

# Editorials

## Treatment

Elsewhere in this paper the various legislative concerns of the state's bishops are listed. We are not sure if it was intended but nonetheless it is worth noting that the No. 1 listing is opposition to "death penalties for criminals and for the unborn."

We are all used to the term death penalty when referring to capital punishment of criminals, or at least those convicted as criminals, but it strikes an eerie but opportune note to use it in reference to the unborn. It is true that abortion on demand passes the ultimate punishment, the death penalty, on babies not even born. Think of it.

We find the death penalty for antisocial persons repugnant and rightfully so. It seems even more heinous as a procedure against the unborn.

Of course, the best remedy, and ironically for both anomalies, is to heal our society. The bishops urge such steps as increased aid for the poor, help for

unwed mothers such as counseling, maternity care, and after-birth care for their infants.

We might add that our present day culture also needs a strong injection of respect for life -- at all stages.

## Carey Explains

Gov. Hugh Carey's comments included with his veto of the death penalty bill make for an editorial in themselves. Here are some of them:

"The legislation before me . . . is an attempt to answer a passionate and legitimate demand of New Yorkers -- that there be an end to the spread of violent crime . . . the question before me, however, is not whether government ought to protect its people from murders but how. By misleading us into thinking that we had helped to fight crime, the death penalty would turn us away from the urgent, difficult job of making the criminal justice system work . . ."

"On numerous occasions I have stated the arguments against the death penalty; that it lowers all of us as a civilized people, that there is a lack of clear evidence that it is even an effective deterrent against crime, that it fails to reckon with human

error. As one district attorney, one indeed of dozens of law enforcement officials who oppose the death penalty, has said: "Jurors are reluctant to convict when there is a death penalty. Jurors know that in the event of a mistake there is no appeal from the grave."

"I am committed to continue strengthening every facet of the criminal justice system -- from supporting the police to improving the selection of prosecutors and judges to correcting the injustices of plea bargaining. I am committed to ending the practices of easy probation and parole, and the profligacy of unexecuted bench warrants that have so often made a mockery of our system . . ."

"But, I do not believe the State should take life because the criminal has done so. I do not believe in deceiving ourselves that the death penalty will solve the problem of violent crime. I do not believe that the ultimate vengeance of execution will make us a better or even a safer people. Retribution is not the same as punishment, and official killing is not, in my judgment, a proper or legitimate exercise of a government . . ."

"I have with gravity, previously exercised my constitutional responsibility on this matter. In humility, I must do so again."

# and Opinions

## Rejected Ad, Glad They Did

Editor:

Your article concerning the Widmer Wine radio advertisements has been noted with interest. We quite agree with those who find them in questionable taste.

Those commercials were presented to WEZO and WNYR as part of a substantial five-figure schedule last Fall. It was our opinion that our audiences would find them objectionable and, therefore, we declined the broadcast order. Looking back now, we have no regrets over this action.

Murray J. Green  
General Manager  
Malrite of New York  
129 East Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14604

## Wine Ads 'Insulting'

Editor:

Your article on the recent Widmer radio ad campaign prompts this letter. I, too, am surprised that Widmer has, according to them, received so little negative reaction to such tasteless and diseased ads (which fortunately do not reflect the quality of their product).

One might excuse the ad people for the offensiveness of what they created but certainly not the executive officers of Widmer who by accepting the proposed ad campaign became accessories and must accept responsibility for its insulting and deprecating theme.

Further, the ad is just plain stupid in terms of influencing people to buy the product. Ads enter the home or car through the medium of radio. Radio is the salesperson and no competent salesperson enters the privacy of a person's home, insults him, and then tries to push his product.

Besides finding the Widmer ads insulting and obnoxious, I feel they are doing a disservice to the entire wine producers in this country, particularly New York State. The people at Widmer should realize that wine, no matter who produces it, has since at least biblical times, carried archetypal symbolism of spiritual significance. We are all diminished in spirit, producer and buyer, because of the callousness as reflected in the Widmer ad.

Richard D. Zakia  
44 Horseshoe Lane N.  
Henrietta, N.Y. 14467

## Grateful For Coverage

Editor:

I would like to thank Carmen Viglucci and the Courier-Journal for its fair coverage and cooperation in making known our forum on Teenage Sexuality.

