

Respect Life

A Letter From Bishop Clark on Life

My dear friends:

Injustice in our world shows itself in many forms. Some forms are blatant, so obvious that virtually all of us can recognize the injustice for what it is. Few people would argue, then, with the importance of fair employment opportunities for the handicapped, or basic health care for the elderly. Other forms of injustice are far more subtle and insidious.

Today, Respect Life Sunday, we celebrate the goodness of all life and our commitment to justice for all people. Our particular focus is on one of the most subtle injustices of our time — abortion. Abortion happens when one convinces oneself that another person does not exist or has no value. It is a complete denial of an unborn child's personhood, and in that sense it is an ultimate injustice. These are strong words, and yet we need to recognize the reality of what is happening.

The Human Life Commission, now supported through the Annual Thanks Giving Appeal, helps us focus on this issue in a number of ways:

- The Commission supports the efforts of a variety of pastoral care groups reaching women who are facing an unexpected pregnancy. Its Puzzle Project Hotline offers counseling and healing for women who have experienced an abortion.

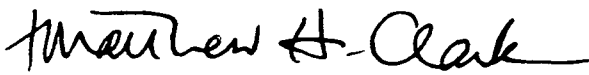
- The Commission's educational program places concern for the unborn in the context of a larger picture, that of reverence and justice for all human life. We wish to protect the lives of unborn children because of the same mandate which leads us to protect the prisoner on death row or a handicapped newborn child.

- Finally, the Commission's legislative efforts keep us informed and urge us to action when abortion and related concerns are brought before our legislators. You can continue or begin your involvement today by signing the Life Roll Cards which your pastor has made available to you.

I ask you, then, to join me in prayer this day for an awakening sense among the people of our nation of the precious gift of life itself.

With every best wish, I remain

Your brother in Christ,



+ Matthew H. Clark
Bishop of Rochester

Parish Reports Due

The diocesan Task Force on the Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church is preparing a final report. Any parish that had discussion sessions but has NOT submitted discussion reports to the task force is urged to do so immediately. Parishes that have not submitted reports cannot be acknowledged in the Task Force Report as having done so.

Reports should be mailed no later than Oct. 14 to Sister Mary Sullivan, RSM, Chair, 18 Upton Park, Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Miss America

Beautiful, Black Catholic ... But She's Pro-Choice

By NC News Service

Miss America 1984, Vanessa Williams, a member of a Catholic parish in suburban New York, said in an interview after winning her crown that she disagrees with the Church's teaching on abortion.

Miss Williams, who was crowned Sept. 17 in Atlantic City, N.J., comes from a "religious home," said Helen Williams, her mother, but the Church's teaching on abortion "happens to be something my daughter and I don't agree with."

The new Miss America, 20, her mother and father, Milton Williams, and her brother, Chris, 15, are members of the Our Lady of the Wayside Mission of St. Theresa's Church in Briarcliff Manor.

Although they describe themselves as religious, "we are not what people consider a devout Catholic family," Mrs. Williams said.

In the Sept. 19 Washington Post, Miss Williams was quoted as saying that abortion is "a right women should have. It should be there for women to use, but I don't think everyone should use it."

The former Miss New York, the new Miss America is a musical theater major at Syracuse University. She is the first black woman in the pageant's 63-year history to win the crown.

Respect Life Sunday Observed

Respect Life Sunday is being observed nationally this weekend, Oct. 1-2, through the direction of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Under their direction, the Human Life Commission has made materials available to pastors that would be helpful in observance of this Sunday

as well as in the future.

This year the focus is on the child, based on Pope John Paul II's statement that "concern for the child, even before birth...is the primary and fundamental test of the relationship of one human being to another."

The posters that pastors have received, as well as

the flyers and the Respect Life manuals, depicted a loving mother and child, easily identifiable as any race, any color, any mother, any child.

Also included in the pastors' packet are letters from Bishop Matthew H. Clark, homily notes, bulletin inserts, flyers, etc.

Infanticide Forum Scheduled Oct. 21

A program dealing with Infanticide, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild and the diocesan Human Life Commission, will be presented at 8:15 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 21, at the Genesee Plaza Holiday Inn.

The program will focus primarily on the status of the state law as it relates to the facts of the Indiana Infant Doe case. In that case, food and water was withheld from a newborn handicapped baby until it

died.

Members of the panel will include two Rochester attorneys, Judith M. Norman and Vincent M. Barone; pediatrician Lawrence F. Nazarian; and Father William D. Smith, dean of moral theology at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie. The panel will be chaired by James Bopp, an Indiana attorney who participated in the Infant Doe case.

