

# More Opinions

## Who Chose Delegates?

Editor:

I was interested in the report on the alleged Catholic meeting at Detroit which recommended to the Catholic hierarchy drastic changes for their consideration. The article stated that the Catholic Diocese of Rochester was represented by voting delegates and non-voting delegates.

I would like to know how these delegates were selected, elected or chosen. Were they hand-picked? I don't remember having a voice in their selection, and if I didn't have such right, I want to know why!

It is my opinion that the convention in Detroit was a meeting of liberal Catholics. They do not represent me. I have decided to voice my opinion because I have had it with a small minority in the Church, many of whom are religious, endeavoring to promulgate their liberal ideas as part of our Catholic faith and liturgy without giving the majority the right to be heard.

The conference in Detroit seemed to be interested in people who have left the Church - the remarried, divorced person, the ex-communicant, the homosexual, those who turned away from its teachings, and those who never believed in its teachings. These delegates had better not forget those Catholics who make great sacrifices to support the Church and its parochial school system and believe in its teachings.

Most of our religious seem to be more interested in the social and political aspects of American life than their vocation. I was fortunate when I was young to have had a great pastor, Msgr. Thomas F. Connors, a man of holiness and above all humility, who always placed God before himself. He wasn't interested in trying to mould the Church to his own likes or dislikes like so many religious do now. I often wonder what St. Thomas More would say today was it all in vain for him to die defending a Catholic principle on marriage - or should he have gone with the crowd?

We need more discipline in the Church and it is time that those in authority in the Church take command. If prayer and sacrifice is ever more needed, it is now.

Harold L. Knauff  
745 Titus Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Editor's Note: According to a diocesan spokesman, the delegates were chosen by the Social Action Communications Committees of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, Priests Council and Sisters Council, the Religious Orders and the Office of Human Development. In addition, the Office of Black Ministries chose one delegate, the Spanish Apostolate one delegate, the Rural Human Development Office two delegates.

## Timely Quotes From Paul

Editor:

St. Paul's letter to the Romans remains the favorite Biblical quote for Catholics who perceive homosexuality as sin. In her letter, Ms. Dorothy Gullen of Parsells Avenue refutes the claim of Rev. John McNeill, S.J., that "the Bible nowhere explicitly condemns homosexuality." Romans 1:26-27 was the basis of her argument.

Paul states that "(men) have changed the glory of the incorruptible God for an image like to corruptible man and to birds and four-footed beasts and creeping

things. Therefore God has given them up in the lustful desires of their heart. The men also, having abandoned the natural use of woman, have burned in their lusts one towards another, men with men doing shameful things and receiving in themselves the fitting recompense of their perversity.

In this passage, Paul has called homosexuality "God-sent" punishment for sin. This is plausible. In the days of the holy saint, as today, homosexuality was shameful and deviant. As it is, homosexuals are universally persecuted by a sense of guilt. Their "fitting recompense" thus is earthly. Ms. Gullen herself claims that "Paul regards homosexuality as contrary to nature and liable to natural punishment." However, the sainted Thomas a Kempis tells us that nature is man's downfall and grace, its opposite, is his hope. ("Nature desires pleasant and unusual things. Nature inclines to the love of creatures, to the love of the flesh.") Assuming Ms. Gullen does not consider homosexuality gracious, the first part of her interpretation of Paul is incorrect. Like all men, and like Christ as man, homosexuals are prone to nature. Unlike Christ, though, they have not overcome their nature through God's will. For that matter, nor have any human beings engaging in sex.

If Ms. Gullen proceeds to Romans 2:1, she may discover something of greater importance, something she, and every Catholic can ask themselves. Paul says, "Do you, my friend, pass judgment on others? You have no excuse at all, whoever you are. Listen then, if you have ears."

John A. Compa  
516 Locust Lane  
East Rochester, N.Y. 14445

## Disappointed In UNICEF

Editor:

In 1946, a loving, caring, very much needed organization called UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) came into being. It reached out to starving, homeless, dying children and literally brought them back to life.

It came to my attention in the past year that something was different in UNICEF. Somewhere along the way a new dimension had been added that upset and disillusioned me. I discovered that UNICEF was heavily involved in family planning (begun in 1950), including abortion. I investigated this further, reading a lot of their own publications and also found that UNICEF has a flourishing relationship with WHO (World Health Organization) which is doing research into abortifacient devices and methods (as well as sterilization techniques).

Having learned all this I cannot support UNICEF in any way - whether it be a small child collecting at our door in a Halloween costume, or by purchasing their beautiful Christmas cards. There are MANY organizations who use their monies SOLELY to give aid and support to children's lives, not to destroy those who don't possess a certain quality of life.

