

More Opinions

Explanation Said Deserved

Editor:

The many supporters of the Right to Life effort who are members of the Catholic Diocese of Rochester deserve some explanation for the change in the recent policy of the diocese with regards to the October Respect Life collection and the new diocesan organization, the Human Life Commission.

For the past four years, the Catholic bishops of New York State have allowed out of church collections by Right to Life organizations. The Rochester diocese allowed the out of church collection for only the past two years. Two-thirds of the money collected was allocated to the State Right to Life organization for state and national purposes, a vital center for all right to life activities of the state. The rest of the money was divided among the local organizations.

This year the Office of Family Life of the Rochester diocese organized a Human Life Committee, now designated as a Commission. It was the decision of Father Charles Mulligan, director of Social Ministries and his subordinate directors, Maurice Tierney of Catholic Charities and Frank Staropoli of the Office of Family Life to eliminate not only the out of church collection but any allocation to Right to Life groups as well. They substituted "in church canister" collection and determined that the collection be divided between Birthright-Rochester, and some other "Birthright"-type organizations in the diocese and educational efforts of the Human Life Commission.

One of the unfortunate effects of the takeover of this collection by the Office of Social Ministries and the abrupt cut-off of support to Right to Life is that the vital state Right to Life center will not have the financial support that it needs. When Right to Life members recently met with Father Mulligan and directors Tierney and Staropoli to plead for support of the state center, the diocesan officials gave as a reason for the cut-off of support their lack of money to begin the work of the diocesan Human Life Commission. They refused a request to allow Right to Life to take up another collection on an out of church basis, and they also refused to allocate any funds collected from the recent canister collection to the State Right to Life Center.

Several dioceses in New York State in addition to the formation of a diocesan human life organization to help protect the unborn, have, in addition, continued to allow a direct out of church collection appeal by Right to Life organizations.

The New York State bishops and the State

Catholic Committee have given approval for the out of church collection for Right to Life and every diocese in the state except Long Island cooperates in some support effort for the non-sectarian Right to Life effort. Some of the Right to Life effort is tax-deductible. The legislative effort is done under nonprofit, tax-exempt status. A church or any tax-deductible organization is allowed to contribute to legislative effort if it does not exceed approximately 5 per cent of its budget in so doing.

The Human Life Commission is structured to include not only the issues of abortion, teenage pregnancies and euthanasia, but also capital punishment, the handicapped, the elderly, poverty — food and the imprisoned. The last five issues are also concerns of either the Office of Human Development or the Peace and Justice Commission. The Office of Human Development is supported by monies from a national collection and the Peace and Justice Commission receives financing from mission collections. Both bureaus have paid employees. Neither of these bureaus will be asked to be concerned with the issues of abortion and euthanasia.

When asked if the Human Life Commission's policy would include efforts to insure legal protection of all human life, including the unborn, Father Mulligan and his directors said that they could not say, as that would be left to the decision of the Commission.

This year Bishop Joseph Hogan urged the people of the diocese to implement the 1975 U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities. That pastoral plan clearly states its underlying philosophy and theology and its implementation, including passage of a constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court decision on abortion. The work of Right to Life in the Rochester area and throughout the state has paralleled the principles of the U.S. bishops' pastoral plan, despite the fact that Right to Life works from a philosophical, scientific and moral basis.

The U.S. bishops' plan recognizes that in order to reverse the societal trends to abortion and euthanasia that a spirit of cooperation must exist between state, diocesan, parish and non-sectarian pro-life groups. The Rochester Area Right to Life will continue the policy that it began in 1970 to cooperate with any group that wishes to contribute to the solution of these problems.

Due to the termination of these vital funds, we will now turn to direct solicitation from our supporters including pro-life parishes to help us continue the important and essential work necessary to legally protect

those helpless and defenseless human beings.

Rochester Area Right to Life Committee
 Jeanne D. Sweeney, chairman
 William P. Polito, vice chairman
 Patricia Miller, secretary
 George Wiedemer, Jr., treasurer
 Patricia Amato, director

Displeased With Ad

Editor:

I am a little disappointed with your full-page advertisement on the Fuzz-Buster in the last two issues I have seen. Are we against breaking the law? Or are we for it? It's a little hard to decide, judging by this full-page ad. At this rate pretty soon we will be reading where the X-rated movies are playing.

I just heard that to find a successor for Bishop Hogan, a computer is going to be used. Somehow to me, this does not seem to be God's way.

Bob Popp
 378 Manitou Road
 Hilton, N.Y. 14468

Editor's Note: The Fuzz-Buster is a legal device. We suggest that anyone who finds it offensive write to his state senator or assemblyman and ask that it be declared illegal. The story about a computer being used to determine the next bishop appeared in another publication. While a computer will be used to help tabulate results of a questionnaire seeking to determine qualifications for future Rochester bishops, it will not have any "voice" in the selection of the man.

Editor:

The Courier-Journal carried two full-page ads of a product used by drivers to detect the radar used by our law enforcement agencies. The product is called a "Fuzzbuster" and was advertised as such.

It is sad that such products are legally allowed on the market which are aimed at undermining the work of law officers. It is in very poor taste that the product goes by a name which is obviously derogatory to our police and upsetting that such products are advertised through our diocesan paper.

I have been informed that when the press uses the U.S. mail for delivery it cannot refuse ads for legal products. In the name of "free speech" and "free press" we seem to be losing our freedom to speak out as a religious community on issues concerning the moral values of our society.

