

**Editorials**

**Guess Again**

The convention endorsed a "human life amendment" to the U.S. Constitution which would generally prohibit abortion.

The action underlined the view of the church that "the living but unborn are persons in the sight of God from the time of conception . . . as persons the unborn stand under the full protection of God's own prohibition against murder . . . and since abortion takes a human life, abortion is not a moral option, except as a tragically unavoidable by-product of medical procedures necessary to prevent the death of another human being, the mother."

Those at the convention called abortion a "heinous crime" and urged Christians to "speak and act as responsible citizens on behalf of the living but unborn in the civic and political arena to secure for these defenseless persons due protection of the law."

Now we all have heard certain pro-abortionists claim that the right to life movement is mainly a

Roman Catholic ploy, driven and financed by the U.S. bishops.

But was this meeting a convention of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops? No. Was it then some other Catholic organization? Again, no.

It was the national meeting of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in St. Louis. Such endorsements of life are common and put the lie to those who would appeal to prejudice against Catholics as a way to keep liberalized abortion the law of the land.

**Summer Prayer**

"Summer afternoon — summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

We owe William James for that splendid thought.

And recently, upon arriving in Castelgandolfo for his summer vacation, that marvelous man for all seasons, John Paul II, singled out one for an equally profound observation.

Speaking to a crowd of about 3,000 who welcomed him to his summer home, Papa Wojtyla said

that they should thank the Lord "for the feast of green, of flowers, of fruit."

Further expounding on the delights of the season, he said, "Vacation time offers to many people the opportunity of a more direct contact with nature. It is important that each of us makes himself an attentive observer of the marvels of creation, of its ever-new beauty, of its inexhaustible fertility, of its suggestive and mysterious depth. The rediscovery of these values, from which modern life often separates us, allows a glorious gratitude, which is easily transformed into prayer, to be born in the heart."

Summertime thought; summer prayer.

**Moral Stance**

Once again we applaud Gov. Carey's veto of the death penalty bill, which seems to be becoming an annual occurrence. It is an unpopular stance, as the legislators who vote for it can tell you, but a moral one — and for a politician, a heroic one.

We do not agree with some other Carey positions but on this extremely important issue, we thank him for not bringing the state down to the level of its meanest citizens.

**and Opinions**

**A Rejoinder To Columnist**

Editor:

With surprise did I notice that Father Paul Cuddy's column of Aug. 1 was addressed to me. With interest did I read the author's challenges and requests.

Father Cuddy and I both entered broadcasting with more enthusiasm than training, but with a lot of help from our friends. There is room and reason for those in various ministries to consider getting involved with the media. Father Richard Tormey, a hopeful candidate for the future "Magnify the Lord," could offer much encouragement to those who are thinking about it but are untried.

Father Cuddy and I agree that our diocese needs an expanded and coordinated effort in the communications media, print and electronic. However, I think it should be clearly demonstrated who the beneficiaries would be.

Some examples of those who have or will benefit from the use of television are: the people of the parishes in the Canisteo Valley who participated in the Lenten experiment with cable and home study groups; those who viewed the John Powell, SJ, series Free to Be Me (incidentally, the audience response was so favorable that Channel 21 will re-broadcast this series in prime time this fall); all the parishes of Chemung County will be able to tell their story after the upcoming 12-week, 36-program cable project. Parishes should be the primary beneficiaries of any diocesan use of mass media.

Sister Jane Geiger, consultant for Adult Education, is ready with materials and methods to answer any inquiries regarding TV utilization.

Because the media are tools for communication of information, instruction and education, every diocesan

department or agency also stands to benefit.

In this time of high gasoline prices, all can benefit from an increased use of telecommunications as a substitute for traveling.

Recent Papal and Episcopal documents have called our attention to the impact of media and urged more extensive use of modern means of communication. In the National Catechetical Directory, the American bishops have written:

"The communications revolution has had a profound impact on our world with implications as great for religion as any other area of life. Contemporary media offer marvelous new opportunities for catechesis, but they also present serious challenges and problems. They can unite people, foster the sharing of ideas, promote mutual help, justice and peace and carry the Gospel to those who otherwise might never hear it."

The National Media Collection is a sure sign that we are on the verge of an increasing use of all media. Goals for media use in our diocese would be an exciting topic for the consultative bodies.

In his final paragraph, Father Cuddy asked those who are willing to get involved. I echo his statement and am willing to join with others in a diocesan coalition of religious communicators.

Father Lewis Brown  
Director of  
Religious Education  
Diocese of Rochester

**Appreciation Of a Friend**

Editor:

As our family sat at a Mass celebrated in memory of Father Ed McAniff, an overwhelming desire came over me to tell every person there how deeply Ed had touched our lives, particularly during the last month of his life. As the

homilist expressed, Ed showed all of us how to face death. The gift of peace that touched me during our last visit with Ed, a few weeks before his death, was certainly the peace of the Lord.

In the experience of his last months (which, in the world's eyes, were of total "uselessness") Ed radiated and expressed the depth of understanding of what his priesthood really meant. Ed had always assured us of his daily prayers for us and we believe his faith has been a significant part of the ministry in our lives.

