

Editorials

Abuse Upon Abuse

Ann Dargis, writing for Religion Today, makes an interesting point as to how the pro-abortion forces used anti-Catholic prejudice to make gains on the political and social front.

She quotes from Bernard N. Nathanson's book, "Aborting America," in which he declares:

"Historically, every revolution has to have its villain... There's always been one group of people in this country associated with reactionary politics, behind-the-scenes manipulations, socially backward ideas... Not just all Catholics... No, it's got to be the Catholic hierarchy. That's a small enough group to come down on, and anonymous enough so that no names ever have to be mentioned, but everybody will have a fairly good idea whom we are talking about."

Thus were the media and politicians manipulated to use latent anti-Catholic public sentiment to gain support for abortion, Nathanson writes.

For anyone who doesn't know, Nathanson, formerly the director of the world's largest abortion clinic, switched camps when he realized that he had "in fact, presided over 60,000 deaths."

"For their part," he writes, "the Catholic bishops were to play right into our hands, by their heavy-handed politicking, making abortion appear to be purely a Catholic issue rather than an interreligious one. They also weakened the credibility of the anti-abortion forces because of their unflinching opposition to the major alternatives to abortion: artificial birth control and voluntary sterilization."

Dargis quotes Father Edward M. Bryce, director of the Bishops' committee for Pro-Life Activities of

the U.S. Catholic Conference, as readily accepting the admission of Nathanson and others because "he has seen" the bigotry.

"They're saying, 'Here's the Roman Catholic Church imposing its beliefs on us and you know they're just a bunch of sexually-repressed old men,'" Bryce is quoted.

Then comes the sad but true clincher, "You'd be amazed who buys this."

Dargis says that non-Catholic pro-lifers have been keenly aware of the tactic and particularly its effect on the press.

"The press got a lot of mileage by painting the pro-life movement with the wide brush of Catholicism and presenting the Roman Catholic Church as controlling the polity," says Ann O'Donnell, vice president of the National Right to Life Committee.

And Nellie J. Gray, president of the March for Life, declared that associating the pro-life movement with Roman Catholic bishops has been a particularly effective weapon of the pro-abortion forces because the bishops have the "stigma of being a sign of dogmatic authority of celibate men telling women what to do and imposing their morality and doctrine on everyone."

In "Whatever Happened to the Human Race?," evangelicals Francis A. Schaeffer and Dr. C. Everett Koop, write, "We must indeed be glad for the Roman Catholics who have spoken out, but we must not allow the position to be minimized as though it is a 'religious' issue. It is not a religious issue."

They maintain the issue is not divided along

religious lines and has nothing to do with the separation of Church and State.

"The issue of the human religious backgrounds, and, of the unborn child is one raised happily, also by thousands who have no religion at all."

Local papers, please copy.

As Others See It

Often it is interesting and educating to read what the rest of the world thinks about problems our own country is facing. For instance, regarding the Cuban refugee situation, here are some quotes provided by World Press Review:

Mexico, Excelsior of Mexico City (moderate): The Cuban government says it has the support of the great majority. It therefore shouldn't be worried by dissent.

Colombia, El Tiempo, Bogota (liberal): We know that the exile of these Cubans will not bring down Castro. Official demonstrations in his favor are mounting and will soon bring a wave of propaganda in favor of the dictator.

Chile, El Mercurio, Santiago (conservative): The Cuban exodus will deeply change inter-American relations. The refugee problem must find a solution in the West if... the right to live in freedom exists in this part of the world.

Canada, The Gazette, Montreal (independent): The new boat people are not washing up on (Asian) shores. They are marching into the U.S. immigration office in Key West.

Ireland, Irish Times, Dublin (conservative): Unlike most dictators, Castro is at least prepared to let his people go when they don't want to stay.

and Opinions

Spirit of Christmas

Editor:

I've worked at Assumption rectory for and with Father Beatini for almost five years.

"I have never met a person with such a big heart as his. He was a very good person and a very gentle man. I loved him and he loved me (which is the same relationship he had with most people who knew him). I sure am going to miss him.

He was the "Works of Mercy" in action

it came through loud and clear.

He was the spirit of Christmas, every day of the year.

Prayer

For Hostages

Editor:

A Prayer for the hostages:

We cry to you, oh Lord / For the release of our hostages / Who are in Tehran so far away / And held captives by hateful men.

When on a sudden day, oh Lord / Our embassy was stormed by militants / Who took control of everyone / To the amazement of the World:

America, the land of brotherly love, oh Lord / Has tried all doors with open arms

/ But all her pleas to free the hostages / Were met by threats beyond belief.

We are a patient country, oh Lord / And proud of all our people / But please Lord gives us wisdom to go on / And let Iran see the grief it is causing.

