

## Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

**Human Life Coordinator,** conclusion. Some of today's more novel Catholic leadership in America stands in open opposition to the Vatican. There are Catholic leaders who justify abortion during the first three months of pregnancy, perhaps unaware that in this country there are 830,000 abortions per year during the first three months of pregnancy. There are Catholic leaders who quietly promote sterilization in Catholic hospitals with reasoning remarkably similar to that used by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973 when they opened the abortion floodgates. Some Catholic school systems teach and encourage the use of mechanical contraceptives, even to the point of allowing Planned Parenthood physicians to display and demonstrate the use of the contraceptives to young Catholics, using three-dimensional plastic models of the human genitalia. One model, manufactured by Ortho Pharmaceuticals, is advertised in the current issue of Perspectives, published by and for Planned Parenthood.

Catholic pulpits are often silent about Natural Family Planning, stating with inexcusable ignorance that NFP is the same as the outmoded Rhythm System (it's not). And although many push for married priests, few offer such vocal encouragement or guidance in Christian Fatherhood to those men who are already fathers. As in the Supreme Court decision, fathers are ignored.

The narcissistic Humanist philosophy which stresses personal gratification and avoids all sense of sin or self-condemnation, is taught in the Kohlberg Values Clarification courses injected into existing curriculum of some Catholic schools. Dr. Lawrence Kohlberg's Values Clarification theory defines six "maturity levels" culminating in the ultimate stage of maturity where all principles and ethics are self-chosen (and) are not concrete moral values like the Ten Commandments. (Moral Development, A Guide to Piaget and Kohlberg by Duska and Whelan, Paulist Press, 1975).

While it is neither my place nor my intention to attack defiant Catholic educators (they are well-meaning though misguided), I mention a few of their transgressions in order to make a point. It is my considered judgment that Catholics across the nation need articulate local Catholic leadership on behalf of human life and the human life issues. If that leadership

## Pope Schedules Midnight Mass

**Vatican City (RNS)** — The Vatican has announced that Pope Paul will celebrate Mass at midnight on Christmas Eve in St. Peter's Basilica.

On Christmas Day, he will again celebrate Mass in the Basilica at 10:30 a.m.

Following a custom, the Pope will then go to the loggia of St. Peter's overlooking the huge square to deliver his Christmas message and impart his blessing, "Orbi et Urbi" ("To the World and the City of Rome").

is other than Vatican-oriented, if that leadership follows Kohlberg, Callahan or Curran, the plight of the unborn and the unwanted, the ignored, the mutilated and the confused will go unheeded. The Vatican will not be heard.

The Human Life Coordinator must be uniquely Catholic. The Human Life Office must stress positive, compassionate, moral guidance and motivation; service for women and the unborn; advice, care and support for the unwed father. Euthanasia must be studied. The office must work for reconciliation of those who have failed in these areas. The Human Life Office must emphasize prenatal care, adoption/foster care facilities, continuing education for the unwed mother, special understanding and support for the victims of rape and/or VD, alternatives to sterilization, help for the suffering silents of the Captive Nations.

After that, it will require time and devotion. But the cause is just. And the Catholic laity of Rochester is ready.

**NEXT WEEK: Christmas list.**

## Regional Highlights

### Northeast

Parishes of the Northeast Region have resolved to come to the aid of Mount Carmel. Ronald Keller, representing the parish, reported to the recent special regional assembly that the church's main boiler will soon become non-functional.

The boiler heats the parish hall and school. The loss of heat would represent a substantial loss of income. The parish hall is rented to many local groups, including the Board of Elections. According to NERVE, the region's newsletter "all the parishes in the region have responded with generous pledges of financial support." Money will be used to "tap into" a smaller boiler which heats the rectory and church.

At the same meeting members were told of the needs of the poor

living in the Mount Carmel parish. Region members were asked for canned goods, blankets, sheets, sewing machines and the services of someone able to repair small appliances. The region asks that those who can offer such things call Mount Carmel or Father Foster P. Rogers, regional coordinator.

A regional youth club is now being formed.

Sister Florian Reichert, regional liturgy coordinator, has resigned. She will be replaced by Sister Mary Lou Heffernan. Sister Florian has been liturgy coordinator since the region's inception.

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