

**Life, Liberty and Law**



Nancy Murphy

Water, one of our most abundant natural resources, covers 70 per cent of the earth's surface. We use water for heat, pleasure, aquaculture, irrigation, cleanliness, food processing, industry, landscaping, athletics, transportation, research, power, sanitation and as source of minerals. We've reversed river flows and we've built canal systems, aqueducts and dams. We drink water, harness it, cut it ... and waste it.

We didn't used to. In Gezer, on Israel's west coast some 25 miles from Jerusalem, there is evidence that we have not always been so wasteful. Two thousand years before the birth of Christ, man dug deep into the earth-rock at Gezer to form a water passage which caught and stored excess waters. Along the fabled banks of the Nile for thousands of years, man irrigated his crops by first allowing flood waters to spread into ponded basins, and then controlling the released flow.

Fortunately, today's technological world has not ignored such primitive measures. Indeed there are excellent journals devoted to new implementations of ancient practices. If water can be captured and stored underground, can it be purified there, too? Can it be purified by ultra-violet? Can we discover additional aquifers beneath the earth's surface? Is it possible or

feasible to transport water overland? What new methods of mountain tunnel drilling are available? Can water be pumped from one area to another? Can water be used and reused in industry? What is the latest research on desalination? Can we initiate new methods of mulching to reduce evaporation? Can salt-tolerant crops be developed? Can we accurately predict seasonal weather patterns? Is it feasible to tap the vast underground fresh water reservoir underlying the northern plain of the Nile? Can we sink wells, draw water from beneath the Sahara, construct bunds to direct water flow, increase canal seepage? Are we willing to explore?

Catholic educators in CCD, Catholic schols and public schools could enhance the present situation if they teach our youth to challenge those who seek to eliminate human hunger by eliminating the human, not the hunger.

SOURCES: Harvard University Center for Population Studies, 665 Huntington Ave., Boston, Mass., 02115. Attention, Wilma Winters, librarian. Ask for Water and Land (32) by Brady, Brown, Hagan, et al. The Ganges Water Machine (84) by Revelle and Lakshminarayana. Waterlogging and Salinity in the Indus Plain (10) by Dorfman, Robert et al. These reprints are free. And they offer hope to a confused world.

Also: Secure a copy of Scientific American, September 1976. The Resources Available for Agriculture by Revelle. Pages 165-178. This article too, in layman's language, proves that many learned men see a sharing of positive technology as a valid approach to world population stabilization.



**Jeanne Hadfield Named**

Sister Marion Hoxtor, vice president for academic affairs (L.) and Jeanne C. Hadfield, new associate professor in Nazareth's re-established Department of Nursing, look over a progress report showing the status of over 100 applications already received for the college's new upper level baccalaureate program for registered nurses.

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Working on the Sisters of Mercy Infirmary Appeal are, from left, Mrs. Philip Fitzsimmons, Sister Janet Wahl, and Sister Conleth Kennedy.

**Kickoff Readied For Mercy Sisters Infirmary Appeal**

More than 70 members of the Friends of the Infirmary Appeal of the Sisters of Mercy will meet Thursday night, March 10, to kick off the campaign, according to Mr. and Mrs. Philip Fitzsimmons, chairmen.

Infirmary plans call for transfer of the present quarters in the 50-year-old Motherhouse to the more spacious second floor of the McAuley Building, added as a wing in 1959.

Renovation costs, including furnishing, are estimated at \$325,000 and will be sought during the next two months from friends of the Sisters throughout the diocese. Presently there are more than 300 Sisters in the Mercy community.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is honorary chairman. E. Garrett Cleary and Regina Kennedy are chairmen of Special Friends — Advance Solicitation. Assisting them are Joe Adams, Bill Bennett, Jerry Curran, Phil DePasquale, Tom Farrell, Mr. and Mrs. John Kearney, Michael L. Langie, Mrs.

Norma Riedman, Allen Stanwix, and Mr. and Mrs. Donald VerHoeven.

**Sister's Experience Offered**

A Sister's Experience, open to any sister of the diocese, has been scheduled for April 1-3 at the Divine Word Seminary, Conesus. Supported by Marriage Encounter, the weekend will be lead by Sisters Jean Rodman and Susan Dunford, Father Edward Palumbos, diocesan Marriage Encounter coordinator, and two couples.

The purpose of the weekend, according to Sister Jean, is to help sisters learn about their vocation in the Church, to help dialogue and as an aid in building community. Further information and registration can be obtained from Bill and Mary Butler, 130 Marlboro Road., Rochester, 14619.

**TOWARD TOMORROW**



Fr. Henry Atwell

If 87 percent of the students at a particular college regularly failed their exams, would you want your son or daughter to enroll there?

If 87 percent of the patients at a particular hospital regularly died there, would you want to become yourself a patient there?

If 87 percent of the products of some one manufacturer regularly broke down within a year, would you likely buy that company's products?

And after examining their own dismal records such as these, do you think the administrators or officers of such a college, or hospital, or corporation would decide to go on in the same way, without change, just more of the same?

Yet it is a fact that 87 percent of the crime committed in our nation today is committed by people who have been in jail or prison, institutions we so erroneously call corrective institutions. And then we are told we should build bigger jails, stronger prisons.

We are now paying as taxpayers more money for this woefully inefficient system than for any other aspect of government, except the military. Our police, courts, jails, prisons cost us more than our schools, more than health care, more than welfare!

And the system fails 87 percent of the time.

An increasing number of people are convinced that we must abolish jails and prisons just as a century ago our grandparents abolished slavery.

There were people then who tried to reform, to improve the slave system, make it more humane. But finally people realized the slave system was inherently inhumane and the only solution was to abolish it. We are still the victims of its four centuries of existence.

There are people today who are trying to reform, to improve, the criminal justice system. But more and more people agree with Clarence Darrow who made this thought provoking statement in 1902: "There ought to be no jails... The only way in the world to abolish crime and criminals is to... make fair conditions of life... Nobody would steal if he could get something of his own some easier way. Nobody will commit burglary when he has a house full... There should be no jails. They do not accomplish what they pretend to accomplish. If you would wipe them out there would be no more criminals than now. They terrorize nobody. They are a blot upon any civilization."

Another spokesman, Frank Tannenbaum, said in 1938: "We must destroy the prison... Almost anything will be an improvement. It cannot be worse. It cannot be more brutal and more useless."

Maybe this is why Jesus once said, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has sent me to announce good news... to proclaim release to prisoners."

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