### COURIER-JOURNAL

### Wednesday, October 11, 1978

**Editorials** Autopsy?

A hue and cry has been raised concerning the failure of the Vatican to order an autopsy on the body of Pope John Paul when he died unexpectedly Sept. 28. While this is lamentable it should also have been anticipated by Vatican officials who could have avoided it by reasonable action.

But because consideration of the public is far from the minds of those who work behind closed walls in Vatican City, the world, and remember those who are not Catholic are involved, is subjected to such reports as appeared in the important newspaper Corriere della Sera of Milan.

"The Church," Corriere said, "had nothing to lose -on the contrary much to gain -- if an autopsy had been conducted." The cause of death was listed as acute myocardial infarction, heart attack. A niece of the pontiff said the family does not believe that a heart attack caused the death. They lean to the overburdening aspects of the papacy as wearing down the Pope. A heart specialist at Rome's largest hospital, San Camillo, said the death "could have been due to a cerebral hemorrhage" rather than a heart attack.

We agree that an autopsy should have been ordered immediately. Common sense would have dictated such in light of the stunning aspect of John Paul's death. It would have satisfied a natural curiosity but more importantly it would have headed off the even more ugly rumors of possible foul play that have arisen in some circles. And the latter was predictable too.

Three points present themselves:

Number one - it would have been comfortable for the faithful to know beyond doubt the cause of the sudden death of their Pope.

Number two - it would have erased any un-

certainties in the minds of those who are not Catholic,

But it must be admitted that those who fall into these two categories are just normally curious about the death cause. To them, it is not a burning issue.

However, Number three -- there are those who take some kind of odd satisfaction in manufacturing the most scurrilous rumors about the Church and her leaders. The shame is there are those gullible enough to believe anything, provided it is outlandish enough.

An immediate autopsy would have taken the wind from their sails.

But now the rumors are afloat, an autopsy at this late date would only add momentum.

There are lessons in this sad turn of events. A little more openness by Vatican insiders, much in the style of Pope John Paul, would help allay uncertainties of the faithful and also take away grist for the gossipmongers.

# and Opinions

# Death Clouds Bright Hopes

#### Editor:

We are saddened by the unexpected passing of Pope John Paul which has suddenly clouded the bright feelings of only a month ago. We extend our most heartfelt condolences to our Catholic fellow Americans.

Pope John Paul inspired hope in millions throughout the world with his message of compassion, understanding, optimism and goodwill towards all members of the human community.

He was pope at a time of great and unexpected promise for peace in the Middle East, for which he prayed so earnestly, and he showed his generosity of spirit by indicating his concern for the security of Israel. We will remember him for the kindness and serenity of his personality which gave a warm face to these momentous times.

> Irving Ruderman, president; Darrell D. Friedman.

basis of our faith and intent of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass? After all, a bishop's ministry, as I understand it, is to the unlearned as well as the learned.

Admittedly, the Bishop was not addressing the general public. However, although I reluctantly have come to agree that many of the changes are good, I sincerely feel that changing well-known words of our faith simply for change's sake is one more step in the continuing trend toward the protestantization of the Roman Catholic Faith.

> Anna C. Stadelmaier 569 Cypress St. Elmira, N.Y. 14904

### Pope Brought Out the Best Editor:

There have been a very few leaders through the centuries who by force of personality forever altered the lives of those with whom they came into contact.

Some of these have been men of politics or of war A

## Lawyers Guild Attack 'Brave'

Editor:

In regard to the article in which the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild Planned attacked Parenthood, máy we say that we are very concerned. For more than two years now we have read articles and letters in the "Social Justice Review," the Catholic Register, the Our Sunday Visitor, the Osservatore Romano, the Democrat and Chronicle and the Times-Union which deal with Planned Parenthood.

Everything we've read so far shows that Planned Parenthood is as heavily involved in so-called sex education as it is in abortion. Also we point out that Planned Parenthood works very closely with the Department of Health, Education and Welfare whose idea of moral "neutrality" is to subsidize the abortion mentality.

We sincerely pray that the guild's brave attack on Planned Parenthood will inspire the Diocese of Rochester to present a truly Catholic program on human life and morality. A Jewish Insight into Marriage and Family Life by a Rabbi; Magisterial Teaching on Life, Boston Catholic Conference; Life, Liberty and Law (Sex Education Series); Declaration on Sexual Ethics and Human Life, Pope Paul VI.

Theresa M. Hussar 340 Jordan Ave. Rochester, N.Y. 14606

## Lab Baby Discussed

Editor:

Re: M. A. Kocher's lab baby poem.

Father Albert M. S. Moraczewski, OP, president of the Pope John XXIII Medical Moral Research Center in St. Louis called the recent test tube birth in England a scientific wonder but at the same time expressed the Catholic Church's disapproval of the values involved.

The medical ethics expert noted that the basic criticism of test tube births in the Church's view is that externalization of reproduction violates the two-fold purpose of sexual expression in marriage: the procreative and the unitive not simply aided but was bypassed," he said, adding that "the unitive and procreative aspects of it must be kept together and not positively excluded."

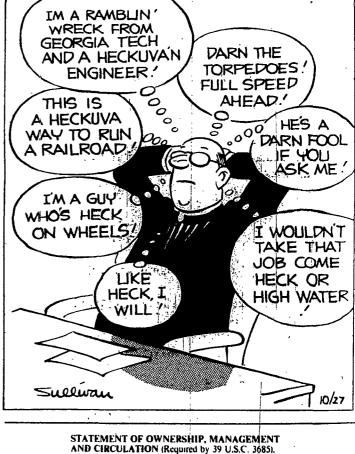
times and had 40 failures

e In the Browns' case the scientist, Dr. Patrick Steptoe said he tried 40

before successful fertilization took place. That means there were 40 human embryos discarded because of the difficulties; 40 human lives wasted in experimentation.

Louis J. Pasqua 133 Exchange St. Geneva, N.Y. 14456

<u>To 5</u>



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