

Editorials

Condom Disco... You Paid for It!

Isn't just about everyone weary of Planned Parenthood shenanigans? This pro-abortion agency, which has used anti-Catholic bias to further its ends, has hit a new low.

It sponsored the National Condom Week Rubber Disco recently in Washington, D.C. The affair was festooned with multicolored condoms and featured a condom-blowing contest with a \$35 prize.

If that isn't enough to scrape your sensitivities, then ponder the fact that PP gets a big slice of your federal tax money and uses it to pay for condom discos as well as anti-Catholic literature.

Consider the kind of mind that would conjure up a "condom disco" and obviously hope it will appeal to young people.

Planned Parenthood promotes birth control, including abortion, with the professed aim of improving the quality of life! What would an organization which involves itself in condom-blowing know about quality?

Richard Schweiker, secretary of Health and Human Services, termed the disco an "outrageously crude" waste of tax money.

Those individuals who promoted the affair figuratively scratched their heads in response, taking a "what did we do wrong?" attitude.

Anyone offended by such characters and such no-class charades should write his or her congressmen and demand the cutoff of federal funds for Planned Parenthood. To do less will amount to condoning such travesties as condom parties for children.

Growth

This week the Church of Rochester is blossoming forth much in the spirit of Spring itself.

In one short April span, the diocese is being blessed not only with a new priest but also with its first crop of fully ordained permanent deacons, 24 in all. Added to this, the Sisters of Mercy have announced a final and a first profession.

While the new deacons probably represent the freshest innovation for the diocese, our priest-ordinand also bears the sign of uniqueness — he is our first deaf priest.

One week does not a trend make, but such upbeat activity should be balm to those who worry about the future of the Church. It should also be positive antidote for all those who tend to dwell more on the Church's problems than on her successes.

and Opinions

Aquinas Thought: Change Is Good

Editor:

After reading John B. Huber's letter, C.J., April 7, I must also say that there is a lump in my throat and a strange feeling in the pit of my stomach. The lump is caused, though, by laughter, and the strange feeling in my stomach is caused by a mild case of nausea by the sentiments expressed.

Since Mr. Huber deemed it important to express his feelings in a public forum, he should be prepared for both positive and negative reactions.

There are a number of fallacies in his letter. To say that the all-male tradition has been "deemed worthless" by including girls is a judgment that he has no right to make. As for his statement that "it doesn't seem that things will go back to normal after four years," I can only say that "normal" is an objective state.

His main thrust, that all-male (or all-girl) classes were more valuable to the teachers because they could get more done (boys were not trying to impress girls and vice versa) is ridiculous. I also went to Aquinas and I can attest that boys also try to impress boys and I suspect the same is true with girls.

The action that the board took in inviting the girls of St.

Agnes to attend Aquinas, in my opinion, not only is financial sanity, but also embodies the Gospel message. I refer Mr. Huber to Matthes 25:31-46.

In regard to Nazareth, Mr. Huber shows that he has not yet broken out of the stereotyped, sexist image, which I believe was not only fostered but even encouraged by his attendance at an all-male school. To say that the cheerleaders were betrayed by admitting the St. Agnes girls is a little overblown. Why don't some of the men of Aquinas get off their bleachers and help lead the cheers?

Finally, it has been my experience that most people are afraid of change because it forces them to grow. Traditions are only important when they have some constructive purpose (i.e., teaching the young of a culture). The "tradition" of the all-male Aquinas is only a little over 50 years old. No doubt this looks like a long time to Mr. Huber, but I hardly think he will be thought of as a tradition when he is 50.

Mr. Huber did make one correct statement. He is right, things will never be the same. Things never are.

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NFP Acceptable Birth Control

Editor:

We read with interest your interview with Father O'Malley and found it most enjoyable. However, his non-committal silence on birth control (consistent with many of the clergy in the diocese) brings us to write this letter. We would like to inform interested married couples, aware of their procreative potential, what the Church teaches relative to birth control, contraceptives and natural family planning.

Follow are excerpts from "The Teaching of Christ, a Catholic Catechism for Adults"

"Marriage is to be a fully human thus Christian response to the call to foster a special kind of friendship, one open to the responsible transmission of life. Since friendship and life come into question in every sexual act, there should be a fully human response to them, not only in marriage as an institution and in each marriage as an institution and in each marriage as a whole, but also in each marital act of sexual intercourse.

