



"I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT!"

Editorial

The Most Important Issue

A good deal of this newspaper is devoted to informing readers on the issues in the current election. The Courier-Journal does not endorse candidates nor get involved in the personalities of a campaign, but we do think it is our duty to do what we can to keep our readers informed on the issues.

This year, abortion is of monumental concern — even the presidential candidates have been involved in the discussion. Both have personally given their views to the public as well as to a panel of bishops representing Catholic voters. President Ford has favored a states rights amendment to the Constitution, that is returning the problem to the states for each to make its own law. Jimmy Carter has said he is against a constitutional amendment. Both say they are personally opposed to abortion on demand. The bishops have made it clear that they do not endorse candidates or political parties.

We have endeavored in this issue to show how congressional candidates view abortion and other important issues of the campaign. We also have printed the platforms of the two major parties and compared them with the views of the U.S. bishops. We hope our readers make good use of this information.

Obviously all of this will be wasted if diocesans do not vote. One thing every candidate agrees on is the necessity of a large turnout to make our system work. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and other Church leaders have urged all to make it a personal duty to make their preferences known the most effective way possible — through the ballot box.

So read this issue carefully. Study other newspapers and magazines. Inform yourselves on the issues. Learn how the various candidates view the issues of concern to you. This year through the medium of television we have all had the opportunity to see and hear our major presidential candidates in face-to-face debate. Thank God we live in a country where such a debate is possible. Thank God we live in a country where we can all study those seeking even our highest office to make an informed choice on election day.

In our political system of checks and balances, the Congress as a whole is as important as the presidency. In addition to races in all the congressional districts in the diocese we also have a senatorial contest to decide. Again opportunities exist for all to study the nominees and the issues and make the best possible personal choice.

Perhaps the most important issue in this campaign has not been the subject of the many debates nor is it listed in any platform. This major concern is the apathy of the American voter. The system is at work — even those seeking our highest offices are working diligently to display their wares, so to speak, so that we the people can make proper decisions. The media, print and electronic, are devoting reams of space and air time to the candidates and the issues. Leaders representing religions and every other slice of American life are expressing the importance of each individual voting. The voting age has been lowered to 18. Registration has been mobilized. We hope transportation will be made available to those who find it physically difficult to reach their polling place.

Now it is all up to each and every one of us to do our part, simply by voting. The American system, which we put such store by, will be resting on us Tuesday, Nov. 2. We cannot let it down.

Opinion

Editorials Questioned

Editor:

In an editorial of Sept. 22, the Courier-Journal stated that William V. Shannon in a column of the New York Times wrote about the Catholic Church's opposition to abortion as only "one facet of its effort to create a society of hope."

The editorial continued, "Thus it opposes capital punishment, supports gun control, endorses amnesty, rejects unemployment and works for decent housing."

The latter two topics agreed upon, since when did the Catholic Church oppose capital punishment, support gun control and endorse amnesty?

This is no doubt the opinion of William V. Shannon, the Courier-Journal and our liberal clergy but it is quite inaccurate to print these opinions as official church policy.

In another editorial, the Courier-Journal got worked up over neo-Nazism in Argentina (9/28/76).

While recognizing the undesirability of any rebirth of Nazism, common sense should indicate that it is Communism not Nazism that is the major threat to the human race.

It is communism that butchered 600,000 or more civilians in Cambodia.

It is communism that most often persecutes religion and murders missionaries.

It is communism that seeks to control the world and all the people in it.

Therefore it is communism that must demand the major part of our moral energy.

Unfortunately the Courier-Journal and other liberal Catholic publications do not agree.

Robert Bart
P.O. Box 594
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850

Editor's Note:

The United States Catholic Conference has listed its positions on many of the issues in this election season on Pages 30-31. Included is a call for strong handgun control and a flat rejection of capital punishment. On Oct. 21, 1971 the U.S. Bishops asked that "civil authorities grant generous pardon on convictions incurred under the Selective Service Act, with the understanding that sincere conscientious objectors should

COURIER-JOURNAL

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan
President

Anthony J. Costello
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 91 No. 26 October 27, 1976

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 20¢. 1 year subscription in U.S. \$2.50. Canada and Foreign \$12.00. Offices, Richmond Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. (716) 256-7050. Second class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal

remain open in principle to some sort of service to the community. Surely a country which showed compassion by offering amnesty after the Civil War will want to exercise no less compassion today." These are the official positions of the Catholic Church in America but individual Catholics, of course, are not bound by them.

