

**Editorial**

**OB Unit  
Again in Peril**

We wrote earlier this year when the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency decided not to close the obstetrics unit at St. Mary's Hospital that although the decision was welcome "it does not assure immortality" for the unit. Unfortunately it did not even provide much of a respite for the beleaguered hospital for less than four months after the OB unit is again the subject of closing talk.

We realize that the situation is frustrating for all the friends of St. Mary's Hospital which houses the only Catholic obstetrics unit in Rochester. The hospital is dedicated to preserving the values of the sacredness of life from beginning to end.

Sister DeChantal LaRow, administrator, and her staff have been waging a long and valiant fight to maintain the presence of this unit for Catholics and the community at large. So it is no time for the efforts of the rest of us to flag; the hospital needs support now more than ever.

Sister DeChantal plans to go to the State Department of Health to seek a religious waiver from some of the criteria under consideration as basis for closing the unit. St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira recently was granted such a waiver, but it definitely is not a matter of routine. Sister DeChantal will have to show community support for the waiver.

She needs letters and petitions from the general community attesting to the fact that St. Mary's OB unit offers a unique service in this area and that it would be a distinct hardship if it were eliminated. Send your feelings on the matter to Sister DeChantal LaRow at St. Mary's Hospital, 89 Genesee St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. So far she has done the job; she needs the tools to keep doing it and you can provide them.

**Trio of Terror**

Three unrelated short items from Religious News Service show that society continues to entertain a strange propensity for committing acts of horror - and often in the name of the general welfare.

The items:

Huntsville, Texas - Condemned prisoners in Texas will be executed with "death injections" while seated in electric chairs, according to new procedures developed by state correction officials.

Dusseldorf, West Germany - The West German Jewish Central Council has scored what it calls a wave of Nazi "nostalgia" in the country.

Washington, D.C. - The U.S. government continues to pay for some abortions at military installations, although Medicaid payments for elective abortions have been halted.

All three of these stories deal with governments which have decided on killing people for what they deem to be the general welfare. Please stop and think about it.

**Opinion**

**Fewer  
Masses?**

Editor:

In my recent article on The Local Church (Courier-Journal, Sept. 7) I suggested reducing the number of Sunday Masses wherever that is feasible, so as to draw the parishioners together in more compact congregations and so foster a stronger sense of solidarity and unity.

Since then, I came across a recent statement of Pope Paul suggesting that parishes have fewer Sunday Masses so that more people would attend each Mass. He stated that this would encourage a greater sense of community. He said: "Sunday liturgical assemblies are so much more penetrating when they are well attended, well put together, and pastorally alive."

I am not here presenting Pope Paul as seconding my motion, but simply sharing with our readers the assurance of the Holy Father that it is not a contrived idea.

Father Benedict Ehmann  
7 Austin St.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14606

**J and P Unit  
Draws Fire**

Editor:

Just a word of comment on your rather full coverage, in the Sept. 14, 1977 issue, of the wonderful work of our diocesan Justice and Peace Commission!

Certainly Bishop Hogan acted courageously in establishing the commission, although his Priests Council voted down such a project in February of 1976. Certainly our diocese needs such a commission because the Office of Human Development, with its 17 staff members is not "internationally oriented." (Cf. Priests Council minutes, Feb., 1976.) If the Diocese of Rochester does not act to advocate solutions to the problems of human rights all over the globe, who will?

It was "surprising" to be reminded that the Justice and Peace Commission presides over the distribution of \$14,500 which the people of parishes contributed for very specific purposes - Missions.

**COURIER-JOURNAL**

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan  
President

Anthony J. Costello  
Publisher &  
General Manager

Carmen J. Viglucci  
Editor

Rev. Louis J. Hohman  
Episcopal Advisor

Vol. 92 No. 22 September 28, 1977

Published weekly by the Rochester Catholic Press Association. Subscription rates: Single copy 20¢, 1 year subscription in U.S. \$7.50, Canada and Foreign \$12.00. Offices: Chestnut Building, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604 (716) 454-7050. Second Class Postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

Courier-Journal 1

Catholic Relief and World Hunger. And to think that some criticized the Pallotine Fathers' use of funds for the missions! It is good to know we have a group of unidentified people, organized under the bishop, who know how to spend this money - apparently better than the national and international church agencies which sponsor these collections. And it certainly gives us parish priests a much easier task to motivate and prompt people's contributions to these collections!

