

**Provided by Diocesan Human Life Commission**

On Jan. 22, 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States settled the abortion issue once and for all.

Or so many people thought.

Pro-abortionists hailed the court's decisions that day for what they said and the sweeping way they said it. By order of the court, abortion on demand was suddenly the law of the land. That, thought pro-abortionists, was that.

They were wrong. The 1973 decisions weren't the end but the beginning. Since then, abortion has become the focal point of a growing moral, social, political and legal controversy everywhere in the nation. The issue that was "settled" in 1973, has refused to go away.

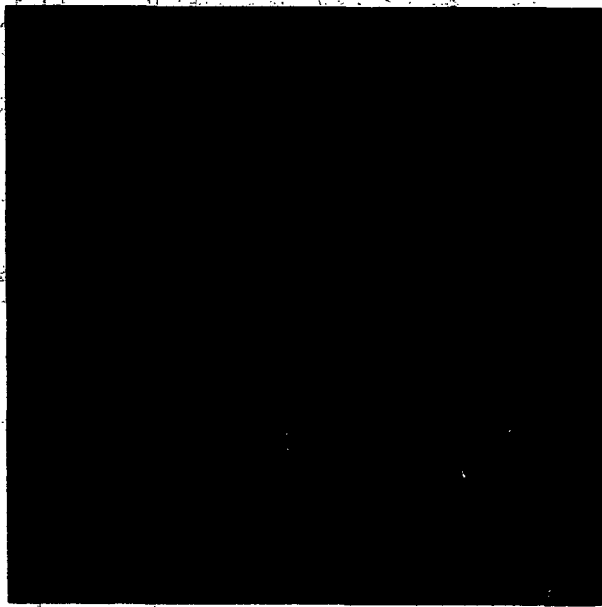
Now the tide is running against abortion. Americans are taking a hard look at its impact on moral standards, family life, and — above all — the sanctity of life. The longer they look, the less they like what they see.

Consider the evidence that the tide has turned.

The Supreme Court today finds itself faced with a growing stream of cases that challenge it to re-think its position. To some extent it has already done so.

In perhaps its most important reconsideration to date, the court ruled in 1977 that the Constitution doesn't require government to subsidize abortions at taxpayers' expense.

Congress has taken the cue and cracked down hard on federal funding of abortion. State legislatures around the country have done the same.



Abortion has also become an important political issue, influencing the way voters judge candidates for office. The 1978 elections witnessed important pro-life gains in Congress and the state legislatures.

Pro-abortionists are worried. A recent fund-raising letter from one pro-abortion group spoke of an "alarming trend among members of Congress and state legislators" and warned that continued success by the pro-life movement could mean that "the days of legal . . . abortion are numbered."

Many Americans hope and pray so. But despite the encouraging things now happening, legalized abortion remains an evil of massive proportions in the United States.

In 1977 (the last year for which figures are currently available) there were an astonishing 1.3 million legal

abortions in the U.S. In a few places in this country there are more abortions each year than there are live births.

At the same time, even the argument that legal abortion benefits women has been exposed as a tragic fraud. A series of articles in 1978 in the Chicago Sun-Times told a shocking tale of deaths and permanent injuries in legal abortion mills. Such abuses appear to be widespread.

Congress and the state legislatures have placed restrictions on government subsidies for abortion. The Supreme Court has narrowed the sweep of its 1973 decisions. But abortion remains a gigantic problem and — for more than a million of the unborn each year — a deadly one.

What is the solution?

Ultimately an amendment to the Constitution restoring protection to the unborn. Until then, strict curbs on the funding and performance of abortions. And — along with these steps — generous efforts, public and private, to help women with pregnancy-related problems by offering them positive, practical alternatives to abortion.

None of the encouraging things that have happened since that dark day in January of 1973 have been accidents. And none of the things that remain to be done will happen by themselves. They will be the result of active involvement — passionate and compassionate — on the part of the millions of Americans who cherish life.

The Catholic Church offers opportunities to become informed and involved — in regard to abortion and many other life-related issues in society — through its Respect Life program. Everyone has talents to contribute to the cause. Find out what you can do to help put an end to the evil of abortion in our country.



