

# More Opinion

## Abortion THE Issue

EDITOR:

A letter to the editor entitled a Basic Guide to Voting (C-J, 3-28) contained a concept with which I would like to take issue.

The letter infers that abortion is a single issue social problem to be weighed equally with ERA but behind a favorable partisan economic and foreign policy legislation voting record. To this I say: Moral Christians in general and Roman Catholics in particular do not enjoy the luxury of being allowed to treat abortion as a single social issue. It is a moral issue. It is a paramount issue not subject to compromise. It must take precedence over any and all political, social and economic (and yes, sometimes over medical) considerations.

In this case, the words of St. Paul apply. What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world but loses his immortal soul.

John J. Clark III  
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## 'Second-Place' For Jesus?

EDITOR:

Re: The Act of Consecration.

A couple of weeks ago, all Catholics were asked to recite the Act of Consecration to Mary. I could not do this, as it is not Scriptural. Consecration of one's life should be to Jesus. It is His Blood sacrifice that gives me salvation. If it were otherwise then He died for nothing. Jesus taught us the "Our Father" as an example of prayer. He never said pray to Moses or anyone else. Anything that stands between God and man is idolatry, whether it be a saint or worldly goods.

The Bible says we are to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, for He is the way, the truth and the life, that no one goes unto the Father but through Him. Also, that there is one mediator between God and man and that is Jesus Christ. While on earth, Jesus kept His eyes fixed on His Father and to us Jesus said, "Follow me." I pray that the pope is not returning to the traditional focus on Mary, thus giving Jesus second place status. Catholic Christians will reject this move. I love and respect her, but Jesus is number one in my life.

Who will be held responsible for our ignorance of God's Word? It is written that each individual will be held accountable for his own actions. There is no one else to blame. We are to follow God's Word. Our excuses will not hold water.

Praise, honor and glory to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

Mary Post Guinta  
Rochester, N.Y.

## Celibacy Puzzling

EDITOR:

In response to Father Gerald O'Connor's letter, "Celibacy Doesn't Help" (C-J, 2-29), I want first to acknowledge Father O'Connor's openness and candor in expressing what for many priests is a very personal and valid struggle with this controversial subject. And as a foster parent, well-aware of his limitations, he is to be commended for

opening himself and sharing love in this unique way. I also hope that he continues to receive the love and support of his fellow priests, even though not in full agreement with him.

It is historic fact that one reason for the establishment of celibacy in the Roman church was in direct response to a real economic problem faced by the Church. It was common practice for Church property, land, etc., to be handed down to the sons of priests who were not necessarily following in the priesthood; thus property belonging to the Church was passing out of ownership and control of the Church.

While I personally have no problem accepting a married clergy (surely no one could question the deep faith, perseverance and Christian commitment of the early Fathers) and I have no problem accepting a celibate clergy (if one is led in that direction), I do have a real concern that celibacy continues to be a mandatory requirement for priestly ordination and personally feel that vocation to the ministry and celibacy should not necessarily be synonymous.

And while I have neither the power nor the authority to change anything (and being a woman, I probably never will), I can only wonder why the Church is so opposed, if not for the primarily economic reasons, to the sacrament of marriage as a viable, sacred and grace-inspired option for priests to make within the context of their ministry.

One reason, perhaps, is that we laity, who truly are the Church, the people of God, have been all too reluctant and complacent to fully accept the validity, responsibility and awareness of our priestly vocations. Christ has called all of us to holiness and to the priesthood. We share equally in the redemption and are all wondrously loved by God. And by baptism, we are called to be ministers, one to the other.

I understand that there are no easy answers or solutions. In growth and wisdom there seldom are. And consider the frustrations felt by many women in the Church today.

It is indeed inhibiting to realize that within the official Church, women are not now afforded, nor in all likelihood will they be afforded in our lifetime, true vocational recognition with the impact that full participation in all that the ministries of the Church would allow.

And perhaps this, too, is because we people of God have been all too content to be followers, not leaders. We have constructed unnecessary and burdensome pedestals on which priests were placed.

Meanwhile, Father O'Connor, while I continue to hope and to pray, this is the real world where change comes slowly and complacency reigns. In all reality, and with a real sense of regret, I don't think we should hold our breath.

Kathy Bauman  
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## Mary Still 'Beholds' Us

EDITOR:

In reply to Mr. Lambino's opinion of 4-4-84, criticizing the pope and the consecration, which, by the way, was not obligatory: Mr. Lambino is gifted to have the faith he has. Many choices are

ours...and many blessings. If one chooses not to want the blessings of our Blessed Mother that God gave us through the words of Jesus Christ on the cross, "Son, behold thy Mother"...then that is his own choice. She, as Mother, still "beholds" us...all of us.

Whenever I feel lost -- or don't know which way to turn, or how to accept something which rubs against my stubborn nature -- I know this much: If I go to Mary, she, like the true Mother she is, will always try to lead me back to Jesus (some may call this "backward"). Mr. Lambino stated that he believes in the Communion of Saints, and I've been trying to think of one saint that did not have recourse to Mary, but I can't. Maybe that is why they became saints, because they knew that the Immaculate Conception meant Mary was conceived without sin and therefore could be trusted to help them, through her purity, to come closer to God. Mary was, through God's choosing, a link between God and man. After all, she was God's first tabernacle.