I know in my heart that the Lord is not overlooking any aborted little ones that He has created (including those aborted through UNICEF's family planning), and seeing only the many others. If He knows the number of hairs on our head, and even values each bird and cares for him, how much more must He care for those unwanted children? "Thou hast protected me from my mother's womb" Psalm 138:13.

And I want to add a special "thank you" to Nancy Murphy who is responsible for enlightening so

many Christians to the real truth. With all the laxity I see (even in our own church), she is like "the voice of one crying in the wilderness"

Mrs. Richard L. Saunders  
20 Ambassador Drive  
Victor, N.Y.

## Reporter Commended

Editor:

I was one of the diocesan delegates to the Detroit Conference, "A Call to Action." I want by means of this letter to let you know of how pleased I was by the work done by the Courier's reporter, Michael Groden.

Michael constantly was on the move, listening, looking, asking. I think he captured beautifully the spirit of the conference. His article in this week's paper shows likewise that he did his homework - he has captured the most important thoughts of each of the documents in his reporting.

I congratulate you, sir, on having Michael in your staff and hope that he will be commended for his excellent work concerning the Detroit Conference.

Ada Maria Isasi-Diaz  
Diocesan Delegate,  
"A Call to Action."

## Shouldn't Be Self-Righteous

Editor:

I must disagree with Nancy Murphy's column. She is but one of many who put self-righteousness ahead of service. While she points out that care and counseling are obvious counterparts to the avoidance of abortion, humanism, etc., she fails to point out how negligent we as Catholics have been in providing these. We may not agree with Planned Parenthood's ideas on abortion, however, they provide a great deal of services beyond this which no one else seems to tackle. They even know more about natural family planning than most Catholic doctors do.

Until we as a Church provide readily available counseling on family planning to all our members, until we are willing to put together coherent sex education programs for our children, until we are willing to insure that all mothers are entitled to adequate pre-natal care and be willing to pay for it, until we accept an unwed mother in our neighborhood without looking askance at her, we cannot be self-righteous and chastise others.

It is because we have failed to help, failed to educate, failed to forgive that other groups have risen to fill their needs.

Mrs. Judith Stewart  
28 Ridge Meadows  
Spencerport, N.Y.

## Literature Needed

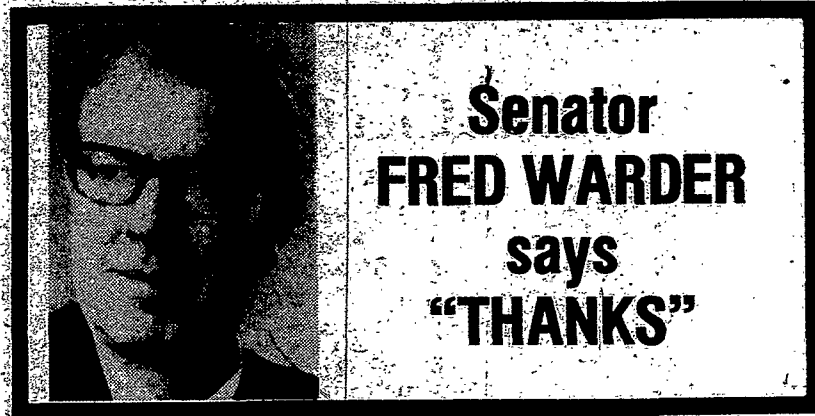
Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines direct to the Foreign Missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me self-addressed envelopes, I will give them the addresses of Missionary Priests and Nuns who need Catholic Literature.

Write direct to:

Mary Conway,  
14 Castle Street  
Cork, Ireland



Senator  
**FRED WARDER**  
says  
"THANKS"

**DARVISH**  
**ORIENTAL RUGS**  
Phone 271-8520  
1840 Monroe Avenue  
Opposite Brighton Commons  
Direct Importers of  
**GENUINE ORIENTAL RUGS**  
**BOUGHT-SOLD**  
Certified Appraisals  
**CLEANING And REPAIRS**

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE IN NOV. & DEC.  
WE ARE OPEN: MON.-FRI. 10:30 AM - 9:00 PM  
SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM; SUNDAY NOON TO 5 PM

**HERE'S WHY NOBODY WALKS AWAY**  
from a Ralph Pontiac-Honda deal

1977 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX  
ONLY \$4365.00

ONLY \$8859\* MONTHLY  
IF YOUR TRADE-IN IS WORTH \$1,000  
All You Pay Is the Sales Tax  
for 48 months at an Annual Percentage Rate of 11.35%. Amount financed \$3380. Interest \$872.32. Total \$4272.32

HONDA CIVIC  
ONLY \$2749.00

ONLY \$5897\* MONTHLY  
IF YOUR TRADE-IN IS WORTH \$500  
YOU PAY IS SALES TAX

**RALPH PONTIAC-HONDA**  
685 WEST MAIN STREET • 235-3635