

## Editorial

### A new era of feminism?

A woman at the New York State Right to Life Convention on Saturday walked up to speaker Rosemary Botcher following Botcher's presentation. "I never thought I'd applaud a feminist," the woman said. Botcher returned a knowing smile. "I'm glad you did," she said.

In many ways, Botcher's presentation was a landmark. It probably opened a new world of thought for many in the pro-life audience. Never before had they heard a staunch feminist side with their cause. The presentation also offered the pro-life movement a new strategy — to show the pro-abortion feminists that their efforts to maintain abortion as a woman's right may eventually defeat such other women's causes as day-care services and paid maternity leaves.

Women were once considered the property of men and, as such, were denied the right to vote and own property. Botcher reminded the audience. Now, pro-abortion feminists proclaim that the fetuses growing in the wombs of women are the property of those women and, as such, can be denied the right to life. That argument, she said, undermines the whole philosophical base of the feminist movement. "We cannot argue for our own rights and attack (those of) others," Botcher said.

Some of the Florida chemist's remarks reeked of feminist hyperbole. For example, she claimed that male doctors tricked the early leaders of the women's movement into jumping on the abortion

rights bandwagon, and that two of Geraldine Ferraro's statements, taken from the entirely different contexts of nuclear warfare and abortion, illustrate a confused understanding of women's abilities to cope with crisis. Though Ferraro's comments (see story on Pages 1, 9 and 10) tend to contradict each other, comparing Ferraro's thoughts on a "200-pound unwanted Russian" and a "seven-pound unwanted baby" trivializes both issues.

Nonetheless, most of Botcher's arguments made sense. She pointed out that abortion's "quick-fix," used by working women to eliminate problems they encounter with pregnancy in the workplace, may actually perpetuate those problems. Instead of changing the workplace to accommodate pregnant women, abortion promotes elimination of the child to accommodate the workplace.

Botcher said her organization, Feminists for Life, plans to take over the feminist movement and return it to its pro-life origins — the family-based philosophy of the early suffragists.

One certainly wishes these new feminists luck in their attempt to achieve true rights for women and for their born and unborn children. One also hopes that the Right to Life movement will act quickly to combine its efforts with those of the pro-life feminists. Together, these two groups have a much better chance of showing the world that abortion is indeed violence against unborn children and against their mothers.

### Writer finds bishops' pastorals 'uninformed'

To the Editor:

One of the illusions in the bishops' second draft of their economic pastoral is their statement that there is a "massive defense spending at the expense of human needs."

Inasmuch as the Soviet Union has outspent us by some \$500 billion since 1970, isn't it time we realized our survival is being threatened?

What would happen to our human needs if we were conquered by the Soviet Union?

It is no secret that there is a shortage of food, shelter and clothing in the Soviet Union. This is due mainly to the fact that the Soviets spend most of their money on the military.

However, the bishops, in their pastorals on defense and the economy, reveal a lack of knowledge regarding these important issues.

### World fails to heed admonitions of Our Lady

To the Editor:

The editorial of October 10 ("A lesson from a disbeliever") bears elaboration. It responded to (a discussion with) a disbeliever by stating that: "We must work to change the social and economic forces that produce the crises (hunger, poverty, abortion, etc)." By the virtue of holy charity, we are bound to do so. However, there's another dimension that we must consider, which is the spiritual one.

In Her message of La Salette in 1846, our Blessed Lady related the harsh consequences of neglecting our spiritual obligations to God: world disorder and disasters, and acute suffering for everyone. She stated that prayer and penance are the only remedies.

In Her message of Fatima of 1917, our Blessed Mother said that if the world did not

Bishop Maurice Dingman of Des Moines, for example, never heard of Keynesian economics, while Bishop Peter Rosazza, of Hartford, opposed the strategic defense initiative (Star Wars), but didn't know why.

This and more were revealed in an article in the Syracuse Post Standard, October 9, entitled "What the Bishops Didn't Know," by Anthony T. Bouscaren, professor of political science at LeMoyne College.

While it is necessary for our bishops to show concern over issues like defense and the economy, it is also necessary for them to be well informed.

