

**Editorials**

**Bishop McCafferty**

Bishop John E. McCafferty had known for some six months that his illness was terminal. But friends will tell you that he handled the personal crisis with the same good grace and high spirit that characterized all the days of his life on earth. A Christian, first, last and always.

Bishop McCafferty will be remembered as a witty man. As an intellectual man. As a spiritual man. He could bring the light touch to sore situations, leadership to worthwhile projects, and spiritual insight to common events.

Never one to seek the limelight, he was nevertheless an indefatigable worker in the fields of the Lord.

One can readily recall him sloshing through the slop of the 1972 Southern Tier flood, waving good-natured hope to the stricken residents. And he had an abundance of the same uplifting spirit for those working on the scene.

At a later date, a diocesan newspaperman offered an apology to Bishop McCafferty that because of alphabetical practice his name always followed that of his fellow auxiliary, Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. Perhaps the order should be reversed on occasion, the newsman thought aloud.



"Heavens, no," came the quick rejoinder. "Canonically speaking it is also correct to list Bishop Hickey first. He was ordained before me."

Canon lawyer. Southern Tier vicar. Chairman of the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission. President of the

Priests Council. Pastor. His stations reflect his service and the esteem held for him.

And only 60, his mortal star was still on the ascendancy. Just last year he administered the diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla., when the bishopric was open there. Chances were extremely high that he would have his own diocese in the near future.

But God wanted him instead. We are sure that Bishop McCafferty would want all of us who will miss him dearly to remember that.

**Help Haitians**

Time is short but fellow beings need help.

Hundreds of Haitians have been fleeing repression and poverty in their native island and are coming to Florida. A new Refugee Act will go into full effect in mid-May and thereby hangs the crux of the problem for the Haitians.

If President Carter declares them political refugees before that time they will be eligible to stay in this country and receive aid. But after the act goes into full force, the president will be unable to grant them such assistance without going through a complex consultative process which spells red tape.

In the name of simple humanity, we urge readers to write the president and urge him to take quick action in behalf of these unfortunate human beings.

**and Opinions**

**Teen Seminar Outstanding**

Editor:

Both of us recently had the fortunate experience of being staff members at one of the Teen Seminar programs at Notre Dame Retreat House. We thought it would be more than worthwhile to take a moment to mention some of our experiences, as well as to encourage juniors and seniors to participate.

Father Dave Mura told us at our first staff meeting that if we got anything out of this renewal experience, it would be a bonus, and that the program and our efforts were to be geared toward the students. As it turned out, we both had a truly beautiful experience due to the involvement, openness and love of all of the kids.

Initially, there was some apprehension and skepticism but by the end of the two days — in fact, within 24 hours — their doubts had completely

vanished. All of them, we are sure, would agree that it was one of the most, if not the most, moving and loving experiences they have ever had. That's the way we and all the staff also felt. Everyone left at the closing ceremony a changed person in many ways — ready and willing to live Christ in their lives by walking in His Light.

All of us had to think of one word to sum up the experience and our two words were "touching" and "rebirth." These were two out of almost 30 different expressions of what the attendees got out of the two days.

Parents should encourage their children to find out more about these programs through their parishes and diocesan representatives — or even call us if you would care for a "first hand" opinion from people who have been through the beauty of the experience.

Bill and Sandy Wynne  
291 Barrington St.  
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473-0614

the most charitable of any man I know. I've seen him feed the poor and the hungry. He opens his arms to little children, young adults, families, converts, the poor, misfortunate and elderly. He is a priest of love and gentleness. He is a pastor of all.

Father Leary officiated at my marriage. He has instructed my husband in the Catholic faith. He baptized him, administered to him all the sacraments of the Church, has drawn him warmly into the faith and embraced him. He also baptized our first child, establishing us as a new family in the Family of God.

I am heartbroken in saying that soon our family must leave St. Mary's as we are moving. I shall miss St. Mary's and the priest I love: my teacher, my confessor, my friend. God bless you, Father Leary.

Mary Ann Philpott  
1260 Pennsylvania Ave.  
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Human Life Amendment but they should not be afraid to remind Catholic politicians of their duty to the will of God.

Donald Peters  
17 Huff St.  
Waterloo, N.Y. 13165

**Support NFP**

Editor:

To be "pro-life" is to be committed to oppose, actively, any organization which would advocate the termination of pregnancy by means of abortion. Planned Parenthood is even willing to make it possible for a minor teenager to obtain an abortion without the consent of her parents. It is a well-known fact that Planned Parenthood is heavily funded by government programs and also benefits from the Community Chest drive. On Tuesday, April 15, McCurdy's used the Kodak Centennial celebration for the purpose of collecting donations for Planned Parenthood.