If you are able to take any action concerning the prevention of ads that are in obvious poor taste,

please do so. If you are legally bound to allow the Catholic press to be abused in this way, I urge you and our diocese to work for legislative actions that will protect our religious freedom to address the moral issues in our society without having to fear political, legal and financial reprisals.

Father Paul J. Ryan
 St. Andrew's Church
 923 Portland Ave.
 Rochester, N.Y. 14621

Editor:

I cannot believe you had a full-page advertisement for the "fuzzbuster" radar detector on the last page of the Nov. 29, 1978 edition.

I do not think I am too far off in thinking that a fuzzbuster will allow a person to go faster than the speed limit but be able to give him time to reduce speed to legal limits before police radar can assess his rate — in other words, he can break the law and get away with it.

The advertisement also states that you can get the fuzzbuster at the low price stated, if you bring in the ad to the store. So, I can get a copy of the "official" newspaper of the Catholic diocese, bring it in, and buy a device that helps me break the law.

Many people have snickered that the Courier-Journal is nothing more than a gossip sheet for the diocese. With ads such as this you seem to affirm this assessment.

Anthony Thomas Rimore
 Pastoral Musician
 Holy Name of Jesus
 St. Martin's Way
 Rochester, N.Y. 14616

Does Church Want Phonies?

Editor:

I am writing in reference to Father Paul Cuddy's Courier-Journal column of Nov. 15 concerning Father Louis Hohman's comments on the ordination of women. I think it is unfair of Father Cuddy to say that Father Hohman, or anyone else, has no right to say anything contrary to what has been said from the Vatican.

In 1903 Pope Pius X issued his Motu Proprio which included this statement, "Church singers fill a real liturgical function; therefore, since women cannot be allowed to participate in this office, they cannot be allowed to join the choir nor become a choirmaster." Thank God someone was allowed to question the validity of this statement so that today whoever is capable of doing the job may apply!

Father Cuddy seems to imply that anyone who is Catholic must think only according to what is spoken from the Vatican. I think the Church would be terribly dull if we all allowed someone else to

think for us. I cannot believe that a person would be being disobedient to the pope because of having a different opinion on a certain subject. Does the Church want its members to become phoney by pretending we all think exactly as the pope thinks?

It is my opinion that the Church has been responsive to the growth of its members. I know the Church has need for both those who are willing to experience growth and pain as well as those who think things should never be questioned and always remain the same. I guess this is one of God's ways to keep checks and balances on our progress. I will pray that Father Cuddy will be more open to the opinions of all the members of the Church.

Helen E. Halligan
 169 Dewey St
 Churchville, N.Y.

Asks Support For Coalition

Editor:

Congratulations to Mary Jane Tobin and Ellen McCormack for their outstanding success in attaining more than enough votes (approximately 125,000) in the recent gubernatorial election to assure the Right to Life party a place on the ballot for the next four years.

Congratulations also to all voters who were so concerned about the slaughter of unborn children through legalized abortion that they were willing to abandon their regular party loyalty and vote Right to Life to protest this abomination.

Shame on the New York State Right to Life Committee who turned their backs on true pro-life candidates. They instead, incredibly, joined forces with the pro-abortionists to support Duryea or Carey, those arch defenders of the uncivilized practice of killing unborn children with tax dollars.

The Rev. Robert Holbrook, a Baptist minister from Texas, and head of Baptists for Life has this to say about the killing of unborn children: "Legalized abortion has released a flood of innocent blood, which has stained the shores of America and most certainly has created a stench in the nostrils of Almighty God." He said we must all work together to bring an end to this great evil.

Let us all hope and pray that a new leadership will emerge within the State Right to Life Committee. Hopefully they will agree to form a pro-life alliance with the now recognized and viable Right to Life party. Hopefully, also, they will ally themselves with the other dedicated, knowledgeable and effective State Right to Life organizations: the New York State Coalition for

Life. Together we New Yorkers can again lead the country in its quest for a Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

This will totally ban the uncivilized and barbaric practice of abortion in America and bring to an end the wanton and senseless killing of our fellow human beings.

John Arena
 Central N.Y.
 Right to Life
 Federation
 Box 865
 Rome, N.Y. 13440

Takes Issue With Decision

Editor:

I was keenly interested in the article concerning Catherine Doherty, which appeared in the Nov. 29 issue of the Courier-Journal. I was especially impressed by the question she asked, namely, "When shall we preach the gospel without compromise?" This question, unbeknown to Mrs. Doherty, underscored the lack of action taken at the last Parish Council meeting of St. Pius Tenth, of which I am an elected member.

The minutes of that meeting will show that a proposal to hire a fulltime religious education coordinator to better implement the spiritual growth of our Catholic public-school children was defeated. They will, no doubt, not show that the foremost reason for the defeat was one of dollars and cents. If the minutes hold true to their regular pattern of reporting, they will not show that the Deacon Intern (who will, no doubt, be leaving the parish next spring) not only voted against the proposal, but actually set forth an argument calculated to defeat it, also based on finances. The minutes will probably not show that the Associate Pastor and the parish school principal voted for the proposal. Finally, I believe that no indication will be made to show that the Pastor abstained in voting.

I feel that this a sad commentary on our times, and I am prompted to quote from Our Holy Father's words (also quoted in the same issue of the Courier): "We cannot forget Our Lord's words: 'The measure you give will be the measure you get.'"

George A. Goodwin Jr.
 33 Laredo Drive
 Rochester, N.Y. 14624

Let's keep it working.
UNITED COMMUNITY CHEST