

## Editorials

### The Good Fight

Those who have labored long and arduously against abortion and its offspring, euthanasia, only to be often demeaned for their efforts can take heart from a compliment paid them from on high.

No less a person than Pope John Paul II told the pro-life movement, "You are fighting for the right of every person to be born, to develop . . . and freely pursue his transcendent destiny."

Citing Vatican II, the pontiff said the "Council Fathers did not hesitate to condemn whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any kind of murder, genocide, abortion, (direct) euthanasia, or willful self-destruction."

In addition, he pointed out that the Council also condemned "sub-human living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children, as well as disgraceful working conditions where men are treated as mere tools for profit rather than as free and responsible persons."

So a man who perhaps knows as most about deprivation of rights than any world leader and who has quickly become noted as a champion of human rights has seen fit to clearly and openly commend the

work of the pro-life movement as a defender of fundamental rights.

For those who have fought the good fight, keep at it. And for those who have not yet become involved, join the pursuit for fundamental rights for all God's children. It is a necessary and lofty endeavor. Take it from a man who knows.

### Holy Name

We happen to agree with the priest who objected to the use of the name of Jesus as an expletive in a Democrat and Chronicle "Letter to the Reader," appearing Sunday, March 25.

In the managing editor's letter, he describes a discussion with D and C decision-makers over whether or not to use a series of photos showing a dog being put to death by injection. The general tone of the letter was sensitive and reassuring in that it showed that newsmen are not necessarily the hard-hearted lot so often depicted.

But why oh why did the writer have to diminish this effect by quoting an editor invoking the Lord's name in needless fashion. The quote was unnecessary to the substance of the piece and for many readers may have diluted the impact.

The priest who made the complaint is not over-scrupulous and we hope we are not either. But we

think the point is worth making that the inreverent use of the name of Jesus offends many Christians, particularly at this time of the year.

### Hope

Realistically speaking, the road to Mideast peace is still long and treacherous, despite the historic treaty between those ancient enemies, Israel and Egypt. Other nations which must be involved if there is to be true peace in that area of the world range from critical to downright hostile to the recent developments. And even the most optimistic person should admit that the treaty does not even ensure complete lack of aggression between the two principals.

But the important fact to be remembered is that the treaty represents a step in the right direction; a first step, to be sure, but nonetheless a firm and positive one.

And it has a subtle message which should be recognizable to the Christian. For it is not so much the black and white agreements and compromises that should impress us but rather the promise offered. Much akin to the hope of Lent, it offers the world something Godlike for which to strive. Much the same as Christianity it gives us something concrete to work with in the present but also a clear, attainable and exciting goal for the future.

And most of the satisfaction is in the striving.

## and Opinions

### Wanderer Defended

Editor:

I am writing in reply to Father Neuville's letter of March 28. I agree fully with the content of his letter, all except his introductory paragraph. I think there's much to be discussed about it.

In the first place, there's nothing wrong with following The Wanderer. I have found that clergy and laypeople who diverge from the Church's teachings — let's call them "liberals" — during an argument on doctrine or morality will often snap at you: "I bet you get The Wanderer, don't you!" Thus trying to make one look like an idiot by their tone of voice.

Sometimes The Wanderer does report happenings from a prejudiced point of view. And since we are all conditioned to reading "unpersonal" accounts of the news, we react negatively to those reports that are not; even though they are prejudiced from a purely Catholic point of view. I don't mind it, especially seeing that newspaper's many good points, including their very good spiritual articles.

The Wanderer always reports everything the Pope says and does publicly, and does not ever pull apart, deny, refute, ignore or change any of it. That is truly commendable, and more than most of the Church today will do, clergy and laity alike.

The other point I would like to make is on liberalism and conservatism. I don't think that following the Church's teachings makes one "conservative." I resent that. Conservatism is too far to the right, and that's wrong. Liberalism is too far to the left, and that's wrong also. Anything in extreme is

as common sense tells us. Just stay with the Church and her teachings and be orthodox. That's removed from the political terms, and that's where the Church is.