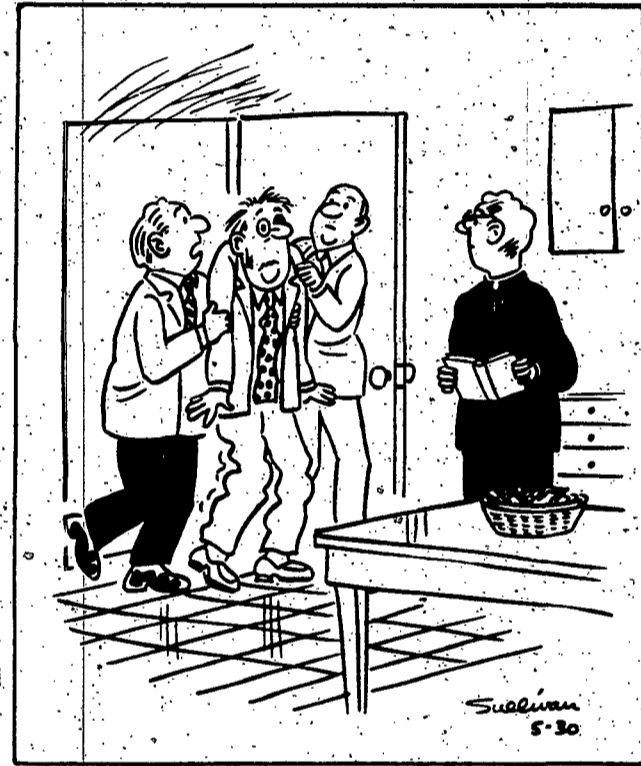
Unfortunately, the only place where complete, accurate information on Natural Family Planning, presented with moral values, is offered in our community, has been denied funds from the Community Chest (not for the first time). As Catholics, we must do everything in our power to support those organizations whose practices follow the moral teachings of our Church. We can start by supporting Natural Family Planning Education, 89 Genesee St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Mueller  
554 Garnsey Road  
Fairport, N.Y. 14450

**Rock Critics Inaccurate**

Editor:

This is in response to a quote from the Dolores Curran column of April 23. Alfred Aronowitz seems to



"HE DROPPED A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL IN THE BASKET BY MISTAKE AND HE'S STILL IN SHOCK!"

advocate destruction and prosecution of the major record companies. Gene Lees also believes that these same corporations should accept responsibility for drug-related deaths. All right, let's take this to a ludicrous extreme. Has anyone heard any rock song that even comes as close as the following ridiculous, fictional titles?

- "Strawberry Amphetamines Forever."
- "You Light Up My Joint."
- "Another Brick of Dope in the Wall."

I suggest that these former rock critics (I can see why!) listen to Jethro Tull's "Aqualung" and Kansas' "Point of Know Return" and listen to the references to the life and the purposes of the life of Christ. I admit that there is no comparison between the Bible and American Top 40, but I believe that only a minority of today's music even faintly glorifies drugs.

Along these same lines, I now refer to the letter of April titled "Let's Stop Smut Movies." I strongly concur with the author with regard to child pornography, "snuff"

movies, and such. However, "the freedom this country guarantees," would be seriously threatened if we are told in absolutes what to watch at your neighborhood theater, and from there, who knows? What we eat, wear

I don't think Satan was the founding father of the First Amendment.

Christopher Lowe  
707 W. Sayre St.  
Horseheads, N.Y.

**Literature For Missions**

Editor:

Readers may like to mail their used Catholic pamphlets and magazines directly to the foreign missions.

If those who wish to do so will please send me a self-addressed envelope, I will send the addresses of missionaries and priests and nuns who need Catholic literature.

Mary Conway  
14 Castle St.  
Cork, Ireland

**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 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, 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.

**Moving Will Miss Pastor**

Editor:

This is a letter of tribute concerning the pastor of the parish to which I belong — St. Mary's of Elmira. The pastor is Father John Leary.

I became acquainted with Father Leary at the age of three. Through the years, he has become like a father to me. He has nurtured me through the difficult moments in my life, counseled me, taught me and encouraged me.

For three summers of my teen years, I worked in the rectory, relieving his full-time secretary while she vacationed. Father Leary is

**Politicians And Abortion**

Editor:

I've read in the New York Times that John Anderson's church denomination newspaper, The Evangelical Beacon, has attacked his views in favor of abortion as not representing the will of God. We can applaud the First Evangelical Free Church for its firm conviction in support of the right to life of unborn children.

I have yet to see the Catholic Church speak out condemning Sen. Edward Kennedy; Gov. Hugh Carey, Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan; Gov. Jerry Brown or Rep. Robert Drinan (Jesuit priest) and the other "Catholic" politicians who flaunt their Catholicism while supporting abortion from their positions of power.

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