Perhaps you could take a survey of the parishes to discover in what way the Day of Prayer was held on Sept. 18. Certainly the bishop's letter will have made good reading to the people. Many churches will probably have had Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with public and private prayer all through the afternoon. Probably it will have been well-attended. We received such practical help for the Day of Prayer (as we usually do from the diocesan offices for other special Sundays throughout the year), it should have been easy to arouse the interest of just about any parishioner.

Many thanks for all you do to keep us informed on the grand work of the diocese.

Father Daniel F. Holland  
Associate Pastor  
St. Thomas  
the Apostle Church  
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

**Priest Backs  
New Treaty**

Editor:

A few miles to the south and east of Tipitapa, Nicaragua, where I serve as pastor, lies the route most often proposed for a second "Panama Canal." The two Maryknoll Sisters who work in that area no doubt welcome any sign of economic activity that would benefit their people, even a new Big Ditch. But at the moment the world's attention is focused on the original Panama Canal.

Polls apparently say that the majority of the U.S. citizenry currently oppose a new treaty. If there should be Rochester area Catholics among them, I recommend they get "The Panama Canal and Social Justice," published by the U.S. Catholic Conference (1312 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20005, 50 cents).

This booklet contains a number of articles, the most important in my opinion being the "Declaration of the Panamanian Bishops Conference" August 1975.

The bishops say in part:

"From the beginning the Catholic Church in Panama affirmed the independence and sovereignty of this nation by not establishing the Canal Zone as a separate ecclesiastical entity. This principle has always been followed. The Zone has always been considered a part of what used to be the only diocese of Panama which was coterminous with the country's boundaries.

"Lately, the Panamanian



**"IT'S A NEW, UPBEAT INTERPRETATION OF THE APOCALYPSE!"**

Bishops Conference and the Archbishop of Panama, by means of speeches and declarations, have attempted to stress the need for an equitable new treaty which will recognize effective Panamanian sovereignty over all its territory and which will assure a just solution for all parties.

"It seems to us that the coming days are very important if the whole issue is to become a cornerstone for international justice and not a stumbling block for the nations. We Panamanians must learn to hold conscientiously to the sovereign rights of our country, while neither ignoring nor neglecting our international duties."

It would seem to me that Catholics of good will cannot ignore this testimony of the Panamanian bishops. Pope Paul VI also made it a key point in his 1967 document, Progress of Peoples, that the larger, more prosperous nations, in conscience, have to grant the just claims of the less developed nations.

Father Bernard Survil  
Apdo 3796  
Managua, Nicaragua

abortions for welfare women. To tell a group of nuns to oppose abortion (which the LCWR did) when they are supporting abortion is contradictory. To support the financing of abortions for welfare women on the grounds that they are taking a stand regarding "equal access of all women to legal rights" smacks of the feminist philosophy which was so prevalent at the New York State International Women's Year Meeting in Albany. Those who were pro-ERA, as the NCWR has said they are, accepted the ERA, abortion, and lesbianism in one package.

There are no compromises in the feminist movement, just as there should be no compromises for a Christian. A Christian puts his trust in God and holds all He taught as sacred, such as the commandment, Thou shalt not kill. But secularism puts its trust in this life and makes earthly happiness and well-being its primary concern (Harry Blamires, The Christian Mind).

Gloria Jenner  
415 Fox Meadow Road  
Rochester, N.Y. 14626

**NAWR  
Criticized**

Editor:

It is disappointing, to say the least, that women religious have decided not to support pro-life efforts to bring about constitutional protection for the rights of the unborn. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious has stated that a legal position on abortion ultimately rests on a moral evaluation of fetal life and there is wide disagreement in society as to the nature and dignity of that life.

If we are going to let society dictate to us what should be done in regard to the abortion issue, what is the point of "women religious" holding a leadership conference? Where is the leadership that is so desperately needed in matters of morality today? Do we quell everything that is controversial? Is the taking of fetal LIFE really controversial? Even those who favor legalized abortion are admitting this to be human life.

Moreover, the National Assembly of Women Religious has decided to support the financing of

**Reverses  
Charges**

Editor:

In her article on "Soap," Pat Costa suggests that one reason the show be scrapped or at least moved to a later time slot is that it is "dull, plodding and humorless."

I suggest that if this reasoning were applied to the articles appearing in the Courier-Journal what would be left of the paper could be either published on a match book or it would have a very crowded last page.

Donald Scheg  
74 Scheg Ter.  
Rochester, N.Y.

Editor's Note: That's odd. A lot of readers find us very comical.

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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.