

## Editorials

# Onward

The stirring and emotional standing ovation given Bishop Joseph L. Hogan as he concluded his farewell address to diocesan employees last week had hardly faded when the business of selecting his successor rolled into high gear.

The Selection of Bishops Committee had previously begun the work, at Bishop Hogan's direction, long before he thought of resigning.

A questionnaire to determine the type of man best fitted to the particular needs of this diocese has been sent to all priests, sisters, brothers and to members of the diocesan consultative bodies, parish councils and a large number of Catholics chosen at random. The purpose of the questionnaire, we reiterate, is to merely determine the qualities diocesans seek in their bishop, not to surface any particular names.

All filling out the questionnaires should give them serious and prayerful consideration and be sure they're mailed before Dec. 15.

The results of the questionnaire will be tabulated by computer and a report will be written and sent to the apostolic delegate in Washington to provide assistance to the Pope in selecting our next bishop. The results also will be published in the Courier-Journal.

In this week's edition we are publishing the questionnaire in our centerfold for informational

purposes only. Readers may fill them out to compare with the final results but please keep them. Those selected to fill out the forms have already received their questionnaires in the mail.

It is a tribute to Bishop Hogan that the diocese is so well-prepared with the process. Members of the committee have put in long hours of work and study in preparing the questionnaire and are to be commended.

We who have worked with, studied, and reported on Bishop Hogan over the past nine years know that a hallmark of his administration has been its forward direction. Obviously not everyone agrees with everything done and some do not even agree with the general direction. But it should be equally evident that the Church is not going to please all its members no matter whether it moves forward, stands still or returns to past policies.

Speaking purely from the viewpoint of the diocesan newspaper, we have always been amazed at Bishop Hogan's openness, his sensitivity to journalistic ethics and procedures, even when they required publishing news not favorable to official policies.

We doubt that any bishop in the United States pays such close attention to his diocesan newspaper as Bishop Hogan. Not only was he a faithful contributor with a professional respect for deadlines but he also was an avid reader, aware of everything in the paper. His criticism, always constructive, was appreciated and we look forward to its continuance.

Editors from other diocesan newspapers were quick to call here last week to offer their commiseration to this newspaper because such an empathetic bishop was

resigning. One veteran editor offered the observation that Bishop Hogan was the nicest bishop he had ever met.

So, much in the spirit that the bishop has instilled, we at the Courier-Journal look forward to the new challenges awaiting. We invite all to join us.

## 8's Blooper

Without defaming either of the fine priests named by a local television channel as the frontrunners to replace Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, we must wonder aloud what process was used by the Channel 8 newsmen to arrive at their conclusion.

Before their lights had cooled from the press conference with Bishop Hogan last Monday, a Channel 8 news crew rushed in with the names of two priests most likely to succeed. There is nothing wrong with either of the two priests and either could make a fine bishop. But the same could be said for many of the other hundreds of priests in this diocese. And no one knows even if the next bishop will be chosen from this diocese; he could come from anywhere, literally making prediction pure guesswork.

The baseless prognostication capped an altogether unprofessional day for the local channel as far as this news event. Its crew arrived late for the press conference, repeated questions others had asked and put a man resigning because of ill health through the paces twice.

And when it comes to unnecessary predicting, the newsmen should be made aware of an old ghetto adage: Them that know, don't say; them that say, don't know.

## and Opinions

### OHD Letter Criticized

Editor:

Your Nov. 22 issue carried a letter from the Office of Human Development, attacking what was considered the narrowminded support of a Human Life Amendment by right-to-life people. The letter questioned where right-to-life people stand on other life issues.

In their eagerness to attack the pro-life movement, the Religious of the OHD apparently did not first read the language of the Human Life Amendment and did not make themselves aware of the concerns of the people involved in right-to-life organizations.

The Human Life Amendment is not only concerned with the protection of the unborn but with all life from conception until natural death. The "single-minded" people of the pro-life movement are daily involved in the issues of abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, pornography, child abuse, sex education, health care, etc., etc.

But even if pro-life people were concerned only with abortion, is not 1.5 million lives per year reason enough for single-issue voting?

If not, what must the toll be?

It would seem than an office concerned with the human needs of the community would display an equal concern for the needs of the unborn (specifically, their right to life). We would ask the people of OHD if the lifes

of six million Catholics had been taken in the past five years simply because they were unwanted would this be sufficient reason to yell bloody murder and make respect for life the primary issue at the polls? Are the heartbeats of the unborn any less important than those of us fortunate enough to be born? Our bible teaches us that the names of these children have been etched in the hands of God for all eternity.

It is strange that the war protesters and civil rights protesters of the 60s were regarded as concerned humanists but the pro-lifers of the 70s are single-minded radicals.

The pro-life movement has been under attack from the very beginning and many right-to-lifers have become hardened to it. We have to admit though that it hurts when it comes from the people with whom we are trying to cooperate to build a better community. But more important than the hurt, is the concern about the attitude of such religious leadership.

