

Anti-Abortion Letters To Gov. Cuomo Suggested

While Gov. Mario Cuomo and his staff work on the 1984-85 state budget in preparation for February hearings, the State Catholic Committee and the State Right to Life Committee are working to restrict Medicaid funding of abortion.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that states do not have to pay for abortion but New York is one of the few states that continues to do so with state tax monies. This is because Medicaid is available to those who qualify for "medically necessary surgery."

According to the State

Right to Life Committee, there are no criteria to use in determining what is "medically necessary surgery" therefore an abortionist simply sends a claim for payment and is routinely paid.

In the past year, 50,000 abortions were performed at the expense of state taxpayers at a cost of \$15 million, according to Joan Allgaier, legislative director of the State Right to Life Committee.

The governor has consistently spoken in favor of the state providing Medicaid funds for abortions and, according to the state right to life

committee, evades efforts to discuss the topic. The committee expects that he will again include such funding in his new budget.

Ms. Allgaier points out that including such funding in the budget presents an embarrassing situation for pro-life legislators who must disregard the worth of the rest of the budget because of the abortion situation.

As the governor considers the budget, "it is vital that he receive an enormous amount of input from pro-life people opposing use of their tax dollars to support abortion-on-demand," said Gerry Oftedahl, president of the Rochester Area Right to Life Committee.

Mrs. Oftedahl said that pro-lifers are being asked to offer a challenge to the governor to discuss this point.

"Although it is a busy time of the year," Mrs. Oftedahl said, "pro-lifers should write to the governor urging him not to provide funding for abortion when there is no legal requirement for him to do so."

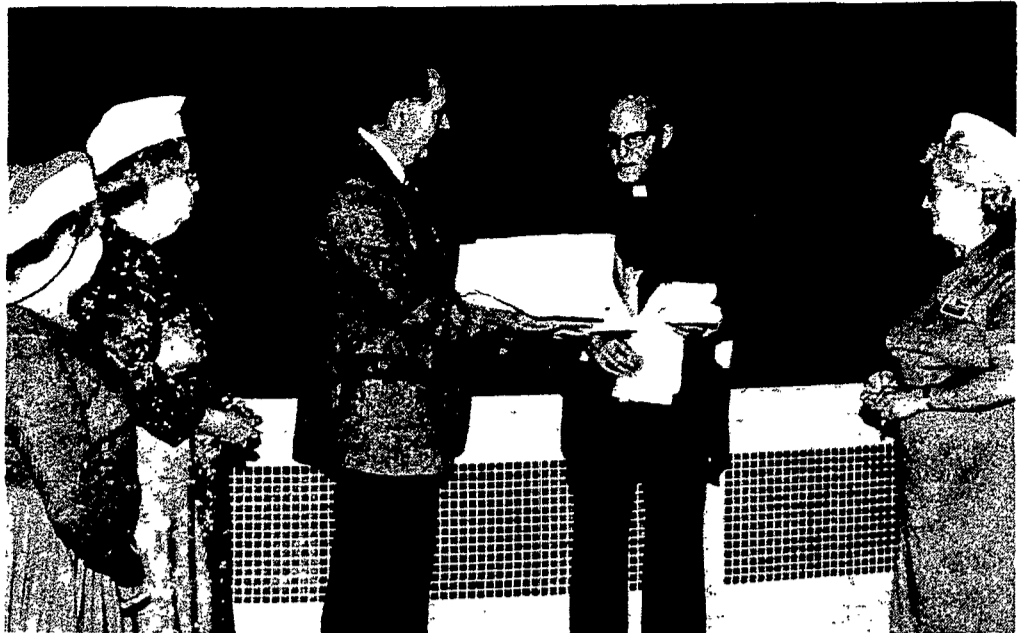
Right to Lifers want such letters sent to the Gov. Mario Cuomo, care of State Right to Life, 41 State St., Suite 300, Albany, N.Y. 12207. The letters will be hand-delivered to the governor's office with a request to discuss the topic. Letters should be sent by Dec. 20, Mrs. Oftedahl said, adding that Rochester Area Right to Life strongly supports the effort.

They Made Buying Easy

The pupils of St. Cecilia's did their Christmas shopping early this year. Instead of going to the store, the store was brought to them.

The Home-School Association sponsored a Santa Secret Shop from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday and Friday, Dec. 1-2. The pupils went to the school hall where they made purchases from a selection of gift items ranging in price from 10 cents to \$5. The Santa Shop was also open to the parish and the community during the day.

Santa paid a surprise visit to the children on Friday. They had the opportunity to talk with him and each pupil received a coloring book and candy cane.



Vestments Presented

Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary #1156 of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish presented the chaplains of the Canandaigua V.A. Hospital with a new chausable and two stoles on Nov. 9. From left, Catherine Tedone; Marie Logan; Frederick Hanley, chief of chaplains; Father John Proppe; and Bernice Trunk, auxiliary president.

Nurses Asked To Open House

The Department of Nursing at Nazareth College will have an open house for registered nurses interested in the college's upper level baccalaureate nursing program from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 15, in the Forum of the Otto A. Shults Community Center.

