

# Editorials

## Unforgettable

Sometimes it is wise to let well enough alone. This was our feeling in the situation involving some scurrilous propaganda disseminated by Planned Parenthood in the Midwest. The cartoon at the right was sent by Planned Parenthood to Chicago area newspapers.

Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York, normally a restrained and reasonable voice, characterized the cartoon and other material in the release as "vicious" and a "disgrace."

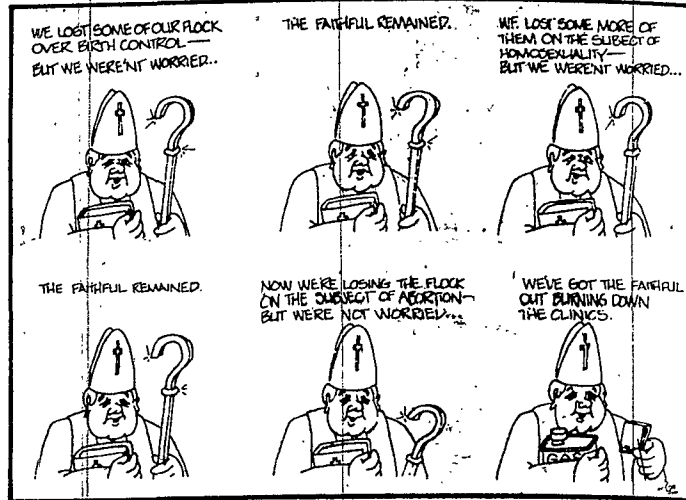
At first, the Chicago Planned Parenthood Association tried to defend the materials but later repudiated them, saying they do not represent either the chapter or the national organization.

Thus though the matter left a bitter taste concerning the Planned Parenthood organization and its dubious tactics, we thought the backfire was fit retribution.

Recently, however, we received a copy of the cartoon through the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, and it leaves us wondering how any respectable organization in the United States of America could possibly tie its reputation to such material. Indeed it would do the Ku Klux Klan proud.

We would like to think otherwise but to us the cartoon reveals some things about the perpetrator and the sponsoring organization that are a bit frightening. And there can be little doubt that it is intended to appeal to the lowest emotion and mentality.

We would like to forget this cartoon. But for some reason, we cannot.



Planned Parenthood in Chicago distributed this cartoon, then repudiated it after it drew criticism.

# and Opinions

## Blood Test Questioned

Editor:

In spite of the fact that the US Catholic Conference allows March of Dimes presentations in Catholic schools, we question the wisdom of such programs. We are pleased that the March of Dimes does not officially endorse abortion but are duty bound to advise all Catholic parents that the March of Dimes does encourage amniocentesis at an early stage of pregnancy in order to determine a defective baby. We feel the March of Dimes does not sufficiently warn expectant mothers of 1) the dangers and risks of amniocentesis to mother and baby; 2) amniocentesis can detect a defect but not the degree of that defect; 3) the test results may take as long as four weeks for evaluation; 4) sometimes the procedure fails and the amniocentesis must be repeated; 5) one of the risks involved is a possible average drop of 25 points in the baby's IQ; and 6) the usual choice after a determination of a defective baby is abortion. Has anyone asked the March of Dimes or medical technologists if science has perfected a blood test which will determine the presence of God-given gifts or abilities in addition to the defect?

We refuse to support the prevention of birth defects when it is based on the prevention of births.

James J. Donahue, Chairman St. Augustine's Respect Life Committee

## Chest Says Thanks

Editor:

I'd like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the tens of thousands of Rochester-area residents who contributed so generously to this year's Community Chest/Red Cross campaign.

Despite the toll inflation is taking on all of us, the people of this community once again have

demonstrated their willingness to continue to support quality human service programs, the United Way.

In return for their support, I offer my assurance that the 16.8 million they contributed will be allocated efficiently and effectively to benefit the greatest numbers of people.

It cost the Chest roughly three and a half cents of every dollar we raised to conduct this year's campaign, and another 2.3 cents to cover year-round administrative expenses. Those campaign and administrative costs are among the lowest in the country, and we're proud that more than \$94 of every dollar contributed will be used for the planning and delivery of human services.

And as stewards of the funds we raised, we will continue to work year-round — often in cooperation with the public sector — to ensure that the services we're supporting are addressing the real needs of this community.