As a group of attorneys, we are vitally concerned with various topics dealing with the moral, legal and medical climate of our community. After investigating this important issue, we feel there are serious abuses, which need to be brought to the public's attention. The Board of Directors of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild is preparing such a paper.

Today more than ever there is a need for information in news coverage to be presented fully in a fair and honest fashion in order to properly apprise citizens and parents of their rights and responsibilities.

Please keep up the good work.

William F. Polito  
Publicity Chairman  
St. Thomas More  
Lawyers Guild

## Spina Bifida Piece Praised

Editor:

Referring to your fine

article of March 29 entitled "People First, Disability Second," I would like to add my praises for the efforts of Greater Rochester Spina Bifida Association, headed by Martin and Nancy Gullen.

The article quoted Mrs. Gullen as saying, ". . . the association is growing, moving in a positive way." As chairman of the Assembly Subcommittee on Education for the Handicapped, I have applauded the growth of this excellent organization over the past five years. The growth parallels that of civil rights for all handicapped individuals.

A new part of the Executive Branch of state government was established last year by Gov. Carey solely for the benefit of handicapped individuals -- the State Office of the Advocate for the Disabled. Harold Unterberg, who has a circulatory disability due to injuries suffered during World War II service, is the advocate for the disabled. His office has a toll-free number for questions and concerns from the public: 1-800-522-4369.

On the federal level, last year saw the first White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals, where 800 delegates and 2,000 non-voting participants -- handicapped individuals and professionals alike -- joined to explore the needs of the handicapped. From my vantage point as representative from the State Legislature, the federal government stood up and took notice.

Greater community support -- on the part of schools, government and advocacy organizations -- is enabling handicapped children and adults to be viewed more and more as "people first."

We need the support of more fine articles such as yours.

Andrew D. Virgilio  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on  
Education for  
the Handicapped  
State Assembly  
Albany, N.Y.

## A Mother's Lament

Editor:

While trying to pray in Church, I gazed enviously

at a family with six beautiful children in front of me. Over on the other side were several families with teenagers. I knelt alone. Years back I came every Sunday bringing my precious brood. I wouldn't feel so bad now if I knew they were worshipping elsewhere, but I know they no longer go. They came to that age of examining values and thinking deep just at the time of all the changes in the Church. If priests and nuns and the parents became confused and upset, what could be expected of the emerging teenager. We greatly upset them, just as we were sincerely upset.

Parents worked overtime and denied themselves and their children necessities to send them to the Catholic school to learn that precious heritage, our Holy Faith. At the same time we talked together in front of them of our sorrow of what was happening to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We were breaking down the authority of those good nuns and priests who were still trying to do their work. Sincere and good confused religious were leaving the ministry scandalizing young and old. Some were too busy emancipating themselves to give their all to God's good work.

We were taught the basis of religion is taught in the home. In school

children were told not to let parents teach them religion; parents didn't know, they now have a new way. Teachers broke down the children's confidence in the parents and thereby their authority.

We prayed publicly for vocations. God sent them. Many children went into religion only to return hurt and scandalized. They found some superiors to the right, some to the left, and they didn't act as Christians to each other. After being raised in poverty and parents sacrificed so much so children could go to religion, our teenagers were scandalized at the "waste and luxury" seen in religion. They did not see the example of "charity" they expected. They felt it a sort of hypocrisy. Many of these upset and scandalized students taught in our Catholic schools, passing on (unconsciously, I'm sure) their disenchantment thus scandalizing further the confused student under them.

Thank God, things are adjusting a little, but that group of adults that suffered in the "time of confusion" are out there in the world now, fighting life's battles without God's comfort and help. They were cheated by us.

Please, now let us join and pray God bring them back to see the light and receive His comfort and

help. Let us pray that God will bless and help all good religious and parents.

Broken-hearted Mother

Editor's Note: Name withheld with permission of editor.

## Thanks Given For Bishop

Editor:

I was very pleased to read the letter from Patricia Russo in the April 12 edition of the Courier-Journal, expressing her appreciation of and thanks to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

Each week I too look forward to Bishop Hogan's message in Pastoral Perspective. I also think we are fortunate to have him here in Rochester.

I would like to see and hear more praise of this good, humble man and all that he does to bring us close to God and His Church. Thank you Pat, and thanks again, Bishop Hogan.

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## More Opinions

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"I'M GLAD HE FINALLY GOT HIS OWN CHURCH!"