1-Issue Stance Defended

Editor:

I couldn't resist giving my response to one of your letter writer's views on a "document supplied by the Rochester Area Right to Life Committee." I am not an official spokesman for Rochester Right to Life.

First of all, I would tell the gentleman to do what us Right to Lifers are told to do — "don't have one." So all he has to do is refuse the document as we are told that we don't have to have an abortion if we don't want one.

Second, as far as my being a one-issue voter—if a farmer likes a candidate because of the candidate's farm program or labor likes a candidate because of the candidate's labor program that is dandy, but let an abortion fighter like a candidate because of the candidate's position, then we are one-issue voters. I will tell you why this is — because abortion is not considered important by those critics.

This abortion thing is one of the worst things that has hit this country, and if people can be educated to know that they are stopping a life, and we can have a country that feels that death is not a good solution to a problem, then the fallout from anti-abortion efforts will truly help the 5, 15, 45, and 75-year-old persons who are in need.

I don't feel that Right to Lifers have to go out fighting to solve all human problems. The job they have is plenty for now.

Sometimes I wonder why I am in Right to Life, then when I think about an innocent creature who is absolutely the most helpless and dependent of creatures being plucked from its place and cast aside—then I know why!

Eileen D. Dougherty
33 Clinton St.
Avon, N.Y. 14414

Must Keep Sen. Buckley

Editor:

We must shake ourselves awake to the real danger of losing the most conscientious and dedicated pro-life, faithful Roman Catholic politician in the country, Sen. James Buckley. His consistent truthfulness has led even the wire service writers to remark that if he gives a statement, there is no reason to doubt it. It is our responsibility to keep Jim Buckley as our senator.

This is a time for political maturity. We must stave off more and more control by the federal government in order to slow the rapid and organized advancement of secularism in this country, an acknowledged precursor of communism. It is very late, but we must try.

We must, therefore, do the works of charity ourselves and solve problems ourselves, not expecting a central control to do these things for us.

I am going to vote for Buckley!
Judith B. Echariz (Mrs. Jose M.)
349 Ramington St.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Candidate 'Pro-Life'

Editor:

Respect for Life Sunday should have been an excellent opportunity to review the Church's position on abortion and euthanasia. Yet, many times it is up to the laity to show the real issues at stake in our Christian duty. Vatican II recognized the duty imposed on us to guard life, and obviously to end abominable crimes against it.

"God, the Lord of life, has entrusted to men the noble mission of safeguarding life, and men must carry it out in a manner worthy of themselves. Life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception; abortion and infanticide are abominable crimes." (Gaudium et Spes, 1-51)

Michael Macaluso, Jr. is the Democratic Conservative candidate for the 35th Congressional District. He is firmly in favor of a Constitutional Human Life Amendment.

John E. Leary, Jr.
523 Black Walnut Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14615

Abortion Grave Sin

Editor:

Daniel Moynihan has stated that he will not sponsor any bill which would amend the Constitution to overthrow the ruling of the Supreme Court on abortion. To vote for Moynihan is to vote for a continuation of our present national policy on abortion.

To vote for Sen. Buckley is to vote with the hope that the "right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" may some day be extended under the Constitution to include the unborn.

Abortion is a grave sin against the Divine and natural law.

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan
789 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Suggestions Appreciated

Editor:

On behalf of the Rochester delegation, I would like to thank all those who took time to discuss and consider the recommendations that were considered in the Detroit Assembly of the American Catholic Church. The input we received made our task that much more meaningful.

I would also like to clear up one misconception regarding the origins of the papers. I did not write them or participate in anyway in their formation. They are the compilation of literally hundreds of thousands of respondents (including clergy, lay and religious) throughout the country. This process began two years ago and was meant to be as inclusive as possible.

John Erb
Director of Urban Social Ministry
Office of Human Development

More Letters on Pages 16 and 32

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

They should be no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed double-spaced, with names and addresses. The paper reserves the right to edit all letters.