"The Second Vatican Council, following in the Christian tradition, instructed: "Sons and daughters of the Church ... may not undertake methods of regulating procreation which are found blameworthy by the teaching authority of the Church in its unfolding of divine law.

"Excluded from Christian behavior, then, will be all acts that are performed with the purpose of directly preventing conception. Similarly excluded will be all forms of direct sterilization for this purpose.

"The good of procreation clearly does not demand of a married couple that they have as many children as possible. In considering how many children to have, and when to have them, husband and wife will thoughtfully take into account their own welfare and that of their children, those already born and those which may be foreseen."

But in putting this judgment into effect, the couple is not to act arbitrarily, but must follow right principles. When a husband and wife have good reason not to

procreate, they may adopt a policy which has two elements. First, they may abstain from sexual intercourse at times when conception is more likely to occur; by this abstention they do not act against the good of procreation. Second, they may engage in intercourse at other times of their choice, to express the faithfulness and experience the joy of their married love.

Provided it is not the expression of a wrong attitude toward the good of procreation, the practice of periodic abstinence to regulate human birth not only is completely right and reasonable, but also can have a real value of its own. Such natural family planning can avoid procreation which would be irresponsible. Moreover, it can give the relationship of man and wife a more humanly loving character, foster their consideration for one another, and help them to avoid excessive self-love which would profane their love for each other.

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'Daily Word' Inspiring

Editor:

This is in response to a letter by Mrs. Louise Aman concerning "Daily Word" in your April 7 issue.

I have read this tiny gem of a publication for many years, finding its positive emphasis on God power and life, in and through Christ Jesus' saving, healing, renewing presence in us a keen inspiration. It has served to stimulate and deepen my spiritual growth in a profound way. Because some (a worldwide membership of one million) read "Daily Word," it does not mean that all are accepting and adhering to everything Unity teaches. I am personally opposed to some of its teachings. But we are also aware of gross errors rampant in the Catholic Church over the centuries. Is it possible that Unity is doing a service for the Lord in areas sadly neglected by the Roman Catholic Church?

It is important to point out and to speak up against diabolical evil that is subtly, insidiously spreading through our modern culture. However, let us also recognize sincere goodness, thanking God, giving credit to whomever.



whenever a positive and wholesome approach to Godly living is propounded. The movement to condemn cults may be a good one, but consider that, by definition, the Catholic Church is guilty of the greatest cult, Marian devotion.

If we look for the devil in any person, place, or thing, we will find him there. Rather let us seek the Lord in all that surrounds us. We will indeed behold the beauty and goodness of God in all. We find what we look for. Reading that one person considers "sugar-coated heresy of the worst kind" may be perceived as the sweetness of the Lord by another.

Just for the record, I cherish my Roman Catholic heritage. My greatest source of spiritual nourishment is in the Eucharist at daily Mass. I am devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who is my dearest friend, confidant and potent prayer partner. I am irresistibly drawn to the rosary, a prayer mystery that intrigues the scholarly as well as the simple unlearned. Daily reading of Sacred Scripture is a hallowed time for me in which I reflect upon and treasure the living Word in my heart. Most importantly, Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, my Master and Teacher, my Beloved.

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El Salvador Alternatives

Editor:

John Starkweather has

grossly oversimplified the stand of the U.S. bishops. The either/or choice is a false dilemma. Neither the government nor the rebels represent the people of El Salvador. There are other viable alternatives.

El Salvador, Nicaragua and Vietnam were all made worse by the U.S.A. walking into a situation we did not understand and using a military "solution." Communism feeds on people who are so desperate to get out of the vicious circle of repressive government, enslaving poverty and minimal self-determination that they'll join any "liberating" movement. But once again our national leaders want to make the world safe for democracy by using military might instead of addressing the underlying problems that communism feeds on. When will they learn that communism cannot be defeated militarily?

I am increasingly pessimistic about politicians who have not lived in Latin America, who have no functional command of the Spanish language, who have not served in an organization like Peace Corps, but who make Latin American policy decisions that are supposed to represent the best interests of my country and the hemisphere. I trust the bishops more.

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NO BIG PROBLEM WITH THIS GUY. TAKE AWAY HIS STRESS TABLETS AND YOU'VE GOT HIM.