

Editorials

TV Values

According to the National Federation for Decency, "Christian values take a real beating on prime time television."

We knew that. So also do Jewish and Moslem and Mormon or any other set of values based on God-fearing foundations. So also does simple good taste.

The decency federation bases its observation on a survey it took on how Christians and their values are depicted on television. According to Religious News Service, more than 500 volunteers in 14 states participated in the March 23-June 14 monitoring. Each attended an NFD training session to prepare for watching three hours of television on the same night

for four consecutive weeks, turning to a different network each week. Most are churchgoing people.

The volunteers were asked to tally each favorable depiction of such "Christian values" as "love and respect for God and "persons, honesty, marital fidelity, hope, faith, attitude, clean speech, kindness, faithfulness, proper perspective toward possessions, fairness, forgiveness."

Suffice it to mention that these are not exclusive Christian principles.

By sheer volume, 8,877 non-Christian values were depicted favorably during the monitoring period, and 3,610 Christian values.

NBC telecast the largest number of Christian values and the lowest number of non-Christian values. CBS was second in both categories and ABC had the largest number of non-Christian values.

Now just about everyone knows that NBC has been a consistent third in the ratings race and it would seem that its more ethical moral approach, though nothing to rave about, may be the reason. Not so, said the Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, NFD's founder and executive director.

CBS won the race for viewers last year, Mr. Wildmon noted, but during NFD's March-June monitoring period, CBS was last in sexually suggestive programming which Mr. Wildmon says, proves "you can get ratings without exploitation."

We wonder. No criticism of the NFD survey intended, but the networks and their advertisers also gauge watcher's preferences and it would seem from the resultant fare that either most viewers want the vacuous trash they are served regularly or the professionals are asking the wrong people.

and Opinions

God Bless Mothers

Editor:

Honor thy father and thy mother.

As the Assumption of the Mother of God is fast approaching it is well to meditate on motherhood. Motherhood, in the fullness of the word, is not confined to "womb-bearing"; there is also the matter of "heart-bearing" - spiritual maternity.

Spiritual Maternity is a calling to priestesshood whereby the mother intercedes for her children calling down graces upon each and every soul in her charge. She functions as a presence of the Virgin Mary: a mirror of God and godliness; a veritable Guardian Angel. And no matter what is bequeathed to her by the Divine Majesty it is still her child, a soul to unfold, to unpetal.

A mother is an amazon extending herself to preserve her brood from damnation, and thus puts herself in direct conflict with the powers of hell. By her sanctity and her efforts she becomes the crown of her children who enter Heaven; regretfully, these gifts stand to judge those who choose to remain godless. Even so, loyal to Almighty Christ, she willingly sacrifices her heart to be torn to shreds for the prodigal - her companion being the Mother of Sorrows.

This incarnate humility is a symbol of the Church, and a victim soul. When her offspring sins it is never condoned, nor does she sin on their behalf. She willingly puts herself at the disposal of her wards, and in doing so becomes an example to the world-embracing the Cross as her standard, which is idiocy in the sight of those who misappropriate the name "mother" thievingly to themselves, who are but the epitomy of selfseeking, carelessness, vice, indifference. The Divine Master is ever before her eyes; tucking "Christ" into bed at night - or laying "Christ" to eternal rest.

If not occasioned in this world, she makes herself ready to become the Holy Trinity's bride in the next, and thus bestows upon her children a new degree of divine royalty.

She is EVE-a no better name given her: Everything Very Especial.

Spiritual Maternity is not confined to biological mothers, but also to those males and females mystically espoused to the Supreme Being via a contemplative life,

or through absolute chastity. Our Divine Master learned experientially in His sacred Humanity of this maternity from His Mother, He Who "longed to gather children, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings." St. Francis saw himself as a little black hen.

St. Theresa of Avila extolled the contemplative-mother: "What does it matter if I am in Purgatory until the Day of Judgement provided a single soul should be saved through my prayer?" Holy Scripture, the virgin-mother: "Give praise, O thou barren for many are the children of the desolate, more than of her that hath a husband." (Isaiah 54:1) St. Augustine, the parent-mother in the person of his own mother, St. Monica: "(She) no less assiduous in weeping and mourning, ceased not in all her hours of prayer to lament over me before thee (O Lord)."