Yes, we have no greater gift than the gift of Jesus. We do well to do all in His name for the honor of the Father and the Holy Spirit, but do not condemn those who consecrate themselves and the world to Jesus, through Mary. They are still giving their all to God...sending it through Mary. Would one refuse a gift because it was sent in the mail? Mary is like a sender...God, the giver. God even sent to Mary a messenger, His angel, and if God through His angels can say "Hail Mary, Full of Grace!", then I join, and I join with the pope, and I don't think God minds one bit (He's probably delighted that we use His line). "...And Blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus"...these words were a type of consecration, entrusting God's Son to her. Now, I am not an ERA advocate, but that does not mean I would deny Mary, as Mediatrix.

Mary is not selfish, or proud like we are. She always gives everything back to God. No honor we give to Mary is ever taken away from God, because her soul, like a mirror, reflects it back to God (the Magnificat). The rays from this reflection rebound back to us as grace, if we're smart enough to stand in Mary's shadow.

One thing the letter of criticism has made clearer in my mind and heart is that, if I could feel hurt and take offense at the letter calling one who consecrates their self to Jesus, through Mary, a blasphemer, then I can at last appreciate the prayer given at Fatima when Our Lady asked for sacrifices accompanied with the prayer: "My Jesus, it is for love of You (this sacrifice)...and in reparation for offenses committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary." I understand more deeply how the Mystical Body of Christ suffers, because Mary is the Mother of the Church, the Mother of the most Blessed Sacrament...Mary, full of Grace, from God. So many choices are ours. Mary accepted God's choices.

JoAnne Taylor  
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**SPORT MEDICINE** - "The Care and Prevention of Tennis Elbow," seminar featuring Alan P. Peppard, director of SportsCare and former assistant professor at Brockport State University, 6:30-7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19, SportsCare facility adjacent to Brighton's Mid-Town Tennis Club. Free.

**SEMINAR** - "How to Make the Employment Interview Work for You," conducted by Empire State College, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 25, Empire State College, 8 Prince Street, Rochester, N.Y. Free and open to public.

**SENIOR MATINEE** - "The Black Arrow," starring Louis Hayward and Janet Blair, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 26, George Eastman House.

**ART** - "El Greco's Vision of St. Hyacinth," lecture by Isabel Herdle, curator emeritus, 11:45 a.m., Thursday, April 19, conference room, Memorial Art Gallery. Participants invited to bring a sack

lunch. Free to members; free to non-members with Gallery admission.

**LECTURE** - "The History of Fine Printing in Rochester" sponsored by the Friends of the University of Rochester Libraries, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, auditorium, Memorial Art Gallery. Free but reservations necessary.

**KILBOURN HALL** - Collegium Musicum, Paul O'Dette, director, 8 p.m., Thursday, April 19, free: Guest recital, Nigel Rogers, tenor, 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, tickets available at Eastman ticket office, 275-3500.

**EASTMAN THEATRE** - Wind Ensemble, Donald Hunsberger, conductor, 8 p.m., Friday, April 20: Chorale, Donald Neuen, conductor, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 21: Eastman School Symphony Orchestra and Wind Orchestra, 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 25. All events free.

**OUT AT NAZARETH** - Nazareth League Luncheon Series, formal luncheon featuring Sheriff Andrew Meloni who will discuss various aspects of his department, noon, Wednesday, April 24, Medaille Dining Hall. Tickets \$7. For reservations and information call 586-2525, ext. 384.

**EXHIBIT** - The 1984 Finger Lakes Exhibition opening with awards ceremony 3 p.m., Sunday, April 29 with viewing from 1-4 p.m.

**THEATER** - "Heartland," a psychological thriller by Shipping Dock Theatre, open at 8:15 p.m., Friday, April 20, and continues with 8:15 p.m. performances Fridays and Saturdays, and 3 p.m. matinees on Sundays through May 13 at RMSC Strasenburgh Planetarium. Tickets are \$7, \$5 for senior citizens and students on Sundays. Reservations suggested, 271-4320.

**CHILDREN'S FILMS** - For the holidays, "The Blue Bird" Monday, April 23; "The Littlest Warrior" Tuesday, April 24; "Flight of the Doves" Thursday, April 26. Showings at 2 p.m., in the Eisenhart Auditorium, Rochester Museum and Science Center. Free with museum admission.

**CLASSIC FILMS** - "Yours, Mine & Ours" starring Lucille Ball and Henry Fonda, 2 and 8 p.m., Tuesday, April 24, Eisenhart Auditorium. Free with general museum admission.



**Lilac Chief**  
Deacon Stanley Zawacki, Manager of Community Relations for Xerox Corp., has been named chairman of the 1984 Lilac Festival, May 18-28. Deacon Zawacki also served in that post last year.

## Open House Scheduled

The St. John Fisher College Child Care Center will host an open house for the community from 2-4 p.m., on Sunday, April 29. Visitors will be able to meet the teachers, tour the center and register for the summer session. The center is located in the Becket Hall Gymnasium on the Fisher campus. The open house is free and open to the public.

## Memorial Mass

Elmira - A memorial Mass, sponsored by the Pastoral Care Department of St. Joseph's Hospital, will be offered for those persons who have died at the hospital from Dec. 10, 1983 through Feb. 13, 1984, at 7 p.m., May 9 in the Dunn Memorial Chapel. All families of the deceased are invited to this service and to a small social gathering in the lower cafeteria of the Dunn Memorial following the service.

## Junior Miss

An orientation meeting for persons interested in the Monroe County Junior Miss program will be 7-9 p.m., Monday, May 7 in the audio-visual room of Bishop Kearney High School.

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**OPEN HOUSE** All parents and children are invited to Camp Stella Maris June 10, 1984 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. You may tour the facilities, meet the staff, and enjoy some refreshments with us. Parents may also register their children on this day, however, because weeks fill fast, we encourage registration earlier.

**Register Early: avoid the disappointment of your child not being able to attend.**  
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