One very special gift he gave us on our last visit — expressed as a "favor for him" — was his request to teach our six children devotion to their guardian angel. Our older girls were touched, as I was, to hear Ed's beautiful story of how he believed prayer to his guardian angel had saved him in a snowstorm in the mountains years before. All of a sudden, a prayer that I hadn't heard or said in years took on very special meaning. Ed was pleased, we hear, to know that within three days all of our children (even the three-year-old) were saying the beloved "Father Ed's Prayer": Angel of God, my guardian dear...

Words always fall short in expressing a deep faith experience. Knowing Ed has been that faith experience in my life and in the life of our family. All I could say as I drove away on that last day: "I've been touched by a very holy person." Thank you, God, for Ed. And Ed — keep praying for us!

Sue Staropoli  
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**CUF Deplores LeFebvre Movement**

Editor:

May I be permitted on behalf of all our members to express clearly the position of the Rochester St. Pius X Chapter of CUF with respect to the question of "traditionalism" and the Archbishop LeFebvre Affair.

As the local chapter of the

national lay association, Catholics United for the Faith (CUF), we deplore the actions of any professing to be Catholic who engage in acts of dissent or disobedience toward the Successor of Peter, the Vicar of Christ on earth. We in no way approve of Archbishop LeFebvre's repeated acts of defiance toward the Holy See, or the activities of his priests who in effect enter the diocese of Rochester to operate an "underground church" against the wishes of the Bishop in communion with the Holy See. Such activities the Church has always deplored as tantamount to schism.

Catholics are obligated to obey the authority of Peter in liturgical and disciplinary matters, just as much as they are obligated to assent to the Church's authoritative teaching on faith and morals. The odd idea that the Pope may be contested concerning the disciplinary or liturgical decrees he has enacted would have been abhorrent to other generations of Catholics. Such "contestation" is most untraditional and is simply another form of a "New Protestantism" that has surfaced these past few years. The essence of Protestantism lies in the exercise of private judgment against the authority of the Teaching Church.

Whether it is private judgment of Scripture or private judgment exercised with respect to Tradition, the results are equally clear — namely, an essentially un-Catholic approach to religion.

(Mrs.) Dorothy Macaluso  
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Chapter, CUF  
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**Mime, Dancing At Mass?**

Editor:

Re: two stories in C-J 7-25-79:

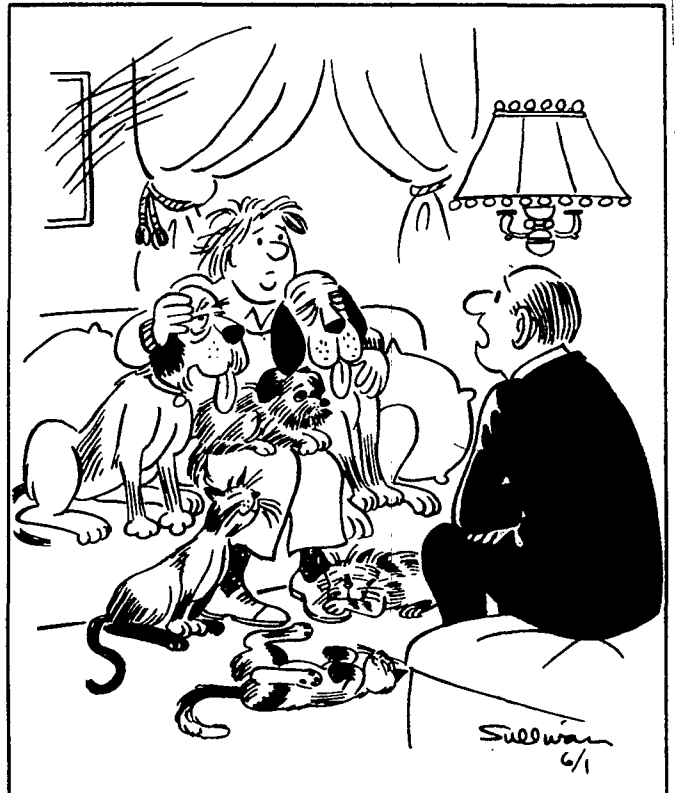
1- Fr. D. Mura studying the arts of clowning, mime, puppetry, and dancing, and the religious uses of these arts.

2- Sr. Mary Kay Ryan forming a liturgical dance group.

Can you imagine Fr. Mura and Sr. Mary Kay and her dancers all doing their own thing at the same Mass? (Oops, I mean liturgy). The entertainment potential is simply mind boggling. I would gladly pay admission, out of pure curiosity.

This concept probably would not send the television and movie people back to the drawing board; but it just might finish what Vatican II started. And that is to do away with the "Old Fashioned" Mass once and for all. Congratulations, Fr. Mura and Sr. Mary Kay!

Neil Murray  
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Rochester, N.Y. 14616



"IF YOU GIVE THEM A CHANCE, PEOPLE CAN BE NICE TOO, MR. HEMMINGS."

**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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