

Editorial

Joblessness

The annual Labor Day statements by Msgr. George C. Higgins of the United States Catholic Conference are always edifying, sensible and needed. This may be so because the economic facts of life in this country provide so much fodder for Msgr. Higgins' field of concern — labor.

This year's comments on unemployment are right on target and worth the interest of every American, particularly those who are not nailed to the cross of joblessness. The essential facts are included in the news account of the USCC statement printed elsewhere in this edition. They are worth noting.

However, there is a chilling undercurrent to the statistics of our national unemployment. The statement warned that unemployment has become a "normal feature" of the nation's economy and that there are already signs of a "growing acceptance" of high unemployment rates.

Pray to God that this is not so. For a nation willing to waste its most precious resource — its people — will not succeed in preserving whatever else is of value, whether it be food, oil, or its commitment to human dignity.

National Full Employment Week, Sept. 4 to 10, is no idle commemoration. It is truly a time to reflect upon what we can do to end the misery of joblessness for the sake of those afflicted and also for the sake of the nation now lacking their skills, contributions and service.

'Horrific?'

The euphemisms spawned by the anti-life segments of our society are many, as they would have to be to disguise acts normally considered asocial. Thus, abortion, before it had the wide acceptance it now has, often was referred to as "pregnancy termination."

Now a doctor in England has come up with a foreboding prophecy in which he uses another sugar-coated term for a poisonous idea. He foresees a capsule which will be used to get rid of people who grow old and "decrepit." He calls it a "demise pill."

Such a concept should be repulsive to a man who makes his living under the aegis of the Hippocratic Oath but this is not so. Dr. John Goundrey calls the science of geriatrics "meddlesome" and says that "there is no more horrific sight than a human whose age makes him totally dependent on others."

News accounts of the doctor's views do not make it clear if he is equally disturbed by young humans afflicted by disease who are totally dependent on others. Another pertinent question would be if this "horrific sight" is merely subjective on this part or if standards for "horrific" can be established.

We allow that it is possible to cease extraordinary methods that keep dying people from joining God but the interjection of age as a particular anomaly is frightening.

We are sure there are many "horrific" sights among us humans in the eyes of the Lord. Dr. Goundrey, perhaps, should reflect more on some of the possibilities.

Good News

The Democrat and Chronicle sportswriter hit the verbal nail on the head when he called it "good news" that outfielder Dave Winfield of the San Diego Padres announced that he will spend \$25,000 annually for baseball tickets for children unable to buy them.

"I'm not doing it for publicity... I was poor myself," Winfield explained. Other fat cats in sports and elsewhere, please note. Winfield has agreed to return \$11,900 to his baseball organization to pay for tickets for 3,400 youngsters to see Padre games in September.

Here's hoping the idea gets contagious.

Good news indeed!

Opinion

'Latin Mass' Clarified

Editor:

It is unfortunate that the Courier-Journal has unwittingly added to the confusion with regards to Archbishop Lefebvre. A caption on his picture included the statement that the archbishop has "vowed to continue his fight for restoration of the Latin Mass."

I should not have to point out to a Catholic publication that the Latin Mass does not need anyone's efforts towards "restoration." Mass in Latin is fully permissible in today's Church, provided that the new missal is used. After all, the vernacular Mass which most Catholics hear on Sundays is merely an official translation of the Latin text.

What the archbishop desires is a restoration of the Tridentine Mass, i.e. use of the text approved by the Council of Trent more than 400 years ago. If his quarrel with the Church was merely over the use of Latin, there would be no quarrel whatsoever.

Vincent A. Lenti
41 Tamarack Drive
Rochester, N.Y. 14622

Lefebvre Not Wrong

Editor:

In reference to Vincent Ross' letter of 8-10-77 — I am sure there are many good Catholics who agree with him 100 per cent — I cannot feel that Archbishop Lefebvre is wrong. I feel that he is trying to bring unity and sanity to a Church that is in chaos. Has the Church that has been a bulwark through so many years suddenly become so weak?

Latin was the universal language of the Mass for years. Why has this beautiful, meaningful mass been replaced with the watered-down version that we have today? We have banjo, guitar, and every other kind of Mass, even dancing. The Last Supper was a solemn affair. Christ was the center of it and, as we repeat it, I feel that we should observe it in a reverent manner. Priests

running up and down the aisles shaking hands and leaving Our Lord alone on the altar is putting man before Him. Christ taught love and we should certainly all practice more of it, but a good time to put it into practice is before or after Mass. When you are in a strange church, how many people ever speak to you?

I went to confession recently and there was a handful of people there. How often do we hear the rosary? Novenas and holy hours are infrequent and poorly attended.

We are taught that the pope is the guardian of "faith and morals." Why hasn't the Vatican spoken out against the Catholic Theological Society?

And the priests and sisters who feel so sorry for the homosexuals — Scripture condemns the homosexuals (Romans 1, 26; Jude 3,4). I am sick of the "modern thinking." Sin is sin! God said "He was the same yesterday, is the same today, and will be the same tomorrow." Sin was the downfall of ancient Rome. Read the "Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire." If the youth can express themselves with banjos, etc., well and good; but there are others who do not like to have this crammed down their throats. There are Masses in every language. Why not Latin too?

Mrs. Margaret Thompson
RD 2 — DuBois Rd.
Owego, N.Y.

