


COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT ST. MONICA'S

Students from St. Monica, under the direction of Sister Marie Martin, recently decorated the window of the 19th Ward Community Association on Thurston Road, as part of a program to show community involvement. Kimberly Herring, left, and Irene Dombeck, both in the eighth grade, stand in front of a fabric wall hanging which depicts an African fairy tale. The display is on view through October.

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

In recent campaigning months politicians and educators are privately discussing a proposed compromise in the abortion dispute. Various presentations of the proposal suggest essentially that the United States should enact legislation which will tend to restrict some second trimester abortions while allowing the continuance of all first trimester abortions. (A trimester is approximately 12 weeks of the pregnancy. The first trimester is roughly equivalent to the first 12 weeks. The United States Supreme Court allows abortions at any point during the entire 9 months based solely on the desire of a mother and cooperation of a physician. No state can prescribe or deny an abortion.)

With the new Cornell University radioreceptor assay pregnancy test which "permits the precise dating of the beginning of a pregnancy (as early) as the sixth day after ovulation and therefore before implantation . . ." the 12 week time period is somewhat more accurately determinable than it was previously, so that in those cases when the Cornell test is used, one might under the compromise be able to determine whether the gestation were 12 weeks and abortable; or 12 weeks and one day, therefore non-abortable.

So to the casual observer the compromise comes as a waft of welcome relief, lifting responsibility from his tired shoulders and freeing both his conscience and his hours. It sounds good to the casual observer. It seems to him to take

everyone's opinions into consideration. Perhaps he sees it as a moral/legal way to "prevent" defective births, to rid the nation of costly unwanted, and as a means to protect today's liberated women from possible psychological pain, etc. The casual observer might even see in the compromise an appeasement of the Roman Catholic Church. However

According to *Health in the United States 1975* a staggering 83 percent of all legally recorded abortions are committed during the first trimester. With a million abortions a year (our yearly average) that represents 830,000 children who will not occupy school desks in 1981. According to the *Respect Life '76* handbook distributed this month to every Catholic parish in the country by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB) there will be an estimated 2.4 million legal abortions a year by 1980, representing at least 1,992,000 first trimester abortions yearly during the early eighties.

Only Planned Parenthood, AASECT/SIECUS (humanist-supported sex education societies), ZPC, the National Organization of Women (NOW), UNICEF, Catholics for a Free Choice and the Unitarian Church, among others, would gain from the proposed compromise. That is not compromise. That is moral abdication.

The Catholic Church, with the millions of non-Catholics who support her on the abortion issue, does not belong on the casual surface of the vital issues facing people today. She belongs at that lonely point of leadership in a world intoxicated with the joys of secular atheism . . . ahead of the crowds, ahead of confused educators, ahead of the opposition.

I join with the Washington-based NCCB in urging you to study the small (4" x 6") booklet *The Vatican Declaration on Abortion* if you wish to know exactly where the Church stands. For a free copy, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to me, P.O. Box 8450, Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

NEXT WEEK: The unwanted mother.


Conference Speaker

Sister Ann Xavier, SSJ, a mathematics teacher at Nazareth Academy, was a guest speaker at the annual meeting of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Oct. 7-9 in Niagara Falls. Sister addressed a gathering of elementary school teachers on the subject of "Metrics in the Mathematics Classroom." The

lecture incorporated suggestions for developing an understanding of metric measure in young children and using that understanding to strengthen knowledge of the number system. Sister Ann Xavier has given a similar lecture to elementary teachers in the Catholic schools of Rochester in previous years.

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Edna Claunch
Candidate for State Senate

Edna Claunch can be seen on Channel 21 Tuesday, Oct. 26th at 8:00 pm, and Wednesday, Oct. 27th at 10:00 pm.