

More Opinions

**Editorial
Barbaric
EDITOR:**

The Times Union opinion (April 21) that handicapped newborn babies should be allowed to die without government protection until a better solution is found is outrageous and barbaric. "Until then (a legislative solution), the decision to let an infant with severe birth defects live or die should be left to parents and physicians."

In the Indiana Baby Doe case cited in the editorial, a simple minor operation on the esophagus to allow food to pass into the intestines would have saved the baby's life. The operation was intentionally not performed, and no intravenous food was given, so that the helpless child died after four long and agonizing days. There is absolutely no question that if the same baby did not have Down's Syndrome, a form of mental retardation, the minor operation would have been immediately performed.

They disapproved that the Reagan administration responded to that case by issuing a regulation requiring that "customary" medical care be given to all babies, even those with Down's Syndrome.

The tragedy of birth defects deepens, not because of disclosure of possible abuses in medical treatment, as they suggest, but rather, because the sanctity of each human life has diminished in value. That deterioration is reflected in the willingness of some of the medical profession to depart from the Hippocratic oath (the original version) by accepting killing for profit as an acceptable option of treatment, the willingness of parents to be compromised in allowing the intentional destruction of their handicapped children to avoid inconvenience and expense, the unwillingness of newspapers to defend those innocent lives and the further outrageous use of the great power of the press to intimidate responsible legislative processes of government seeking to obtain disclosure and correction of such abuses in medical treatment. Margaret M. Heckler, the secretary of health and human services, should be supported by the public when she affirms the traditional roll of government in protecting its most innocent victims by stating: "This administration remains determined to protect the lives of handicapped infants and to assure them their equal right to be given appropriate medical care and nourishment" (April 15, 1983 Democrat and Chronicle).

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**Peace
And Justice?**

EDITOR:

It's very nice to hop on the popular bandwagon of world peace and justice. It's wonderful to see that the Church is concerned with this issue but few of us are placed in a position to do anything worthwhile. It's very easy to look to a cause or to a group rather than looking inside our own hearts. Perhaps we should begin to apply peace and justice to our own lives.

Do we love Jesus and are we following Him? Do we love our neighbors? And do we love our enemies? We must look at ourselves, our hearts, and realize that we are all sinners and that Jesus died on the cross for us personally and God has forgiven us. This is the message of the gospels and we were commanded by Jesus to proclaim this message. Read the gospels with an open heart and mind and see for yourselves. Jesus is alive and well! This is the Good News! Are we willing to tell the Good News? And just as important, are we willing to live it? God works in our hearts first and the gospel message brings PEACE in our hearts through Jesus. If we do not have this PEACE (the PEACE OF CHRIST) then we should cry out to God for help. When we accept and receive this beautiful gift of Jesus into our hearts then we will have God's PEACE, which is not the peace of this world. God's PEACE enables us to do our part in promoting justice.

How do we treat the individuals that God has placed into our hands? Are we willing to care? Are we willing to express our love of our Blessed Trinity by loving and reaching out to our own families, our parish families, our neighbors and our enemies? God's PEACE is not an issue, it's REAL. It's not a game. Are we willing to give ourselves, as Jesus gave Himself for us? We must give up our will, to Our Father's will. When we do Our Father's will, He will give us His PEACE and will bring us His justice.

Mrs. Cynthia Freeman
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**'Thorn Birds'
Entertaining**

Editor:

I would like to respond to Father Cuddy and Father Shamon regarding their columns about the miniseries "The Thorn Birds." I am one of those strange people who rarely turns on the TV. I am usually too busy or simply not interested. However, I did set aside time to watch "The Thorn Birds." Yes, it

did have all the elements of soap opera, but most of our lives do in one way or another. I was NOT offended that this story was shown during Holy Week. While I might not approve of the actions of Father Ralph and Maggie, I was indeed moved by their torments and efforts to resist temptation. Who among us always succeeds in resisting temptation? Most of us try with all our might to resist and yet we gossip, overeat, drink too much, smoke too much, etc. We all have times when we fail and fail again. But God never stops loving us or forgiving us. Wasn't that what Lent was all about?

Just because I watched "The Thorn Birds" I DID NOT feel influenced to suspect our priests of infidelity. How ridiculous!

In the context of the story, Father Ralph loved the little girl, Meggie, in a fatherly, protective way FIRST. It was a love that grew and took its sad turns. It wasn't a casual love as we so often see on TV today.