It looks like the bishops haven't done their homework.

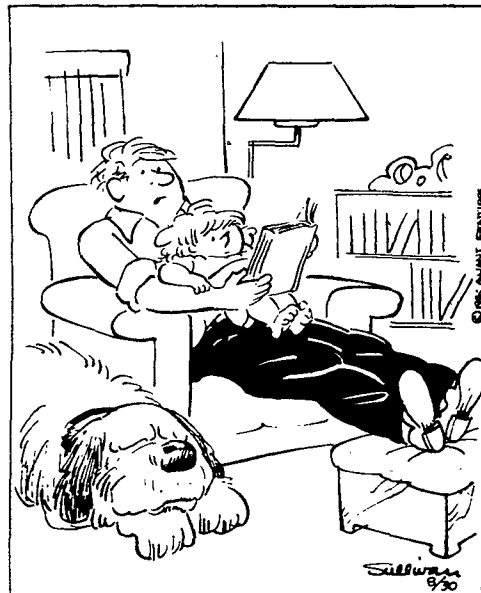
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return to prayer and penances, there would be a second World War. In subsequent messages, our Heavenly Mother informed the world that it still has not heeded Her message, and reminded us that the consequences will be a third World War.

She has told us that her most holy rosary is the prayer that we must recite daily, and that penance is to be observed by performing our daily duties to holy perfection as our divine Lord did.

The Blessed Virgin Mary has graciously given us Her message. Her admonitions have been timely, and Her prophesies have been most accurate. How long must it be before the world understands this divine message?

Tim O'Brien  
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Waverly



NO SWEETHEART THE TONGUES OF FIRE THAT CAME DOWN ON THE APOSTLES WERENT LIKE BUDDYS WHEN HE KISSES YOU GOODNIGHT ON THE NOSE.

### Priest studying at Notre Dame thanks bishop, people of God

To the Editor:

I am one of 44 priests from around the world doing sabbatical studies here at Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind., this fall semester.

As a priest from the Rochester diocese, I want to publicly thank Bishop Matthew Clark for making possible this remarkable experience for me.

I wish also to thank all the people of God in the Rochester diocese for being so supportive of Bishop Clark's vision of Church.

Every day, all 44 of us priests concelebrate the Eucharist. There at the altar, we give thanks and express our gratitude to you in the best way possible!

"Gratias agamus Domino Deo Nostro!"

Father Paul Cloonan  
Holy Cross Brothers' Center  
James Hall  
Notre Dame, Ind.

## And opinions

### Why would parents want their sons to answer the calling to priesthood?

To the Editor:

As your article in the October 10th edition on vocations ("Lack of support, societal pressures blamed for discouraging vocations," Page 7) pointed out, there is a serious shortage of priests in the United States, which will only get worse in the 1990s.

Your article also discussed the shortage of vocations and the fact that no one entered the seminary from the Rochester diocese this year.

One of the points made in the article was the observation that families, friends and neighbors are not only not encouraging to the young person considering a religious vocation, but often outright discouraging, if not hostile. I think that many people, if they expressed their feelings honestly, would exclaim, "Why would anyone in their right mind want to be a priest?"

That, indeed, is the \$64,000 question. There are long hours, low pay, questionable social status, personal sacrifice such as celibacy and obedience, and, at times, overwhelming conflicts in the expectations of a congregation of what adequate service consists of. What parent or caring friend could wish that kind of a vocation on someone they love and care about?

The best and the brightest will enter medicine, law, engineering or computer programing and make their parents and friends proud, and have some kind of life.

Jesus was a long-haired hippie, vagabond, boat-rocking revolutionary, who hung out with prostitutes, tax collectors and all sorts of riffraff. His own pal sold Him down the river, and He was executed finally in broad daylight with His buddies and His mother watching.

Any parent who could feel proud of a son who wished to join up with that character and emulate his life and value system and get

himself into trouble like Jesus did has indeed got to have rocks in his/her head. Better that his or her son becomes a respected professional with a good job where he can earn a decent living.