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### Pray Daily For Unborn

Editor:

Not everyone is able (or inclined) to be an activist in the Pro-Life movement to help the defenseless pre-born. Yet we have often seen how one vote has toppled a government or unseated a candidate to make another victorious.

There are people who are striving actively in the secular world to stop the destruction of those whom God "knew" before He "formed them in the womb." We can all help.

Today, as always, we have a dynamic and untapped source which we can all use to help save God's creations. The Tide of Prayer.

As laity, would you try to say at least one small prayer a day (or a week or a month) for God's intervention and help? (Perhaps a "My Jesus, mercy!")

As sisters or brothers of a religious community, joined together in common prayer (or as individuals), would you make an effort to remember these, the youngest of humanity for whom Christ died to redeem?

As priests, would you in the Prayers of the Faithful (in at least one daily Mass) remember the pre-born for protection against abortion?

Would you spread the word — to pray?

The Immaculate Con-

ception is a matter of faith and not to be denied. If the Holy Mother's soul was full of grace and immaculate from the moment of conception there should be no question as to when the soul's life starts for all the other babes of God's miraculous creation. They must be protected immediately, not when well-meaning but self-appointed dogmatic dilettantes are through muddying and clouding the problem.

If we cannot act, we can at least pray. What good is it to be "born again" when some aren't even given the chance to be born the first time? Or to be "baptized in the Holy Spirit" when the utterly defenseless never receive the Sacrament of Baptism? How can we call Christ our "brother" when we fail to help the least of His brothers — the pre-born?

The total concept of peace and justice for each human and all mankind must begin at the moment of God's creation when conception occurs, otherwise it is false.

In this Eastertide when

we survey the Cross, how many aborted babes are represented by those cruel nails? Ask yourself, did I do anything to try and hold back the hammer that drove them in?

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### Await the Bottom Line

Editor:

"Misquotes on Salt II," heading Ms. M. Lourdes Perez-Albuerne's letter (C-J 3-2) was probably not with malice aforethought. There were no misquotes. There were some dots indicating omissions. I deliberately ignored the lovely full quotations (space problems), all the well-chosen phraseology about brotherly love, and got right down to the bottom line. Christian values have no meaning for the militantly atheistic Communist. We delude ourselves if we think so.

Rarely are the caveats quoted by the pacifist-idealist. To balance the words which express the ideal situation of men laying down their arms, Catholic authorities in justice face the world as it is. It was these words I used.

At our peril we ignore the stark fact that Soviet-Russia has surpassed the free world in military might. According to Dr. Igor Glasgovlev, a former high-ranking Soviet SALT advisor who defected to the West in 1976, the USSR's present nuclear superiority is "considered by Soviet specialists sufficient to destroy the bulk of American strategic weapons and the population of the United States and win a nuclear war."

So often the impression is given that the United States Catholic Conference has endorsed SALT II. The complete text (at this time) is not available. Full endorsement awaits the "bottom line." My reply from Sen. Moynihan reflects the same wait and see position.

Ms. M. Lourdes Perez-

Albuerne (second paragraph) objects to my conclusion that Father Hehir's alternatives would be worse than Salt II and so he endorses it. Ms. M. Lourdes Perez-Albuerne writes that he only endorses the "concept of deterrence." Perhaps she is right. I found it difficult to sort out semantics when Fr. Hehir obscured that fine point by suggesting (C-J 2-21-79) "... on an individual level New York residents should contact Senator Patrick Moynihan." What else for . . . but the cause of SALT II.

Ms. Perez-Albuerne stated she had been unable to locate the coalition mentioned in my letter of 3-14. The Coalition for Peace Through Strength is located at Suite 500, 499 South Capitol Street, Washington, D.C. 20003, and as of my last writing was composed of 54 member organizations, over 150 members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives, plus most distinguished military authorities.

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### Guidelines

Letters intended for publication must be addressed to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Expressions of opinions should be brief, no longer than 1½ 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.

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GEORGE BELIEVES A GOOD PART OF OUR TROUBLES CAN BE ELIMINATED IF YOU BLESS MY COOKBOOK.