Fund-raising, planning, evaluating, allocating — these functions of the Chest are not ends in themselves, but rather, a means of serving and improving the quality of life in our community — voluntarily.

Because of the generosity of the people and corporations of the Greater Rochester Region, the more than 145 Chest-supported agencies can continue to work for all of us.

Martin F. Birmingham, General Campaign Chairman, United Community Chest of Rochester

## Taped Books For the Blind

Editor:

Your many subscribers have been a tremendous help in reaching the blind and partially sighted and making known the free services offered by the Xavier Society for the

Blind. Once again we ask your kind assistance in announcing the availability of our 1978-79 catalog of taped titles. This is offered free to visually impaired persons who wish to use our lending library.

One of the books available throughout the United States and Canada is the Jerusalem Bible, recorded by the late Father Robert I. Gannon, SJ. A sample listing of catalog titles and further information about our services may be obtained by writing to Xavier Society for the Blind, 154 East 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

Betty J. Dodt, Public Relations

## Charismatics Mistrusted

Editor:

It should come as no surprise that the general populace of the Catholic laity regards Charismatic Renewal with mistrust. Amongst the small percentage of Catholics who have come to share in the experience of a deeper and more intimate spirituality which we call "Baptism in the Spirit" there are but few persons qualified to explain the Catholic Faith in a logical and systematic way.

Since the Catholic Faith and it alone constitutes such a consistent and logical system, no one should accept merely human precepts which in any way contradict it. Fortunately, the leaders of Renewal in the Church are quite well prepared to give dissertations enlightening people as to the meaning of the Gifts of the Spirit, Baptism, the Body of Christ and other pertinent topics as they are understood in the light of true faith. Others think they know more than Augustine and Aquinas, believe the Church is everybody who claims to have faith in Christ, and regard "private interpretation" as the rule of faith — a principle unheard of until 1520.

The obvious result of this laughable nonsense is that many sincere Catholics think we're crazy and avoid contact with anything apart from Sunday Mass.

Perhaps if our priests would explain Charismatic Renewal in terms of the fulfillment of the work of Vatican II and as the norm of life for St. Francis, St. Dominic, St. Theresa of Avila, St. Teresa of Lisieux and every other canonized saint in the history of the true Church, there would be little chance of suspicion that Charismatic Renewal is a new religion in the same one Catholic Church.

Paul Kamalsky, Box 409, R.D. 3, Newark, N.Y. 14513

## 'Rating' Was Too Low

Editor:

Last Sunday at our parish church a "miracle" happened at the 11 a.m. Mass.

Following our distribution of the Holy Eucharist our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ descended from the cross and addressed the startled congregation.

"Do not be afraid, at least not now. I have come to publicly rate each one of you according to your fulfilling of Our Father's will."

I was terribly "embarrassed" with my rating.

How well do you think

you would have been rated?

A.R. Annunziata, 437 Hurstbourne Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14609

## More Concern Needed

Editor:

On June 2-3, the Diocesan Office of Religious Education sponsored a religious education conference. I came away with a deep sense of confidence and trust in the direction that the diocesan office is taking. During the weekend, the structure afforded all those involved an opportunity to learn, share and pray together.

The realization of the importance of us as parents in the formal and informal educational process of ourselves and our children was inspiring and exciting. However, my heartfelt disappointment and concern was threefold:

1) The disproportionate number of men who participated. Is Religious Education primarily the concern of our sisters and lay women? I don't think so!

2) The small number of parishes represented. How often will we be given the opportunity to learn, to

improve, to be fully alive with one another? So much of what was offered and shared is lost to the many who were not there. There should have been at least one participant from every parish and institution in the diocese.

3) The limited number of pastors and other priests who did not participate. I wonder why?

In conclusion I offer this thought to reflect on: When I make time to listen to others, I am able to listen to the Lord more closely!

A. Turiano, 16 Clarkes Crossing, Fairport, N.Y. 14450

## CCD Class Reflections

Editor:

Reflections on a fifth grade CCD Class:

Now Lord, as they ride the fury of Summer's vacant days, fasten the seat belts of their young souls. Show them the graces of their lessons and the blessings of tomorrow. Grant that their rewards be forever fulfilling.

Peter R. Palmeri, CCD Instructor, St. Dominic's, Shortsville, N.Y.

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## COURIER-JOURNAL

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