

Fr. Contegiacomo Notes 60th Jubilee

Parishioners at Most Precious Blood Church will celebrate the 60th anniversary of ordination of Father Sebastian Contegiacomo, CPPS, on Sunday Nov. 2.

The festivities include a Mass of Thanksgiving at 10:30 a.m. and a social hour following the Mass.

Father Contegiacomo, a member of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood, was born in Putignano, Bari, Italy in 1896. He was ordained in Rome on Nov. 1, 1920.



FR. CONTEGIACOMO

He served various parishes in Italy before taking an assignment in the U.S. as assistant pastor of Precious Blood Church in 1930. He was named pastor of the

parish in 1937. He held that position until his retirement for health in 1974. He remains active in parish events.

The Issues

By Father James E. Hewes
Chairman, Diocesan Human Life Commission

The administrative board of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops has provided us with some guidelines concerning the upcoming election. They have reminded us there is a whole range of important issues when deciding on a candidate for political office. They are saying that it is not enough to be against abortion without also being for life on other issues. It is not enough to be against abortion, in order to get a child into the world, then have him die slowly through hunger or poverty or disease. There are ways of aborting people after birth as well as before birth.

Yet abortion is still the single most important issue of our lifetime. There have been more than 8 million abortion deaths in our country since the Supreme Court decision. The United Nations estimates that there were between 35 million and 50 million innocent, pre-born children killed last year. These deaths, along with the physical and psychological suffering to women, makes abortion the greatest priority for us when making our decision to vote.

I know many good people disagree with this approach, yet prioritizing one issue is not wrong, provided that the issue is of importance. A German Jew during the 1930s would have voted against a Nazi candidate no matter what his position was on other programs. He might, for instance, have positive approaches to the elderly, unemployment, yet his one position on Jews would disqualify him. If one was a black leader during the 1960s, the candidate's views on racial justice would be the most important issue for the election. During the Vietnam tragedy many people (some of whom are now the most outspoken against single issue voting) were convinced that the issue of peace made every other issue trivial.

And though abortion, in my belief, is the single most important issue, if a candidate is against abortion, that doesn't mean he or she is off the hook concerning other issues. They should be constantly challenged to bring their voting to be truly for life on all issues. The person who is against abortion but for the death penalty or increased military spending or for cutting social programs (and other such positions) is certainly not a pro-life candidate. He may be for life in one area but we have to ask if it is because of real reverence and consistent commitment to life or because of political expedience. We can't get misled into following the wave of conservative politics that is so often anti-life in most positions except abortion. We must as Catholics be committed to be truly pro-life across the board on every issue, and expect no less commitment from our political candidates.

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Human Rights. Family. Social Security.



They are all part of the Democratic heritage. That's the tradition that Ronald Reagan opposed in 1960 when he worked for Nixon and against John F. Kennedy. And it's the tradition he's out to beat today in his campaign against Democrat Jimmy Carter.

President Carter knows that families are the building blocks of neighborhoods. And that neighborhoods are the building blocks of our cities.

That's why he called the White House Conference on Families. Why he created an Office of Families. And fought to get a tax break for family members that provide child care.

Under this Democratic Administration, increased aid to the cities has meant

support for our neighborhoods. More mortgage money. Sensitivity to our cultural heritage. Help for our neighborhood groups. And concern for our elderly.

President Carter has set up an Office of Non-Public Education, and appointed Edward D'Allesio, formerly with the U.S. Catholic Conference, as its first director. For the first time, the U.S. Civil Rights Commission is investigating ethnic and religious discrimination.

Under the leadership of Secretary of State Ed Muskie, human rights has become a centerpiece of America's policy toward Eastern Europe and the world.

This year, let's vote for the tradition that made America great.

Let's Re-Elect President Carter.



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