Cursed by God is he who angers his mother" (Ecclesiasticus 3:18) May the Almighty and his Christ bless all mothers; and Our Lady too!

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Physician Replies to Clergyman

Editor:

As a private citizen and a practicing physician, I feel compelled to comment on an article in the Syracuse Post Standard in which Rev. George H. De Hority Jr., representing 64 Presbyterian churches in the eight Finger Lakes counties has issued a statement of strong support for Taylor Brown Hospital of Waterloo in its policy of abortion.

This also gives me the opportunity to publicly commend George Souhan, who had the courage and conviction to bring to light a moral and medical blight that has infested and disrupted the fine community of Waterloo. The hospital in question has for the past few years served as a veritable abattoir for defenseless unborn babes. Finally, in protest, four members of the hospital board rightfully resigned, refusing to go along with the "alleged wholesale abortions" that have attracted women from 29 counties and several other states.

As to Rev. De Hority's defense of Taylor Brown, it has to be a strange and sad commentary that one of God's own emissaries arbitrarily justifies the right of a

woman not only freedom of choice but freedom of conscience to terminate a pregnancy - to destroy another human being - her very own flesh and blood. I would refer the Reverend to the Old Testament and the Book of Genesis that God and God alone created man and woman and to His own image. To deliberately interrupt that sacred miracle without just medical cause has to be in direct defiance of the divine author of all life.

Furthermore, our Declaration of Independence unequivocally proclaims, "We hold these truths to be selfevident, that all men are created equal." Please not, Reverend, that the word is "created" and not born. It has to logically follow that life must be protected in all stages and that the lives of the defenseless must be defended as an "inalienable right" granted by the Constitution. Another important point often overlooked is the fact that when even one fetus is aborted, future generations are denied to posterity ad infinitum.

Concerning the religious affiliations of "ardent abortionists" that the Reverend seems so concerned about:

Last year Senator John Garn, a Mormon, introduced a human life amendment in the U.S. Senate. Immediately there were 17 other senators that joined him as co-sponsors of the bill. The breakdown was: three Mormons, five Baptists, one Lutheran, two Episcopalians, one Jew, and three Catholics. Rather an impressive list which dramatically points out that concern for life has a truly broad ecumenical base.

Rev. De Hority claims "to be very distressed by the intense emotion and polarizing on this issue and that religious dogmas and bodies are attempting to be forced on all women in the community."

Really, the Reverend above all should know that abortion is not only a religious or dogmatic issue but a moral one. Also, is he saying that persons of conscience do not have freedom of choice to speak out; that they should be complacent and acquiescent in the face of indiscriminate bloodletting? Such a continued sordid situation can only serve to further erode the spiritual strength of the entire community along with its self respect and self esteem.

And one has to wonder who is coercing whom and who is forcing their thinking upon whom. The tragic fact is that in 1979, 50,000 medicated abortions were performed in the state at the staggering cost of \$22 million, which is borne by many, many taxpayers who strongly resent sub-

siding the Slaughter of the Innocents.

Finally, the immortal words of that renowned medical missionary and Nobel Prize winner, Dr. Albert Schweitzer:

"If a man loses reverence for any part of life, he will lose reverence for all life."

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Disappointed With Party

Editor:

I am highly discontented with my Democratic party which for two successive conventions supports and abets the crime of abortion, an abomination before God. Abortion is the most insulting slap at God by unthinking or ungrateful people who attack the most innocent and defenseless of all, the developing unborn. The crime is more gravely compounded by the so-called "pro-choice" people acting as though they KNOW fetal life is not already "in the image and likeness of God." (Genesis 1:26). In short, willingness to abort means at least a willingness to dare THE RISK of murder. Since God is supremely in charge of life's beginnings, our daring to intervene is the ultimate expression of arrogance to God Who is good. One need not be a biblical scholar to observe that God is also a disciplinarian Who will justly discipline our nation if we continue in this arrogance.

We are being misled by powerful people in the Democratic party and organizations like Planned Parenthood who insult us with their deceptively incomplete slogans like "freedom of choice." They simply slide over the crucial difference between "power to choose" and "right to choose" between good and evil deeds. All RIGHTS come from God and He does not contradict Himself.

