

**Editorial**

**Carter Stand Offers Hope**

Encouraging. That word probably best describes some of the comments coming from the White House recently concerning abortion. The stands announced by President Jimmy Carter and others in his administration are not the optimum as far as pro-life goes but at least for the first time there is hope that someone with clout is not afraid to disavow abortion as a norm.

The President defended the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling that held the federal government need not finance abortions for poor women and said the decision should be interpreted "very strictly."

He said he is flatly opposed to spending federal money on abortions except when a woman's life is in danger or when the pregnancy results from rape or incest. He rightly described the federal financing of abortions through Medicaid as "an encouragement to abortion and its acceptance as a routine contraceptive means."

The President and his secretary for Health, Education and Welfare hit a note that is out of harmony with Catholic teaching when he said there is a need for Americans "to understand how to prevent unwanted pregnancies with education programs and with the availability of contraceptives and other devices when they believe in their use as an alternative to abortion."

But while the phrase "contraceptives and other devices" may bruise the Catholic conscience there are natural means of birth control acceptable within the faith's framework which could be the subject of the "education programs" mentioned by President Carter.

And there are other encouraging signs in the administration posture. For instance Joseph Califano, the HEW secretary, offered a proposal to provide federal subsidies for the adoption of hard-to-place foster children which he said is "obviously an alternative to abortion." The administration also endorsed a proposal to pay maternity expenses for women planning to bring their pregnancy to term and put their babies up for adoption.

Califano said the proposals are part of a "pro-family reform" of a "viciously anti-family child welfare system" and "you could certainly say it presents an alternative to abortion."

The administration is calling on the government to divert the current \$171 million spent annually on 117,000 foster children to adoption subsidies for low and moderate income families wishing to adopt hard-to-place foster children. Then, an additional \$209.5 million would be provided by the mid-1980s to expand state child welfare services.

Excuse us if we are being gullible but these proposals seem to be coming from conviction rather than an effort to placate pro-lifers with platitudes which has been the modus operandi of so many politicians.

The efficacy of the proposals, from the pro-life standpoint, may be seen in the reaction of those in favor of funding of abortions for poor women. An American Civil Liberties Union official charged that the President is imposing "his personal morality" in a "serious abuse of presidential power."

We feel it is high time that officials stop paying lip service to "morality" and put into action what they claim to believe personally.

There is further evidence that these administration proposals are not fly-by-night programs. Vice President Walter Mondale while still a senator sponsored such a subsidy for adoptions and termed the present plan a way to "strengthen rather than undercut the family."

As we said before these proposals are not all that pro-lifers and anti-abortion adherents want. But they may be an indication that the rush to abortion and other anti-life measures as treatment for society's difficulties may be at long last running into some roadblocks.

**Opinion**

**Feminist "Overkill"**

**Editor:**

Attending the New York State Meeting of the International Women's Year Conference opened my eyes to today's feminist movement. Had the early suffragettes been in Albany that weekend, they might have died of apoplexy.

They might have realized the movement, courageously begun, has gone to the opposite extremes when they witnessed the heavy-handed one-sided planning, exemplified by the panel discussions and controlled core resolutions; the directives to subordinate marriage and the family to free love, homosexuality and lesbianism; the ridicule of religion; and vulgarity.

If Bella Abzug, Lt. Gov. Mary Anne Krupsak and other feminist leaders cannot see their "overkill" in pursuit of so-called rights, then they have lost all ability and privilege of leadership.

Those who attended that meeting must combine their efforts to constructively represent all women. All should write their elected representatives to stop any more federal and state funding of this travesty.

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**It IS His Body**

**Editor:**

Re the letter "A One-Time Sacrifice" in the July 6 Courier.

I must take issue with Mr. Ramos in his statement that the Mass is more of a

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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.

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memorial than a sacrifice. I think he better re-read Scripture, Matthew 26:26-28.

During the meal Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples. "Take this and eat it," he said, "this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. "All of you must drink from it," he said, "for this is my blood. The blood of the covenant, to be poured out in behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Editor's Note: The writer also included the Mark and Luke versions of the Last Supper.)