Photo by Terrance J. Brennan

**For Bishop Kearney**

The chapel at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery was the setting for the memorial Mass commemorating the second anniversary of the death of Bishop James E. Kearney. Pictured here is Father Joseph Reinhart assisting Msgr. Charles Boyle. Celebrants included Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Monsignors James McAniff, John M. Duffy and Leslie Whalen, and Fathers Joseph Dorsey, Benedict Ehmann, Charles Bennett, John Rosse, Edward Zimmer, John Hempel and Bernard Power.

**Religious Education Workshop Slated**

The ninth annual diocesan Religious Education workshop has been scheduled for Jan. 29 to 31 at the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

The workshop is sponsored by the Association of Religious Educators and the Office of Religious Education.

Dr. Charles J. Keating will conduct the workshop with a focus on Leadership. He is a consultant, writer, educator and author, having written *The Leadership Book*.

Patrick Fox, Religious Education coordinator at St. Louis in Pittsford, said that "Dr. Keating's relaxed style turned a business appointment into an informal

sharing session." Fox visited Keating during the summer.

"His background and experience," Fox continued, "indicate a real depth of research, understanding and knowledge on leadership. I'd encourage all who can find the time to attend."

According to Father Lewis Brown, director of the Office of Religious Education, the workshop is open to all RE coordinators, administrators and anyone else interested. A dinner and special session is planned for Tuesday night, Jan. 30. The workshop will begin Monday night, Jan. 29, and continue to Wednesday, Jan. 31. Anyone wishing more information should contact the Office of Religious Education at 328-3210.

**'Practice Poverty,' Cardinal Pironio Urges SSJ Chapter**

Cardinal Eduardo Pironio, prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, has issued a challenge to the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph who are presently meeting in Chapter and deliberating on renewal of their governmental structures.

The cardinal, in a letter to Sister Jamesine Riley, superior general of the sisters, has exhorted the sisters to give testimony to the life that is Christ which the world needs from religious.

This testimony, the cardinal wrote, is that the religious be an immediate and tangible sign of the presence of God who is Love.

Addressing the need for poverty among religious, Cardinal Pironio warned against poverty that is not real.

He called the sisters to a poverty that is without interest in human security, and poverty that reflects simplicity and freedom.

On the question of community, the cardinal said that co-responsibility

and participation of all in authentic discernment of the Spirit are essential.

"Fraternal community and prayer," he wrote, "intermingle with each other as they grow, and each member (of the religious community) communicates to others the spirit of fraternity."

The Chapter also is studying a paper on *Patterns in Authority and Obedience*, which came out of a dialogue between the U.S. bishops and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

The paper deals with structures, modes and concepts of authority and obedience as they are found in Canon Law.

In addition, the Chapter is also deliberating on the principles and functions of government in religious institutes which have global mission commitments.

The sisters will shortly discuss these concerns with Sister Judith Barnhiser, OSU, one of the few women canon lawyers, who has been called in as a consultant.

**Project Leadership At Becket**

All high school male juniors and seniors are invited to the annual Project Leadership conference from Feb. 2 to 4 at Becket Hall, according to Father Thomas Statt, rector.

Registration will be at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 2 and the conference will conclude with lunch on Sunday, Feb. 4.

Father Statt said the registration fee is \$8 per person and reservation

must be made by Jan. 28 by calling Becket Hall at 586-4470.

Project Leadership is open to all male juniors and seniors who are interested in exploring the possibilities of leadership roles in the Church as a vocational objective.

The agenda will consist of prayer, liturgy, discussion and recreation. Participants should bring sleeping bags.

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**THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER "Flowers — and Memorials"**

By Ed Sulewski

We are often asked about the proper way to show concern toward the family of the deceased. There are many expressions of sympathy that are acceptable — and your preference may depend upon what is traditional to the people who have suffered the loss of the loved one.

The most universal remembrance is flowers — provided as an individual or as a group. In some instances, the family may designate an area of interest for memorial gifts (the giving of money), or money gifts may be given for the family's particular needs, or for a memorial to be selected by the family at a later date.

For those who are not directly involved with the family, an appropriate card with a short personal note will express concern. Regardless of the method of condolence, the fact that you have expressed it is the important thing — and will be cherished by the bereaved in their time of need.

We would be happy to answer any questions you might have, please call.

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