

# More Opinions

## Voters Can Choose Life

Editor:

Jerry Brown, the Catholic governor of California, recently signed into law the first euthanasia bill in the history of the United States. There are presently pending euthanasia bills in several of the state legislatures. The proposed bill in Wisconsin would allow doctors to put anyone to death who was over the age of seven years and requested the same.

Undoubtedly, the next governor to be faced with a euthanasia bill will be Gov. Hugh Carey, also a Catholic. Ironically, it is the Catholic legislators who seem to be the leaders in the new era of "birth selection" and "death selection."

Yet discerning Catholics will note that both these executives condoned legalized abortion on demand. Both have asserted their lack of conviction in restoring the legal value to each human life in the area of the unborn child.

Fortunately, Catholics who have been morally sensitive in the recognition of the God-given equality of all human beings regardless of physical and material circumstances have also been provided the clear moral leadership of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

Never has a democracy been so clearly challenged to solve a crucial moral dilemma such as the restoration of the value of each human life through the use of the ballot box. Never has a single vote carried a greater degree of moral responsibility for Catholics and all concerned citizens. The restoration of the God-given inalienable equality of all human beings under law can only be accomplished by pro-life legislators. The legislator you elect must choose one of two paths for society—Life or Death. In selecting our President and legislators, we are making the same choice.

William Polito  
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## Carter On Abortion

Editor:

Some months ago, after listening to what Mr. Jimmy Carter was saying about abortion, I wrote to him, quoting the 1973 Supreme Court Decision which allows abortion on demand up to full term pregnancy and which Mr. Carter defends. I questioned then whether he had ever taken the time to read it.

I have just received a reply. As a Georgia Catholic, I share your concern for life and I know that Jimmy Carter shares your concern, too." (Signed) Sister Mary Jeanette.

Apparently, Mr. Carter decided that the best strategy to use in answering mail about the abortion issue would be to assume that those writing were Catholic and would be best placated by having the letter signed by a Catholic religious. This is not the first time a politician has used a Catholic religious in an attempt to win Catholic votes. Richard Nixon had his Jesuit, Father McLaughlin. Now Mr. Carter has his Sister Mary Jeanette.

Since writing Mr. Carter, I am not so naive about his abortion role. Now I am aware that he not only has probably read the Supreme Court Decision but has probably rejoiced in it. His close friend and medical advisor, Dr. Peter Bourne, was a litigant in the Georgia case, one of the two cases culminating in the Supreme Court ruling eliminating legal protection from unborn children. Dr. Bourne's wife has publicly stated that it was she who persuaded Carter that legalized abortion was needed as a backup for contraceptive failure.

In 1972 Carter authored the foreword to a book entitled Women in Need, a book on birth control which strongly endorsed abortion. Although Carter now says taxes should not pay for abortions, the Atlanta Journal, Oct. 6, 1971 quotes him, "... public funds could be considered in some instances for voluntary abortions and sterilizations for needy persons." Also, Medicaid payments for abortion began in 1973, shortly after the Supreme Court decision, under the administration of Governor Jimmy Carter.

Sister Mary Jeanette may fool some, but she cannot erase Mr. Carter's role in dehumanizing unborn children and disfranchising them of their right to live.

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## Reject False Teachings

Editors:

A recent letter to the editor of The Times-Union (Oct. 9, 1976), illustrates an important lesson for Catholics.

The letter referred to a Times-Union article (Sept. 18, 1976), by a Jesuit priest, Rev. John J. McNeill, in which the priest contended that "the Bible nowhere explicitly condemns homosexuality." Perhaps Father's remark created some scandal, or at least confusion, to people of various religions.

In the letter to the editor, the writer, presumably a Protestant, since he quoted the King James version of the Bible, respectfully pointed out to readers and Father McNeill the text of Romans 1: 26-27. Although the King James version's wording differs slightly from that of the Douay-Rheims version, the meaning is the same. St. Paul regarded homosexuality, whether between men or women, as shameful and contrary to nature and liable to natural punishments.

It seems embarrassing to Catholics, not only that a Jesuit teacher should need Scriptural instruction from a layman, but also and especially, that a priest of the Church, which we believe to have teachings closest to Christ's, deviates more from Catholic teaching on homosexuality than does this gracious Protestant layman.

May Catholics learn an important lesson from this incident, similar to many another. We should wisely take with a grain of salt the teachings of individual theologians and seek moral guidance from our true shepherds, our Bishops and the Holy Father, who is the successor of St. Peter.

For, as St. Paul said, "There will come a time when they will not endure the sound doctrine, but having itching ears, will heap up to themselves teachers according to their own lusts, and they will turn away their hearing from the truth and turn aside rather to fables."

II Timothy 4:3-4

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## Amendment Supported

Editor:

Are the Holy Commandments now being shattered carelessly by a nation that was founded on Christian beliefs and survived to be the greatest nation on earth? The abortion law as it now stands could involve sin against several of the Ten Commandments. Shouldn't we be concerned about the destiny of America, its future, its beliefs? Is there a cause here for shame? Is there a cause for fear?

The Catholic church has announced in support of Sen. Buckley's position on the abortion issue. Mr. Buckley has always favored an Amendment to the Constitution barring abortions in America.

I consider abortion to be one of the greatest issues and should definitely be an issue in the present political campaign. If it is separation of church and state that bothers some voters, I might ask these people how the present abortion law became legal in the first place.

The chance for an amendment to this sinful law is something worth voting for.

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