The Bible also teaches that if we INSIST on sinning on even one small point, we offend God no matter what else we do, and we should not expect His cooperation so freely. I am deeply disappointed with my party which waves the banner of not a small offense to God but the banner of the ultimate offense to God. I am becoming less sure that these people will have the blessings of wisdom and prudence required to address our other serious problems, including proper assistance to the poor and oppressed minorities. The abortion plank must come out, and I have asked the party to take it out and

"SHOW "In God we trust." If it remains, I urge all to think long and hard about voting for them in November.

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If Everyone Were Catholic

Editor:

What a beautiful, wonderful place our world would be if everyone was a practicing Catholic. Holy Mother Church emphasizes the sacredness of life and the dignity of the human person in a very wonderful way.

From the moment of conception to the moment of death we are all considered God's children. There are sacraments to help us all throughout life: baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation. Then there is marriage which is a sacrament and sex considered sacred and not to be tampered with. Each child born is considered a gift of God.

When we are seriously ill there is the extremely beautiful and comforting sacrament of the sick.

And when we finally come to the end of our life there is the funeral Mass where the body is considered the temple of the Holy Spirit and is treated with great dignity and respect.

If everyone were Catholic and lived it, we would find the world a wonderful place to live in - almost a second Eden.

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Father Calvo Disputed

Editor:

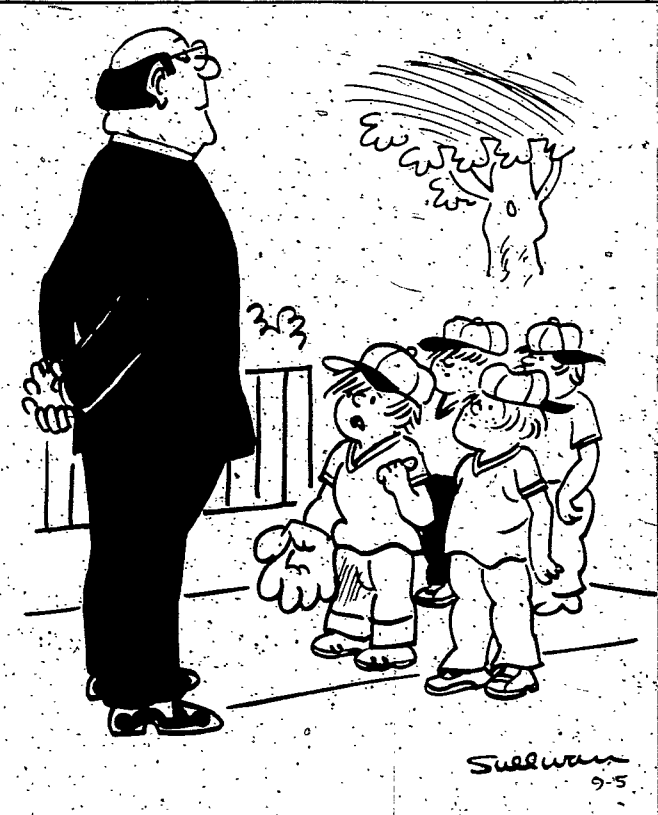
In a recent issue of the Courier-Journal (July 30), it was stated in an article on Marriage Encounter that the ME movement has lost its family aspect. It was implied that our children were pushed into the background and more or less forgotten. How can this be! If an encountered couple live the weekend in their daily lives, the love they have for one another will directly affect their children. This family is a living example of that fact.

We are a team couple for Marriage Encounter so as a result, we are away from home frequently for meetings, ME weekends and the like. When we leave, our son (age 4) is told that we are going to "help other mommies and daddies learn to love their children like we do." He bubbles with excitement and enthusiasm for the other children whom will soon know the love he has. When he spots an encounter sticker on another car, he quickly responds with "boy, their smart because they are encountered like we are. Their kids are lucky, just like me!"

What is the saying? The spirit is caught better than taught? Yes, it is!

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Editor's Note: Readers Atkachonis refer to a report on a speech in Ithaca by Father Gabriel Calvo, the founder of Marriage Encounter, who said that ME widens the gap between parents and children.



"HE WON'T BELIEVE US, TELL HIM THAT THOU SHALT NOT STEAL DOESN'T APPLY TO SECOND BASE."