

Madison Avenue Enlisted in Handgun Debate

By Robin Gallaher

Washington (RNS) — Handgun Control Inc. has been running full-page ads recently in major dailies urging people to mail a coupon to their congressman saying they favor national control of handguns.

The emotive ad says the president was shot on "an average kind of day." Then it lists other people that day in San Diego, Philadelphia and Hasville who weren't so lucky: they died.

Fifty Americans are killed each day by handguns, the ad says, ending with the plea: "Please care. In the name of God, please care."

The ad ran on Easter Sunday in The Washington Post. A couple of Sundays earlier it appeared in The New York Times. From that ad alone, the small Washington-based lobby has gleaned more than 12 bags of mail — as much as comes in all year, said Charles J. Orasin, a spokesman.

A kindred group, the National Coalition to Ban Handguns, had a Time magazine ad that said, "You could be next." The coalition, backed by Jewish and most Protestant groups, except Baptists, takes a tougher stand

on the issue than does Handgun Control. It wants them outlawed.

On the other side of the gun control street are those who see the loophole-filled controls already on the books as too restrictive. One of these is John M. Snyder, executive director of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Bear Arms. Along with the National Rifle Association, he's gearing up for what promises to be a massive lobbying effort to repeal the 1968 Gun Control Act.

This issue is as old as America and the Second Amendment to the Constitution, which says: "A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed."

While Orasin interprets this as applying only to the establishment of the militia, Snyder's view is that "the right to keep and bear arms is one of the principal individual rights, and the history of the times indicates this was the intent when it was written."

So far it's the old fight. However, what makes this year a bit different is that Orasin's group is going through its 150,000 letters and computerizing them by congressional districts.

It's preparing a hit list.

"What we've done in a few weeks has taken the NRA 100 years," he said, somewhat jubilantly.

The hit list will record the names of senators and congressmen who vote to ease the 1968 Gun Control Act restrictions, and those voting against the Handgun Crime Control Bill introduced recently by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Peter W. Rodino Jr. (D-N.J.). This bill, if passed, would stop the manufacture, sale and transfer of the Saturday Night Special, the kind of cheap handgun used to shoot the president.

After launching a direct mail campaign to get money — and Orasin thinks \$500,000 is reasonable — congressional targets vulnerable in the 1982 elections will be selected from the list.

"I think if a congressman sees we're prepared to spend \$10,000 in his district against him, he'll think twice," Orasin said.

He hopes the message will be loud and clear. "If you don't do something about handgun control, we're coming after you."

And something must be done about the violence in America, agreed Orasin and Michael beard, the coalition's executive director. They cite the national infamy of the United States being the only Western country without controls. Canada had 52 handgun murders last year;



Great Britain, 55; Japan, 48; and the United States had in excess of 10,000, Orasin said.

"The bottom line of gun control is it saves lives," he said. "All we want to do is make it more difficult to kill another."

Mr. Beard sees the Kennedy-Rodino Bill as "one small step in trying to solve the problem." He doubts it will pass. "It won't unless people get extremely upset and flood Congress with the kind of mail the NRA is sure to come up with. The gun owners are sure to express outrage."

The bill, which Handgun Control helped draft, would require a person buying a handgun to be thoroughly checked out by the police and FBI; he would have to wait 21 days to pick it up; someone using a handgun in a commission of a federal crime would receive a mandatory sentence. Left up to the states is the option of deciding whether those who already own handguns would have to have a license.

What Snyder said he found "particularly onerous" would be the elimination of the handgun. "Kennedy says he's the champion of the common man, but he's doing this out of common arrogance. He's denying thousands of people protection. He's discriminating against poor people."

Saturday Night Specials sell from \$25 to \$150.

Snyder says he knows Congress won't give serious consideration to the bill. "This one has more pro-gun people in it than any other. Over half the registered voters own guns. The politicians are getting the messages that the people want guns. Our president ran on the most pro-gun platform ever adopted and his wife wanted to bring a little pistol to Washington.