Diploma and associate degree graduates are invited. Items for discussion will include admission requirements, curriculum design, opportunities for parttime and fulltime study, and managing work, study and family responsibilities.

Nazareth's program leads to a BS in nursing.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.



THE GIFT THAT SAYS "I LOVE YOU"

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

WHAT YOU DO FOR OTHERS YOU DO FOR HIM

Christmas is Christ's Birthday. To show Him you love Him, sacrifice something for His poor! In the remote village of Marthadi, India, 875 converts were recently baptized, most of them poor farmers. At present our priests must travel more than 30 miles over hazardous terrain to say Mass and administer the sacraments. A chapel is desperately needed. One can be built for only \$4000. Will you help? ... Refugee families in miserable camps can be kept in milk, cheese, flour, for only \$20 a month. Remind us, if you feed a family for a month, to send you an Olive Wood Rosary as our thank-you ... Christ's Birthday is just weeks away. Your gift to the missions says to Him, "I love You." ... What are "the missions"? They are people, not place-names. They are leprosy, and cancer sufferers, the blind, the aged, foundlings, homeless refugees. They are the people for whom Christ became an infant, and was crucified. What you do for the hungry, the shivering, the abandoned. He said, "do for Him ... How to celebrate Christ's Birthday? Do something for the poor! We'll send your gifts (tax deductible in the U.S., of course) to the Holy Father. He'll use them exactly as you request.

MISSION GIFT CHECK LIST

- \$10,000 will help build a parish "plant" with completed church and school, rectory, convent somewhere overseas. Name it for your favorite saint, in your loved ones' memory
- A church can be built for \$4,000, a school for \$5,000. The Bishop in charge will write to you
- The Holy Father uses stringless gifts in any amount (\$5,000, \$1,500, \$500, \$100, \$50, \$25, \$10, \$5) where they're needed most
- It costs only \$15 a month (\$180 a year) to train a native priest. For \$12.50 a month (\$150 a year) you can train a native Sister. Payments at your convenience, of course

Dear Monsignor Nolan: ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ _____

FOR _____

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

How God Became One of Us

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 1:18-24. (R1) Is. 7:10-14. (R2) Rom. 1:1-7.

Before Christmas the days are hectic for most people. We get so busy with the sheer work of celebrating Christmas, we miss the peace of Christmas, the meaning of it all. And that is a pity.

The Church asks us on the last Sunday of Advent to pause awhile and reflect on how God became one of us. Reflecting on that mystery should bring real peace, real joy, real Christmas blessings to us. Let us try to put the busyness aside and take time to think about how God became one of us.

Matthew's gospel starts: "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about." Then he tells the story from Joseph's point of view -- to connect Jesus with David and all the kings of Judah. Matthew says that Joseph found Mary with child. Sometimes the impression is given that Joseph is horrified at his discovery, that he sees himself betrayed by Mary, that there was nothing left for him to do but to put her away quietly.

I'd rather like to think it was not that way. Joseph had the most profound respect for Mary -- in fact, he must have agreed to a virginal marriage. To find her with child after this must have been a great mystery to him. Knowing Mary, knowing the Old Testament history of miraculous conceptions (Sara, Hannah), Joseph must have surmised some divine intervention. I like to think that was why he decided to divorce her.

Joseph, you must remember, was a very holy man. He was a devout Jew, whose life had been lived in the awe and reverence of God. He knew his Bible history. He knew the story of the covenant on Mt. Sinai -- how Moses had forbade the people under penalty of death to touch the mountain out of reverence for God who was to visit it. He knew how in King David's time

one who had touched the Ark of the Covenant died on the spot. He knew that only a priest, once a year, could enter the Holy of Holies.

And he could not then have guessed that God had visited His people in a special way, that Mary had become a true Ark of the Covenant and a true Holy of Holies? I like to think that he did, and that out of deepest reverence for God, he was ready to bow out of the picture. God had somehow claimed Mary for His own, and Joseph was willing to renounce his claim, to put her away quietly out of reverence and deference to God.

Yet God needed Joseph. He needed him to enable His Son to be born within a family. He needed him to prevent the disgrace that would have come upon an unwed mother. He needed him to provide and protect both Mary and her Child. And so the angel said to Joseph, "Son of David, have no fear of taking Mary as your wife. It is true, she has conceived by the Holy Spirit. She will have a son and you are to exercise a father's rights by naming Him Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins."

It was the beginning of a new age of intimacy with God. Joseph could still cherish and live with his wife. He did not have to back away from her, he did not have to keep his distance, as his ancestors did from the mountain of God, the Ark of the Covenant, the Holy of Holies. God is now accessible to man, man can come to God!

God wants man to come to Him now; and we can come to Him by being what He came the first time to teach us to be -- namely caring, sharing, giving and forgiving. He will come the second time to judge what we have become, what we have made of ourselves. His first coming really happened, so will His second.

Therefore, so live now, o come to Christ now, that His first coming will not have been in vain and His second coming will not be a time of wrath.

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