It's hard for me to believe that this story was taken so seriously to think it would affect our feelings for the priests or for the Church itself. I hardly think a boycott of TV is appropriate. However, balanced viewing is. All the wonderful activities mentioned by Father Shamon should be done all the time in balance. I don't think a careful sprinkling of TV should be harmful. We have to learn HOW to watch TV and we need to teach our children the same.

"The Thorn Birds" was simply a good story, like "Gone With the Wind." It was entertainment. I didn't think it was meant to be a statement on Church affairs or celibacy. For some of us, it was a time to feel compassion for the characters and hopefully a time transfer our compassionate feelings to those in need around us.

And don't forget... those who were offended could have done one simple thing — they could have turned off the TV.

Sandra Schading
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**Weed Killer
Hazardous**

EDITOR:

Little is said about the hazards of the fad of gardening by poisons or insecticides used in the home. Warnings on labels are printed so inconspicuously in small type that few take the trouble to read or follow them.

Fewer than 15 out of a hundred of those using insecticide aerosols and sprays are even aware of the warnings on the containers. The mores of suburbia now dictate that crabgrass must go at whatever cost. Sacks containing chemicals designed to rid the lawn of such despised vegetation have become almost a status symbol. These weed-killing chemicals are sold under brand names that never suggest their identity or nature. To learn that they contain dangerous chlordane or dieldrin one must read very fine print placed on the least conspicuous part of the sack.

The descriptive literature that may be picked up in any hardware or garden supply store seldom if ever reveals the true hazard in handling or applying the material.

Mary Rita Crowe
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**Macedon Parish Opens
Centennial Celebration**

Macedon — An overflow crowd heard Bishop Matthew H. Clark commend St. Patrick's Parish for enhancing its faith generation after generation since the church's founding 100 years ago, at a special anniversary liturgy on Sunday, May 1.

The Mass, which marked the opening of a month-long celebration, was celebrated by Father Eugene McFarland, St. Patrick's pastor; Father George Vogt, administrator for several months in 1945; Msgr. John Duffy of Phelps; and Father James Marvin, a native of Macedon.

Following Mass, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey addressed some 330 people who attended a centennial banquet at Marvin's Country Club on Wayneport Road.

The schedule for the remainder of the month includes the centennial First Communion class, at 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, May 15; Mass for parish benefactors, with recognition of the Ladies Guild and the Knights of Columbus, 10 a.m., Sunday, May 22, followed by a picnic at 2 p.m. at Samuel's Park; and a Memorial Day Mass at 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 29, followed by a ceremony to be attended by state and federal legislators.

For the May 22 picnic, the parish will provide barbecued chicken and pop. Guests are asked to bring a dish to pass and table settings. Tickets are \$1.50 for adults, and children in high school and younger are admitted free.

St. Patrick's began as a mission of St. Anne's, Palmyra in 1856. About 200 members of the Society of St. Patrick, formed by Father William Casey, observed Mass in a hall of the old Macedon Hotel. Father Casey, pastor of St. Anne's, consecrated the first St. Patrick's Church building on July 4, 1857.

St. Patrick's Parish was

established in 1883 under Father Michael Andrew Francis Holmes, who remained its pastor for 45 years. The present church, at the corner of Main and West Streets, was completed in 1958 during the pastorate of Father Bernard C. Hanna.

The present pastor, Father McFarland, who will celebrate his 40th anniversary in the priesthood on June 5, came to St. Patrick's in 1965 after serving as diocesan director of the CYO.

Members of the centennial committee are John Dwyer, general chairman; Alice

Hosenfeld and Marjorie Hansen, centennial booklet; Mike DeVito, publications; Fred Switzer, picnic; James Crowley, ushers and parking; Rose Marvin, centennial banquet; William Cummings, banquet entertainment; John Balzano, liturgy; Thomas Stevens, banquet master of ceremonies; Barbara Murray, booklet production; Gwen Fitzgerald, decorations; and Donald Kneeland, publicity.

St. Charles Borromeo

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Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writer's signature, full address and telephone number. They should be sent to Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, no longer than 1 1/2 pages.

We routinely condense letters, edit offensive words and libelous statements, and reserve the right to reject letters. Generally speaking, however, only limited grammatical corrections will be made and the letters will reflect the writer's own style.

Because submitted opinions exceed the space for letters, we publish only original letters addressed to us. We will not use poetry, open letters, or copies of letters sent elsewhere. To ensure diversity, we limit each writer to one letter per month.

**St. J
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