Robert and Jacqueline Rangel  
Human Life Coordinators  
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Editor:

Re: Right to Life assailed. I find it puzzling that four members of the Human Development Committee did not know where RTL stood on euthanasia as RTL literature and seminars are unequivocally against euthanasia. How can they claim to be "broadminded" if they didn't know this?

I thank God that there are people who are so "narrowminded" as to see that killing a person stops his human development on this earth and that a governor, Legislator, judge or Religious who have complicity in the killing of a million persons a year is too insensitive to human development to merit public trust.

Louis J. Pasqua  
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### The Desert Of Advent

Editor:

Even while we are getting ready for Christmas with shopping for gifts and sending greetings, we must make the effort to remind ourselves that God calls us first into the desert of Advent with John the Baptist, into the "long loneliness" of the Old Testament with the prophet Isaiah and into the sublime depths of the Virgin Mary's expectancy.

We miss all this completely when we celebrate with Christmas parties and songs and festivities beforehand.

"Waiting for Christ" is an important element in Christian life. The Advent liturgies nourish this spirit in those who do not allow themselves to be distracted or diverted from them.

May the day be not far away when once again Catholic folk, closing their ears to the lure of the pre-Christmas ballyhoo, with its shows and parties, will truly live the Advent life and refuse to sing and dance Noel in the empty stable before the great Birthday has come.

Father Benedict Ehmann  
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### Use Vatican Teachings

Editor:

We would like to comment on recent news

reports that Planned Parenthood is attempting to push sex education into the elementary schools as early as the kindergarten level. Legally, ethically, and socially, they have every right to push whatever project they deem worth and profitable; it is a pluralistic world. We do not dispute their rights.

We do however question the wisdom of current discussions within the Rochester Diocese proposing a diocesan "relationship" with Planned Parenthood in order to teach Catholic school teenagers about human sexuality. We suggest, in place of Planned Parenthood, that we expose Catholic teenagers to the clear compassionate voice of the Vatican. Whatever else can be said for and about Planned Parenthood, not even their most ardent supporters have ever claimed respect for the Vatican in matters of faith and morals. It is our personal judgment that Catholics cannot serve ecumenism by accommodating Planned Parenthood.

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### Let's Follow Our Popes

Editor:

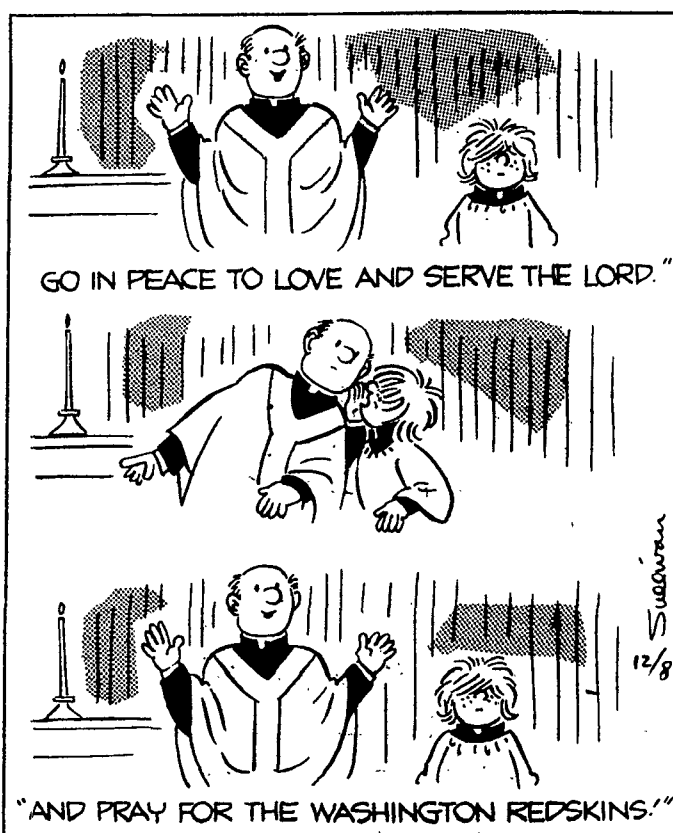
In regard to his opposition to the "woman priest" movement, and of all those strident voices supporting it, I would like to point out that Father Cuddy is in good company. Popes Paul VI, John Paul I and John Paul II have all spoken in answer to the question and the answer was, "No, it cannot be."

Why is it that so many of our Religious publicly rebel against the authority and rulings of the Holy Father? Is it because in their present situations,

they are not subject to authority? And are indeed strangers to it? With such example, no wonder vocations suffer.

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### Guidelines

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Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1 1/2 pages, typed, double-spaced, with names and addresses.

We reserve the right to edit as to length, offensive words, libelous statements, or to reject altogether. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and letters will reflect the writer's own style.

We encourage readers to submit opinions but since we try to print letters from as many different contributors as possible we will publish no more than one letter a month from the same individual.