The program is free and open to the public.

Pope: Artificial Contraception Usurps Role of God

Castelgandolfo, Italy (NC) -- Persons who use methods of artificial contraception claim for themselves the role of God and reject providence, Pope John Paul II said Sept. 17.

The pope made the observations in a 20-minute talk to 50 priests who were taking part in a seminar on "Responsible Procreation."

The seminar was sponsored by the John Paul II Institute on Marriage and Family Life, based at Rome's Lateran University.

The pope said that users of artificial contraception "attribute to themselves a power that belongs only to God: the power to decide in the final instance the coming into existence of a human being."

"They attribute to themselves," he added, "the quality of being not cooperators in the creative power of God, but the ultimate depositories of the source of human life."

He observed that "no human being comes into existence by chance" and that a person "is always the result of God's creative love."

"Contraception is to be judged objectively so profoundly illicit," said the pope, "that it can never, for any reason, be justified."

"To think, or to say, anything to the contrary is tantamount to saying that in human life there can be situations where it is legitimate not to recognize God as God," the pope observed.

"The man and the woman are the arbiters, they are not masters, called as they are...to be participants in the

Focus Rites

An evening of reparation before the Blessed Sacrament will be held 7:30-10 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 6 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Father Salem Fadoul will celebrate Mass at 8 p.m. The rites, sponsored by Focus on the Eucharist, include Evening Prayer (Vespers), recitation of the rosary and Fatima prayers, and benediction. The public is invited to any or all of the evening, according to Joan Rand, organizer of the event.

House Extends Hyde Amendment

Washington (NC) -- Another one-year extension of the Hyde amendment's ban on federal funding of abortions was approved by the House of Representatives Sept. 22. The vote was 231-184.

The measure approved by the House would be more stringent than current law by prohibiting even funding of abortions to save the life of the mother.

But Rep. Henry J. Hyde (R-Ill.), sponsor of the amendment for the past seven years, assured House members a life-of-the-mother clause would be added in a House-Senate conference committee.

Current law allows federal funding of abortions in such life-of-the-mother cases.

Pro-life groups immediately hailed the vote as a major victory, particularly after last summer's Supreme Court abortion decision and the defeat two weeks later in the Senate of a constitutional amendment sponsored by Sen. Orrin G. Hatch (R-Utah).

Also, opponents of the abortion funding ban, led by Rep. Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.), have begun a drive to restore government funding of abortions for poor women.

"The substantial margin of victory is another indication that public sentiment is strongly opposed to the use of tax money to fund the destruction of innocent unborn babies," said Jean Doyle, president of the Na-

tional Right to Life Committee, in a statement.

House members had to settle for the more stringent Hyde amendment after a committee-approved version permitting the life-of-the-mother exception was removed from the bill on a technicality.

As in past years the amendment was attached to the annual appropriations bill for the Departments of Labor and of Health and Human Services.

President Reiterates Tax Support

William Gallagher, executive director of the State Federation of Catholic School Parents, reports that President Reagan has reiterated his support for tuition tax credit legislation.

"I consider tuition tax credits as my top priority domestic issue," the president told about 25 leaders of nonpublic school organizations and parent groups he called to Washington to discuss action on legislation pending in the Senate, according to Gallagher.

Correction

An incorrect phone number was given in a story about group health HMOs being offered diocesan employees. Persons wishing to learn more about the program are asked to call 263-3460.

DONALD J. MEEHAN

Retired U.S. Internal Revenue Agent

Public Accountant

Member National Society of Public Accountants

Announces his Availability for
AUDITS • BOOKKEEPING
• COMPLETE TAX SERVICES

Individual • Partnership • Corporation

120 Princess Dr. Henrietta 334-1210 P.O. Box 92127 Rochester 14622

S and S
KITCHENS

FREE ESTIMATES

DON'T REPLACE, REFACE
UP TO 50%
SAVE ON THE COST OF
NEW CABINETS

SHOW ROOM
1109 EAST MAIN STREET
ROCHESTER, N.Y. 14609
262-2929

CUSTOM MANUFACTURE
• Counter Tops
• Vanities
• Kitchen Cabinets
• Parsons Tables
• Custom Furniture
• Specialty Items




Century 21

Home Spirit

2709 Chili Avenue
247-7700

3 GREAT NAMES in REAL ESTATE
Join to make Rochester's Greatest
REAL ESTATE COMPANY

Jean Herrera Robert Malone