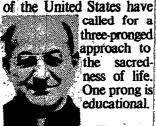
COURIER-JOURNAL

# Word for Sunday

**By Father Albert Shamon** 

## Abortion— No One May Do It

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mr. 21:28-32. (R1) Ez. 18:25-28. (R2) Phil. 2:1-11. Next Sunday is Respect Life Sunday. The Bishops



The mes-Fr. Shamon sage of the prophet Ezechiel in the first reading focuses on personal responsibility. A great need today is for each individual to form a right conscience on abortion.

First, Can you take part in an abortion?

The following guidelines are a simplification of the tract in Moral Theology on cooperation in an evil act. I suggest you cut these out and save them.

A person can take part in an abortion either directly, like the doer of an abortion, or indirectly, like the helpers.

1) Doers of an abortion are the doctors or midwives who perform it. Abortion takes an in-

nocent life. It is therefore wrong. NO ONE MAY DO IT.

2) Helpers of an abortion cooperate in one of two ways:

a. Closely, when they approve the abortion either explicitly, as a husband ordering his wife to have an abortion; a gynecologist counseling a mother to abort, because she already has had too many children; a mother approving or demanding her unmarried or married daughter's abortion — or implicitly, by physically aiding in the operation, such as making the incision, providing anaesthesia, etc. COOPERATION EITHER WAY IN IS WRONG, FOR NO ONE SHOULD HELP ANOTHER DO WRONG.

b. Remotely, when they do not approve the abortion and help only in a distant way, like the staff nurse on the ward, the social worker, the public relations director of the hospital, admissions secretary, private duty nurse, hospital board members. Also nurses who wheel the patients into the operating room, or prepare the saline solution, or give pre- or post-operative care to all ward patients, including abortion patients.

Wednesday, September 27, 1978

COOPERATION IN THIS WAY IS PER-

### MITTED ONLY WHEN TWO CONDITIONS ARE PRESENT:

1) You have a good reason to help (for instance, you need your job); and (2) what you do is not evil - for instance, wheeling a patient into the operating room, preparing a solution, making a bed, taking a blood sample,

typing a medical chart, recording an admission, etc.

#### A second important question is Must you take part in an abortion?

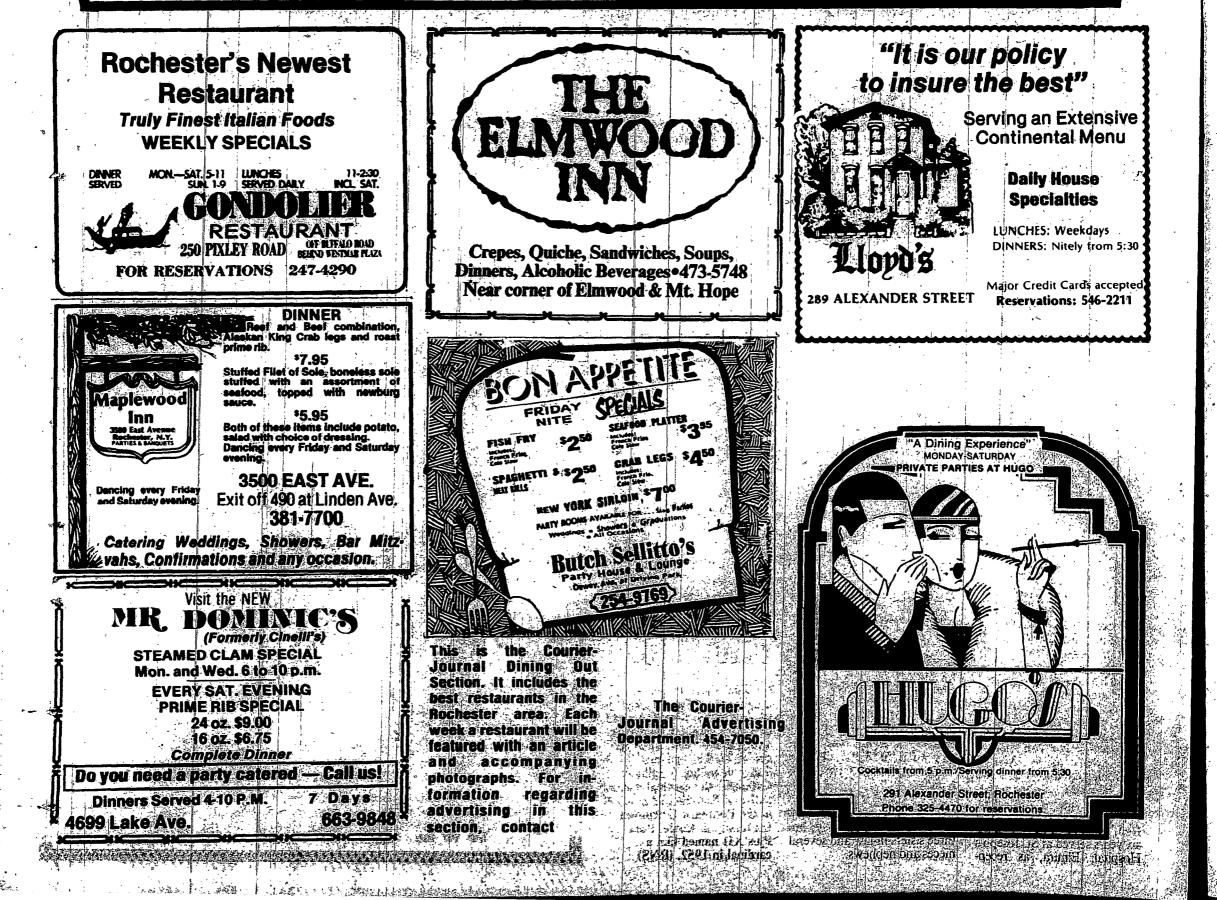
The answer is absolutely No. Your right to refuse to take part in an abortion is protected by law. All one must do is file a written

refusal, explaining why, to the hospital person in charge. What may be revelatory to some is that "no hospital shall be required to admit any patient for the purpose of terminating a pregnancy (the euphemism for abortion), provided that the hospital shall inform such patient of its decision." (NYS Health Code)

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