Becoming a priest in this day and age is asking for trouble and parents sense this. If the son is to be true to his priestly calling, he will have a risky and difficult row to hoe which is filled with insecurities and challenges.

Perhaps the shortage of vocations in the U.S. is because we parents have become too comfortable in our faith. We do not want risk. We do not want trouble. We do not want to live our faith on the cutting edge. We want our children to be safe, to be comfortable, to be happy by avoiding trouble, and for God's sake, not to live on the cutting edge because that is chancy and there are so much easier ways to travel though life.

I think that rather than pray for vocations we should pray for all those comfortable, well-meaning Catholic parents who in their heart ask, "Why would anyone in their right mind want to be a priest?" Why would Jesus of Nazareth, assuming He was in his right mind, want to be the Christ? After all, look what He got for all His trouble.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: We assume that much of this letter is biting satire, the sort for which Jonathan Swift became famous with his "A Modest Proposal." Therefore, we hope, Mr. Markham does not intend for his "criticism" of Jesus to be taken seriously.

We believe, however, that few Catholic parents have the degree of callous attitudes about the priesthood that Mr. Markham implies.

### Everyone can pray for protection of the unborn

To the Editor:

Not everybody has the time or ability to join a pro-life group, but everybody should be doing something to save unborn babies and other innocent lives who God might permit to die violent deaths.

Mother Church warned that contraception would lead to abortion, and it did because abortion often is used as a backup when contraception fails. Also, how many Catholics know that the pill and the Intra-Uterine Device (IUD) can cause abortions?

The Catholic Church warned that abortion would lead to allowing handicapped infants to die. It did. The Church warned that these serious evils would lead to euthanasia. These evils did. The Catholic Church said that other innocent lives dependent on society would probably be murdered. Since we're living in a sin-sick, pre-Hitler kind of society, there is a very good chance that those who have a philosophy different from that of the prevailing government of the future will be murdered.

Bishop Sheen recommended the "spiritual" adoption of an unborn baby. The following prayer should be said daily for a year:

"Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life and soul of

an unborn baby."

This prayer could be printed and passed out in churches. A person could tape it to a mirror and say it in the morning if he or she is very busy.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta said that abortion is the greatest threat to world peace. I agree with her, and feel that it is a greater disorder than the arms race.

Abortion has caused more lives to be killed than all American casualties in all wars put together. Certainly we should send an avalanche of letters to Washington and other places. If we fail to do this, we could easily end up in a civil war. Remember: "The life you save may be your own."

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EDITOR'S NOTE: We should clarify Ms. Vallone's point on birth control methods "causing" abortions. As we understand it, the means by which an IUD prevents pregnancy is by definition an abortion in the first stage of pregnancy. The device prevents a fertilized egg from attaching itself to the uterine wall, and the egg soon dies. The pill, on the other hand, rarely causes an abortion because it is designed to prevent the egg and sperm from meeting.

### Sisters wearing habits tell world 'We believe'

To the Editor:

In response to the editor's note on religious garb (Opinion: October 7, "Religious garb: Sign of vocation or concentration on worldly affairs): Should a religious woman (woman religious) wear a manner of dress that loudly announces her vocation? I would respond with an emphatic "Yes! Most definitely, more so today than ever before!"

Every time a religious walks down the street in the religious garb they are making a public profession of faith. Without one word having to be spoken, it cries out to our poor, confused, floundering world "I believe in God!"

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EDITOR'S NOTE: OK, but that isn't what we were disputing. The question was whether abandoning the habit makes women religious incapable of setting inspiring examples for children. From the many sisters we have known, we can safely say that it is the person, not the habit, that makes the example, and that the vast majority of women religious who do not wear habits set good examples nonetheless.

The editor's note in no way meant that women religious should not wear habits. Its only goal was to point out that sisters are able to set good examples for children even if they do not wear habits.

## Guidelines

The Courier-Journal welcomes your opinions. Letters must bear the writers' signatures, full addresses and telephone numbers. They should be sent to: Opinion, Courier-Journal, 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607

Opinions should be brief, typed, double-spaced, and no longer than 1½ 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 writers' own styles.

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