealed doctrine cannot reach a complete and firm unity" (Pope John, Vatican II opening session). He wished "to transmit the doctrine, pure and integral, without attenuation or distortion." To withhold any part of the entire Catholic teaching from anyone — Catholic, Christian, or non-Christian, would be like a



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mother feeding only one of her children a well-balanced diet.

Thirty years ago, Father John D. Malley, former pastor of St. Joseph's, Penfield, instructed me over a period of three years. Wisely, he told me, "If there is any one thing you doubt or cannot accept, don't become Catholic."

To this day the beauty of the logic, reason, and history of the Catholic Church, and Christ's promise to preserve Her from all error, is an unending wonder. The final grace of the gift of Faith itself is indescribable and one not to be toyed with. As an ex-Episcopalian, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Lutheran, I know that there is a church somewhere that presents easier and more comfortable concepts of Mary's Virginity, divorce, contraception, Papal infallibility and everything else that is under attack by modernistic humanists.

Without the full traditional Catholic doctrine, as presented by the Magisterium, the Church would no longer be Catholic but just another heretical sect.

An open mind is one which seeks out ALL unchangeable objective Truths (principles). It rejects, with God's grace, changeable, subjective, climate of the times values (opinions). Then, hopefully, it has brains enough to close tightly and hold dearly, Truth. The work is not over, for the open mind will examine, dissect, evaluate, and refute attacks against Truth. For if a "truth" can be changed, or determined by majority opinion or the ethics of a situation, then it is not Truth — merely a value.

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ME Bias Is Seen

Editor:

Having been involved in the Marriage Encounter Program for many years (I attended a "Worldwide" weekend), I am well-acquainted with the Movement. Thus it was with some concern that I read Father Palumbos' remarks (CJ, 7-7-76) with regard to his concept of his new assignment to the Marriage Encounter Movement.

Father appears to be prejudiced against the "National" M.E. movement. It would seem that as a diocesan official he would be concerned equally with all aspects and expressions of Marriage Encounter. Instead, he indicates that his primary role will be to further the "Worldwide" M.E., apparently relegating "National" to second class status.

In all fairness to the many couples who find fulfillment in the "National" weekends, Father ought to set aside his personal biases and strive to heal the rift between the two, rather than exacerbate the philosophical differences.

Also, I think that a diocesan Official ought to be directing his efforts on behalf of the people of our diocese, rather than becoming the pawn of a particular movement.

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Hope Being Aborted

Editor:

In my mind's eye, the slogan "We've come a long way, baby" should be changed to "Deliver us from our maternal responsibilities."

After all a major reason for the 1973 Supreme Court ruling to legalize abortion was due to pressure from various militant feminist groups including the National Organization for Women (NOW), Women's Liberation

Movement, and Women's International Terrorist Conspiracy from Hell (WITCH). All of which advocated the institution of laws guaranteeing abortion on demand.

Their efforts towards the repeal of the standing abortion laws ranged from picketing and petitioning to demonstrating. They were hardly revolutionary means, yet somehow these tactics proved to be totally effective in a fight against their imagined oppression.

A member of NOW, Mrs. Barbara Sykes Wright, described and justified her organization's cause with the following statement: "Therefore I, and thousands upon thousands of women like me, believe that any law forbidding an abortion under good medical conditions is immoral and in addition unconstitutional, for it violates her right to control her property — her body — as well as her life, liberty and happiness. The abortion laws must be repealed, in this state, in this country, and all over the world. It is a basic part of universal human rights of women." (Abortion: Law, Choice and Morality, Daniel Callahan).

This was as if to say that a women's body is the only one in question in the termination of a pregnancy. In light of this, any law governing abortion contrary to the one they saw fit would mean oppression. Thus the legalization of abortion meant the liberation of women from their maternal responsibilities.

Blinded by this incomplete view of human rights a basic truth has been overlooked by the court. This being that the liberation of women is a product of the oppression of the defenseless unborn child. Where then, is the freedom and justice for all, a supposed vow of our judicial system? There can be none when the emancipation of women is achieved by the slaughter of millions of innocent lives. Furthermore, to refer to the bearing of ones child as oppression is the ultimate conceit. There can be no greater oppression than death. Yet by their own mothers this atrocity has been dealt unto tomorrow's children, Tomorrow's Hope.

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Abortion Also Seen as 'Flaw'

Editor:

Bishop Hogan's "Our 200th Birthday" declaration of interdependence, on the first page of your June 30 issue, is a striking example of how an evil can surround us with such pervasiveness that it is overlooked.

In enumerating "some of our flaws" Bishop Hogan mentions the arms race, the fact that our country lives in abundance and is surrounded by misery, and our lack of emphasizing the need for human rights on an international level. All these should be mentioned, of course.

But the Bishop passes over the fact that in the United States there are over one million unborn human beings murdered each year. This slaughter, indicative of a perverted, barbaric, and heathen society, is — quantitatively speaking — the most horrendous continuing destruction of human life in the history of the world.

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