I have quoted the gospels to bring out the fact that it is God who comes down upon the altar each day at Mass. This is His Body and His blood that we consume not just a memorial. Thank God for the privilege of being able to participate in that sacrifice.

Francis H. Pontius  
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**Catechism Won't Do**

**Editor:**

I am sorely dismayed at Father G. Stuart Hogan's letter of July 27. The man who wrote "A One-Time Sacrifice" was reading his Bible, and he appeared to be giving his sincere impression of its teachings. How is he answered? With the Baltimore Catechism! When a man asks for a fish do you give him a stone? When someone inquires about quantum physics do you refer him to Grimm's Fairy Tales? Likewise, how can one rebuke God's holy, sacred and pure Word with a catechism? I presume that the Baltimore Catechism is supposed to be a compilation of scriptural teachings and that I should accept that as common knowledge. However, I do not. And I challenge, nay, beg someone to answer the question put forth by the gentleman (Is Christ's sacrifice on Calvary a once-for-all or continual sacrifice?) with scriptures.

Jim Moore  
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**Writers Praised**

**Editor:**

Though I have never met your columnist Nancy Murphy, nor Father Stuart Hogan (who wrote recently about homosexuality), it is a pleasure to walk through this life hand in hand with people like them, figuratively speaking.

They are using God's abundant gifts to them of love, warmth, compassion and articulation to do His work. After reading them, we have a better perspective, and solutions seem quite possible.

Mary Tickner  
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**Elmira Stories Appreciated**

**Editor:**

We would like to express publicly our appreciation of the excellent work done by Martin Toombs, Southern Tier editor. He

deserves extra special credit for the very timely piece, "Birthing Room Provides Home Comforts in Hospital." Indeed, the enlightened obstetrical care provided by St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira is the finest provided anywhere.

Leonard and Anne Dezelski  
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For the first time in 13 years of taking our vacations together our roles would be reversed. I would do the driving. He, with road map on knees, would do the navigating, and of course, discipline the children.

We departed for Pennsylvania to leave the dog with my parents and enjoy the back country for a few days before heading for Maine.

On a Saturday morning I awoke at 4:45 and prodded the troops into action. At 5:45 a.m. we were on the road, one child in the extreme rear of the station wagon crying piteously at being awakened in the middle of the night, the other two upright in the second seat eating slices of bread and butter folded over, their price for not crying or carrying on.

Within 15 minutes all three were again fast asleep, blankets drawn around them, heads snuggled into soft pillows, a respite that was to last for two whole hours.

The marathon had begun. Over the winding mountain roads of Pennsylvania's Route 6 with fog so thick in spots we had to slow to a crawl. Past the superhighways near Binghamton, a pause for brunch and on northward, hitting one infamous turn-

pike at the same time the weekend resort crowd did.

At Fort Ann we ran into a battle between British and colonists, which takes place every 200 years, and then we were across the border into Vermont. Rutland was the stopover. Next morning, we were up and out for five hours of Vermont's winding mountain roads, New Hampshire's lake population explosion and hitherto unexplored back roads of Maine, and we were there—14 hours in the driver's seat behind me.

The return trip was much the same except that the navigator routed us through Boston and Harvard Square for an overnight stop, and we traded seats for that particular stretch.

The piece from Boston to Rochester seemed particularly easy and after a rest of an hour or two I announced plans to proceed on to Pennsylvania to retrieve the dog.

At this point everybody was giving me strange glances and noted another three hours might be the straw to break the roadrunner's back.

The return trip next day was uneventful except for the bear cub that scrambled down off the hillside and turned around after catching sight of the car I'd been waiting some 20 years for that sight, a fairly common one in my family's neck of the woods but one that thus far had eluded me.

The travel over, I waited for the fatigue to hit. It didn't and slowly the realization dawned. It is far more tiring to arbitrate endless backseat battles, threaten mayhem every 10% miles and answer endlessly THE QUESTION "Are we there yet?" than to drive days on end. I'll take the driver's seat any time.