

# Italy Legalizes Abortion On Demand

Rome (RNS) -- Abortion is now legal in Italy. The Italian Senate, in a vote of 160 to 148, approved a bill on May 18 allowing free abortion to women over 18-years-old who are within the first three months of pregnancy.

The event, unlike the legalization of divorce in 1970 or the anti-divorce referendum in 1974, provoked surprisingly little comment in Italian newspapers. This may be because it was overshadowed by the kid-

napping and murder of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro, an event which knocked most other news off the front pages since Mr. Moro's abduction March 16. It may be because the final passage of the bill was only confirmation of a development long expected. Italians have known since last July, when the Senate blocked abortion by only one vote, that abortion would be legalized the next time it came up in parliament.

While members of leftist and moderate parties -- the Communists, Socialists, Social Democrats, Republicans, Liberals, and independent leftists -- voted almost in a block for abortion, the right was split. Some in the ruling, conservative Christian Democrat Party voted with the majority for abortion. Most

Christian Democrats, along with the Neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement and National Right Parties, as well as the German nationalist South Tyrol group, voted against abortion. Parliamentary vote in Italy is secret.

Two Rome daily newspapers greeted the news with the headlines: "Starting Today, Abortion Is No Longer a Crime."

The Church, however, has not treated abortion's passage lightly. All this week, and even during the time of Aldo Moro's abduction, when the rest of Italy was totally absorbed only in developments in the Moro case, right-to-lifers daily demonstrated in front of party headquarters and at various government seats.

reprinted passages from a forthcoming editorial in the Jesuit quarterly *Civiltà Cattolica*, which roundly condemns abortion, saying that by instituting the right to take away a life, the Italian parliament has committed a crime worse than the kidnapping and killing of Aldo Moro.

The Italian bishops conference, on the eve of the vote, issued a statement condemning abortion. "Italian bishops," the statement read, "have repeatedly asked their Christian communities to assume, in their prayers as well as in their actions, complete responsibility always to protect human life, on all levels with new courage and with genuine competence."

that "We cannot delude ourselves. Abortion is the killing of an innocent and defenseless human being. It is a violent decision, which jeopardizes the life of many creatures and inevitably throws into confusion the moral conscience of parents and the entire community."

The piece also said that "to fight abortion, it is necessary to fight the hedonistic and egotistical concept of life, educating the younger generation in the values of selflessness, of sacrifice, of the assumption of responsibility and of the serious duties which life bears. We must aid young people in liberating themselves from egoism, from the obsession of easy pleasure and of a consumerism which does not see any law other than of always having more and better."

## Lecture

Mrs. Nancy Murphy will speak on Planned Parenthood and Catholic Education in a special lecture at Holy Trinity Church Hall on Thursday, June 8 at 7:30 p.m. The event is sponsored by Holy Trinity Parish Council.

## Monthly Vigil

The Blue Army's monthly vigil at Holy Rosary will celebrate the twin feasts of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Father John DeSocio will offer the 9 p.m. Mass on Friday, June 2; Father Robert Meng, pastor, the closing Mass at 6 a.m. Saturday. Father Paul J. Cuddy will lead prayers and meditations from 10 until 11 Friday night, and Father Robert Schrader, from 11 until midnight.

## Deaths

### Joseph Cuddy, Auburn Leader

Auburn -- Joseph P. Cuddy, a funeral director and civic leader here for many years, died unexpectedly May 18, 1978, in Auburn Memorial Hospital, after a sudden access of illness at home. He was 68 years old.

His next-of-kin include Father Paul J. Cuddy, a columnist for the *Courier-Journal*.

The Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated May 22 at Holy Family Church.

A lifelong resident of Auburn, Mr. Cuddy was a graduate of the Holy Family parish school and Auburn Academic High School. He was manager of Meagher/Cuddy Funeral Home. He served on the Auburn Board of Education for 17 years and was its president for two terms. He was a charter member of the local Lions Club, a member of the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Elks and the Chamber of Commerce. He also was active in the Democratic Party and he served on the boards of directors of the Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center, the E. John Gavras Center, Cayuga County Laboratory, the United Fund and the community-owned Baseball Association.

Among comments on his life published in the *Auburn Citizen-Advertiser* was this from sports editor Leo Pinckney:

"Cuddy has possibly contributed more to this community than anyone I can think of, he was active in so many areas. I knew him best from his role in community baseball. He knew nothing of the sport when he started and became one of our greatest volunteer workers and fans. That was typical of him, he was enthusiastic and always willing to learn and contribute."

Survivors are his widow, Kathryn Meagher Cuddy, two daughters and two sons: Mrs. John F. (Marjanne) Watters of Dallas, Tex.; Mrs. Charles (Kathie) Healy of Binghamton; J. Edward Cuddy of Kenmore, and Father William Cuddy of Syracuse.

Also, a sister, Mrs. Florence McLane of Syracuse; three brothers, Frank and Raymond of Auburn and Father Paul J. Cuddy of Holy Trinity, Webster. There are 11 grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

# Get Fresh With Polly-O®



You know Polly-O ricotta and mozzarella. You've made them the best sellers in Italian soft cheese for many delicious reasons. Isn't it time you met the rest of the Polly-O cheeses? They have the same quality and freshness as the Polly-O ricotta and mozzarella. After all, it all comes from this great dairy country. For goodness sake, get to know the whole, wholesome family!

ROCHESTER, CAMPBELL, COHOCTON, WATKINS GLEN

POLLY-O DAIRY PRODUCTS.