

# Abortion Politics Forum Subject

The politics of abortion has raised an important question which will be discussed at a forum planned by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild at 8 p.m., Monday, Nov. 23, at the Academy of Medicine, 1441 East Ave., Rochester.

May religion get involved in abortion politics, or does the constitutional separation

of church and state prohibit such activity?

Discussing this will be a panel of experts consisting of Larry Beaupre, editor of the Times-Union, whose paper has taken an editorial position on the topic; Father Francis P. Canavan, SJ, former associate editor of America magazine, and local lawyers

John B. McCrory and Alfred P. Kremer.

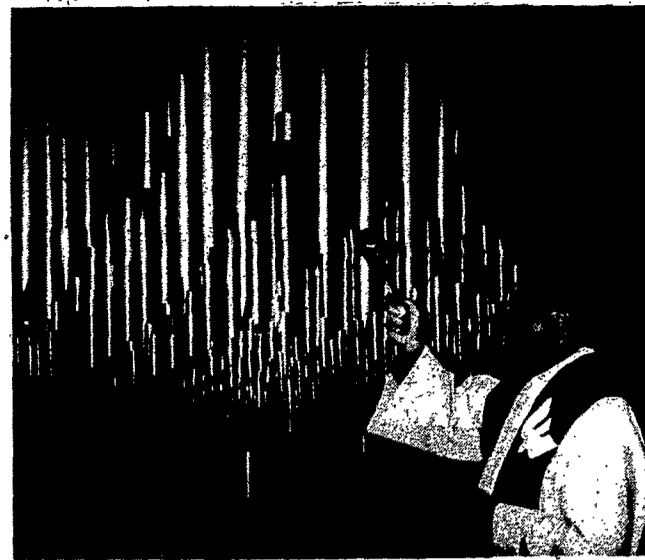
A Gannett Newspapers editorial, as well as the stand of the New York Times, suggested in September 1980 that election campaign involvement of Boston's Cardinal Medeiros from the pulpit was improper. Cardinal Medeiros had issued a letter to his archdiocese a few days before the 1980 Democratic party primary in which he said, "Those who make abortion possible by law cannot separate themselves from the guilt which accompanies this horrendous crime and deadly sin." He stressed that this is true not only of legislators but of those who elect them.

Mormon Church and other religious denominations actively support legislation to protect what they perceive to be the God-given right to live to the unborn. However, other denominations actively support retention of the abortion-on-demand laws which they perceive as necessary choice.

William P. Polito, president of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild, said, "We welcome the opportunity to provide open and full discussion on issues which will likely recur in future elections. We are fortunate to have such a high quality panel."

The forum is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

The Catholic Church, the



## Dedication Rites

Father Gennaro Ventura, pastor, casts holy water during dedication ceremonies for Holy Ghost Church's new organ Sunday. The 982-pipe instrument was played during the rites by Jonathan Wright, choir director at Holy Ghost since 1980. Music played included works by Buxtehude, Bach, and Mendelssohn.

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

## What is Your Catholic Identity?

We Catholics are part of a highly organized Church which has formulated a great mass of teaching on a variety of subjects. We tend to think that when two of us say, "I am a Catholic," we are proclaiming a common religious identity.

Certainly that statement does define a body of shared convictions and commitments, but we too rarely recognize those elements of our own lives which personalize our own religious experience.

Let me offer a series of questions which might help you think about your own religious, Catholic identity:

What experience of your life gave you your personal awareness of God? Is it a conviction you accepted from parents, early teachers? Is it primarily an intellectual judgment about truth? Has this conviction, this affirmation, ever become a personal experience through your prayer, through your recognition of God's presence in special moments or patterns of your life?

What influences shaped your image of God? Did they come from teachers and priests who were urging you to frequent, complete confession? Was it heavily influenced by people who were warning you about all the ways you could fall into sin?

Looking back over your life, can you recognize moments which shaped or altered your religious attitudes? It might have been the death of a parent or grandparent, the birth of your first child, the experience of pain or failure in a relationship or in a career. It might have been an association with someone whose faith was powerfully evident and attractive.

What were these influences in your life? How did they affect your personal religious perspectives?

When you think about the images of God proclaimed in scripture, which one is dominant in your own faith? Is it the God of the final judgment separating the saved from the lost? Is it the God portrayed as the forgiving father of the son who wasted his inheritance in

high living? Is it the God made present in pillars of fire and burning bushes or the God revealed in the young teacher who blasted the religious leaders, and was compassionate to the woman taken in adultery?

All of these images are in our mind and all of them are part of revelation, but which one seems closest to your own image of God?

Looking into your own religious feelings and attitudes, what do you think God is asking of you as a Christian? Is it a basic fidelity in avoiding serious moral failures, in fulfilling your personal obligations? Do you feel that God is still summoning you to new, positive actions and choices which go beyond fidelity to the commandments?

How do you think of the Church? Do you regard it primarily as an instrument for saving souls? For the preservation of orthodox teaching? If you had to make a choice, would you think of the Church you know as being more like a family or more like an army?

When you pray, is it largely a matter of paying God the respect and worship which is his due? Do you find yourself talking to God about the concerns and problems of your life and the needs of those you love?

Have you ever been convinced that God has responded directly to your prayer, not in a vision or in a low voice from a Charlton Heston movie, but in insights, thoughts, convictions which you know are more than your own reflections?

How do you react to religious uncertainty? Were you very disturbed by changes in Church teaching and practice? Did you feel that somehow your trust was betrayed or did you find it encouraging that the Church is struggling to be more open, more faithful to God's call?

I don't suggest that all these questions can yield either-or answers, right or wrong choices. But I think they can help us to explore and understand our own faith more clearly. They might clarify the sources of attitudes which need modification.

Most of all, I hope they might be occasions for quiet reflection which will allow God to be more clearly present to you.

## Feis Group to Note Penrose Anniversary

On the occasion of its 10th annual dance, the Rochester Feis Committee will honor Desmond Penrose's 25th anniversary as a teacher of Irish dancing in the area.

In addition, he will be cited for his continued dedication to promoting Irish culture, according to Mary Ann Krause.

Penrose and his students are preparing to compete in the North American championships over the Thanksgiving weekend in New York City.

Friends and former students of the school have been invited to attend the Feis dance. Reservations are made



PENROSE

by calling Neil Daly, 663-8766; Mary Lou Neary, 663-7276; B. Connally, 392-5791.

## Religion Education 'Pros' Step Up Activities

The Association of Religious Educators (ARE), diocesan professionals who are responsible for religious education at the parish level, has been stepping up its pace of late.

The ARE has been meeting monthly, with the next conference scheduled for Friday, Nov. 20, at the Church of the Resurrection in Fairport. Sister Barbara Moore will address the group on the Need for Team Ministry.

Speakers also highlighted the previous two meetings. In October, Dr. Angela Palmieri discussed working with volunteers, touching on motivation and retention.

Back in September, Eileen Slagis, RE coordinator at St. Joseph's in Penfield, presented practical ideas on how revisions can be made in parish programs to ensure a

## Genevan To Study In Belgium

John D. Dolan of Geneva has been awarded a scholarship to Leuven University in Louvain, Belgium, as part of the Cornell University Exchange Program.

Dolan holds a BA in math and economics from Vassar College and has been studying at Cornell University for the past year. He is expected to receive his Master's in business administration from Leuven in June 1982.

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