He's working hard to repeal the 1968 Gun Control Act, or at least "to eliminate some of the more onerous provisions." For example, he thinks citizens should be able to buy a gun in any state, not just the one in which they live.

Saints Give Us Models of Life

As the Holy Father convalesces, the following has been excerpted from his address given on the occasion of declaring Don Luigi Orione, Sister Mary Anne Sala and Bartolo Longo blessed, Oct. 26, 1980.

Beloved in Christ!

Today the Church proposes for our meditation and our imitation a priest, a sister, and a layman: this coincidence of the



three states of life is really significant! It can be said that it is an admonition and encouragement to all classes that form the people of God, that constitute the Church on her pilgrim way to heaven: we are all called to holiness; there are the necessary and sufficient graces for all; no one is excluded. As the Second Vatican Council stressed: "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fullness of Christian life and to the perfection of love... The forms and tasks of life are many, but holiness is one — that sanctity which is cultivated by all who act under God's Spirit and, obeying the Father's voice and adoring God the Father in spirit and in truth, following Christ, poor, humble and cross bearing that they may deserve to be partakers of his glory." And again: "Therefore all the faithful are invited and obliged to holiness and the perfection of their own state of life."

Don Orione, Sister Mary Anne and Bartolo Longo, reminding us of this fundamental doctrine, give us a lesson of supreme importance: the necessity of our own sanctification, pursued with earnestness, sincerity, humility and steadfastness: "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness!" Jesus admonished.

The most insidious and ever recurrent temptation is to want to change society by transforming only the external structures; to want to make man happy on earth, satisfying only his needs and desires. The new Blessed to whom we pray today tell everyone, priests, religious and laity, that the first and most important commitment is to change oneself, to sanctify oneself, in imitation of Christ, in methodical and persevering daily asceticism: the rest will follow.

We raise our prayer confidently to the new Blessed, who have already reached the eternal joy of heaven: Don Luigi Orione, Sister Mary Anne Sala, Bartolo Longo, intercede for the Church, which you loved so much!

Help us, enlighten us, accompany us on our way, always forward, with Mary!

Extend your glance and your love to the whole of mankind, in need of certainty and salvation!

And await us in the glory of heaven, which you already possess!

Festival Planned

Ithaca — The Immaculate Conception Parish Festival will be Saturday, June 6, and Sunday, June 7, on the school grounds.

Many booths will be available, including a bake sale, a White Elephant sale featuring items donated by parishioners, and crafts made by parishioners during the past several months. They include afghans, lap robes and other knitted items.

A pancake breakfast on Sunday morning from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. will open the events that day. Tickets are \$2.50 for adults and \$1.25 for children 5-12. Those under 5 are free.

FOCUS ON EUCHARIST

St. Boniface Church, 330 Gregory St., will be the site of a Eucharistic celebration at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 4. Mass will be celebrated by Father Ronald Antinarelli. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will follow Mass. All those interested in attending are welcome.

Palmer Seafood

SINCE 1850 *Fish 'N'*
Spring Seafood Specials



Fresh Crabmeat Stuffed Filet of Sole Only \$2.99 lb.

Prepared fresh daily at each store. Fresh genuine sole filet rolled and stuffed with delicious crabmeat stuffing. Complete with suggested cooking instructions. Offer good through Saturday, 6/6/81.



Fresh Monk Fish Filet Only \$2.69 lb.

Loyster like taste and texture. Excellent baked or broiled. Delivered fresh daily. Offer good through Saturday, 6/6/81.



Palmer's New England Style Clam Chowder Only 79¢ Per Pint

Just heat and serve. Prepared fresh by our chef, John. An excellent addition to your next meal. Offer good through Saturday, 6/6/81.

Five Palmer Locations to Better Serve You

Genesee Regional Market • 900 Jefferson Road • 424-3210
Downtown • 141 State St. opp. Andrews • 546-6180
Perinton Hills Mall • Routes 31 & 250 • 223-5000
Westmar Plaza • 2150 Buffalo Rd. inside Bells • 247-3252
Goodman Plaza • 826 N. Goodman St. inside Bells • 482-8045