NAWR Should Probe ERA

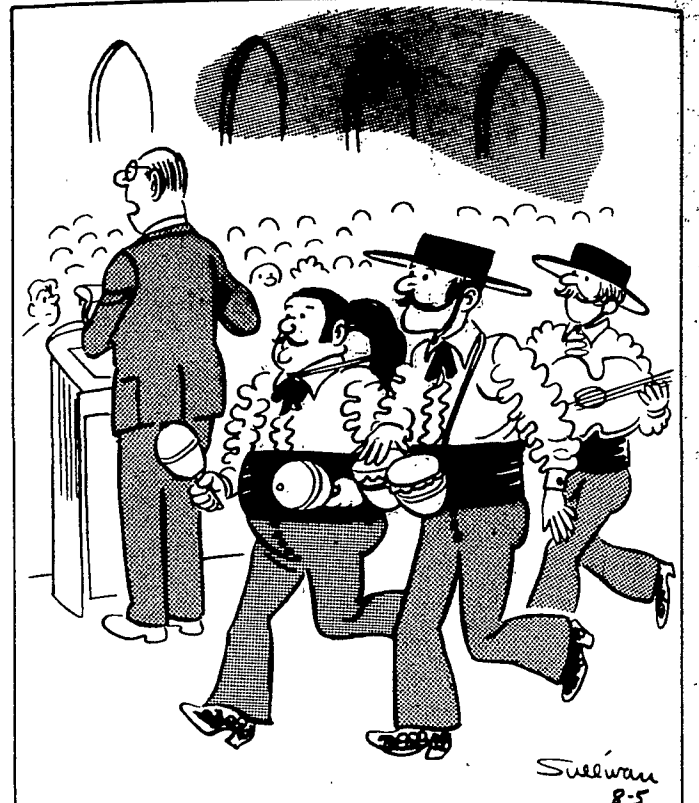
Editor:

The article NAWR 'A Sense of Hope' in which Sister Marlene Vigna described the recent convention of the National Association of Women Religious in New Orleans, quoted Sister Jane Marie Lueke as telling the delegates that "there is no conflict" in being against abortion and for the Equal Rights Amendment.

There is an organization called Feminists for Life. About a year and a half ago, the head of that group was ousted from her membership in the National Organization of Women despite ACLU representation. It was the NOW organization that saw the conflict between being against abortion and for ERA — not Feminists for Life!

When Senator Birch Bayh in a Senate hearing stated ERA had nothing to do with abortion, it was Sara Waddington who contradicted him. Sara, attorney for the Texas case that culminated in the Supreme Court decision on abortion, is also a leader in the women's movement.

If the National Association of Women Religious wish to learn for themselves whether there is conflict between being against abortion and for ERA, they might strongly champion the cause of equal rights for all, including the unborn, within their own organization and then into the halls of the feminists. They just might find out what I and many other "rights for the un-



"GOOD MORNING. THIS WILL BE A LATIN MASS!"

More Letters on Page 6

Chanting, Dancing

Editor:

The Religious News Service article Charismatics Gain New Visibility, in the Aug. 17 issue of the Courier-Journal omitted an interesting fact.

Cardinal Joseph Suenens celebrated Mass for the occasion and at the Breaking of the Bread, the cardinal chanted in tongues while priests in white vestments danced around the playing surface of Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. This may be of interest to the readers of the Courier-Journal.

Mary H. Puglisi
844 East River Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14623

Push for No 'Soap'

Editor:

The following is the text of a letter I received in the mail from a friend in New Jersey. She informed me that it was passed out at their church on Sunday.

"You have all heard of washing your mouth with soap. Well, ABC (American Broadcasting Corporation) is going to shove 'Soap' down our throat. 'Soap' is the new TV show ABC has planned for your family this fall on prime time Tuesday nights. It is a comedy about two families in Connecticut. It flaunts transvestism, homosexuality, adultery, insanity, and other not so humorous situations.

Write your protest to:

F. Silverman
President
ABC Entertainment
1330 Ave. of the Americas
New York, N.Y.

Also write to:

Compton Adv. Inc.
C.S. Mitchell Jr.
625 Madison Ave.
New York, N.Y. 10022

Mrs. H. Pikul
460 Chestnut Ridge Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14624

born" advocates in this nation learned when we went to the International Women's Year Conference state meetings. The women's movement, under present conditions, maintains a totalitarian view regarding ERA, abortion and homosexuality. If you want in, you accept all or keep quiet.

Mrs. Jeanne D. Sweeney
135 Nob Hill
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Cake Recipe Honors Mary

Editor:

Now everybody can be happy to have a birthday cake and eat it too, be they with or without sugar and salt restrictions.

Originated by Franciscan Brother Augustine, Our Lady's Birthday Cake will be the feature dessert at Our Lady's Birthday parties on Sept. 8, shared with neighbors and friends at homes and institutions in this and distant areas, marking the birthday of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Other features of the day include Masses and rosaries offered in her honor throughout the world.

The recipe for the sugar and salt-free cake, that anyone, professional or beginner can make on the first try, and a poster for Our Lady's Birthday, may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

Alexander J. Zavatsky
chairman,
Our Lady's Birthday
Committee,
Holy Name Federation
PO Box 122
Passaic, N.J. 07055

Violence Ban Urged

Editor:

After reading your editorial in the Aug. 17 issue of your fine paper which I receive each week, I thought you should have added violence should be banned, especially in a Catholic weekly.

The picture of the IRA violence on the first page of the same issue should not have been printed. There are enough pictures of violence in the secular press and on TV.

Father Thomas Condon, SA
Atonement Friars
Graymoor
Garrison, N.Y. 10524

COURIER-JOURNAL

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