When on a dreary desperate day, oh Lord / A rescue was attempted by our Nation / And eight good men lost their lives / For the compassion of their countrymen,

In these moments of unrest, oh Lord / We pray that all will stand united / Behind the leaders of this great Nation / For you Lord provide the strength we need!

Anthony Liccione
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Editor:

My Prayer to God

I knelt in adoration
I said a special prayer
I knelt there at the altar
I knew you would be there.

I knew that you were listening
I knew you really cared
I knew that you would hear me
So I offered up my prayer.

Sometimes it seems as hopeless,
We know how they must feel
We all pray for their welfare
It all seems so unreal.

They're very special people,
It's not their choice they're there

From the bottom of our hearts we ask you
Please keep them in your care.

Mrs. Raymond Manning
249 Dodge Ave.
Corning, N.Y.

Editor's Note: We appreciate reading the poems for the hostages and applaud the sentiment but for space reasons will be unable to print any further such poetry.

A Parish Priest

Editor:

About four years ago I had occasion to have Bishop John E. McCafferty come to the nursing home where I was then working. His visit was at the specific request of a family member who wanted the Sacrament of the Sick administered to a dying patient. God answered a silent prayer of mine that said, "How come we never see a bishop ministering to his people?"

It was significant to watch this priest of God take care of a dying, suffering man who was one of the founding parishioners of Sacred Heart, and probably an ordinary person as are most of us. Bishop McCafferty took the hand of that child of God and said, "This is your parish priest visiting you." The patient died that night on First Friday which is dedicated to the loving, merciful, compassionate heart of Jesus.

I felt blessed to see a true shepherd and knew the Lord had provided me with a

glimpse of a truly humble servant of His Father. The servant was a man dedicated to the Church who revered the Mary portrayed in the Scripture and who could speak, even this year, about the rights of all to human life. As a confessor, he was a special gift from God. In my experience many diocesan priests have always ministered in a practical, loving, human way that is a healing grace to us who believe that Jesus is the Healer and merciful Reconciler.

It is also an answer to a silent prayer of mine to see that our Bishop Matthew H. Clark will reside at the Cathedral, in the midst of his people, where he belongs and wants to be.

Marneen Shapley, RN
284 Thornton Rd.
Rochester, N.Y. 14617

Gratitude For Parents Of Teens

Editor:

We have recently completed a "Seminar for Parents of Teens," taught by Ron and Judy Platten of Fairport. The course was offered at our parish, Sacred Heart Cathedral, under the auspices of the parish adult education committee.

We are writing this to thank publicly Ron and Judy for their fine course, and to recommend it highly to all parents of teens and near-teens. We found it to contain the most meaningful, Christian approach to bringing up and dealing with teenagers.

Parents who are interested in where this course will be offered in the future can get in touch with Ron and Judy at 70 Matthew Drive, Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

John and Pat Young
364 Seneca Pkwy.
Rochester, N.Y. 14613

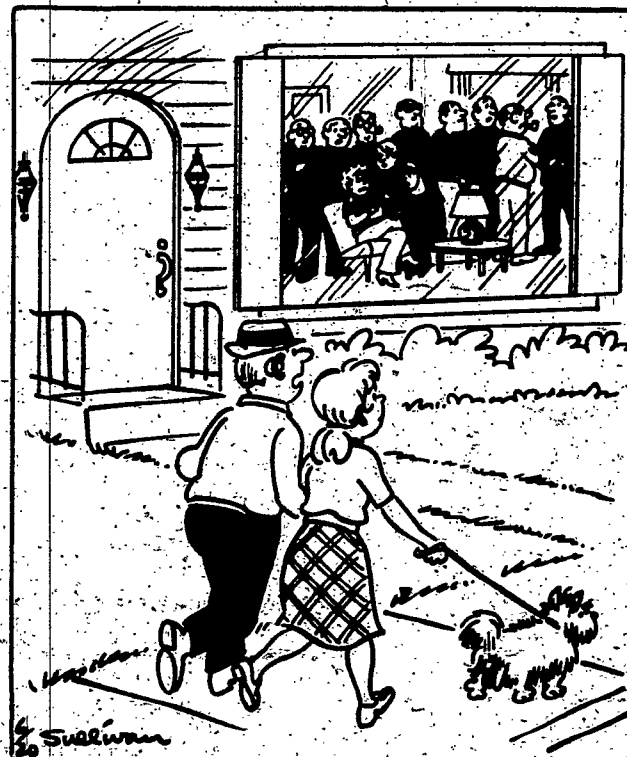
Guidelines

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, 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.



"IF THE WINFIELDS' MARRIAGE DOESN'T MAKE IT, IT WON'T BE BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE HELP."