

C-J Letters

Encourages readers to support Bork

To the editor:

Planned Parenthood appears to be the most upset over the possible confirmation of Joseph Bork to the U.S. Supreme Court. The organization conveniently ignores the fact that a man has been nominated who is an eminently qualified jurist with extensive, proven experience and outstanding academic credentials. His ability to interpret the Constitution according to the intent of the founding fathers means nothing to Planned Parenthood. Their only concern is that their precious so-called right to legally kill an unborn child any time during a woman's nine months of pregnancy is in jeopardy. They feel Bork will join a growing group of justices who, most likely, will overturn *Roe v. Wade* and again make abortion illegal.

Planned Parenthood spokesmen and spokeswomen all over the country are frantically trying to con a glib public into believing that there is consistent and solid support for abortion to remain legal and safe. What unadulterated garbage. A large number of people may support abortion in some cases — such as to save the life of the mother or in cases of rape and incest. Only one-tenth or less of the people, however, support abortion as decreed by the Supreme Court — that is, to keep it legal throughout a woman's entire nine months of pregnancy. An incredible fact but tragically true.

Planned Parenthood's claim that abortion should continue to be legal and safe is a myth. Abortions are not safe, legally or illegally. Anne Speckhard, Ph.D., recently wrote on the

"post-abortion syndrome" in a study of thousands of women who had legal, and so-called "safe" abortions, she found: 23 percent had hallucinations related to the abortion, 35 percent perceived a visitation from the aborted child, 54 percent had nightmares related to the abortion, 69 percent had feelings of craziness, 73 percent had flashbacks of their abortion experience and 81 percent were preoccupied with the aborted child.

David Reardon, in a study for his forthcoming book "Women Exploited, A Nation Deceived," gives the following statistics: 6 percent developed cervical cancer, 6 percent needed total hysterectomies, 8 percent had blocked fallopian tubes, 8 percent developed cervical incompetence, 9 percent got infections, 15 percent had post-operative hemorrhage and 22 percent later miscarried a wanted child. Other studies have shown that thousands of women become sterile (after they have abortions). In many cases the only baby some women will ever have in their lives is the one that they killed in an abortion.

Why is Planned Parenthood so obsessed with keeping abortion legal? For one thing, they have the largest chain of abortion clinics in America — over 45. They would have twice that number but for the growing resistance of people who are becoming increasingly aware of the horror of abortion and Planned Parenthood's active role in this barbaric practice. In the spring of 1987, Planned Parenthood spent hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to open an abortion mill in Honolulu, its first in Hawaii. Fortunately, an indignant public protested and successfully pre-

vented it. They have also been frustrated in their attempts to open others in many other states.

Planned Parenthood received \$96.1 million in federal, state and local taxes in 1985 alone. They make millions of dollars annually through their highly profitable abortion chambers. It is any wonder they can pay many of their directors \$50,000 to \$100,000 a year and more to administer their facilities? Is it any to lobby for or against abortion the lobby for or against abortion legislation, or millions for newspaper ads to promote their abortion propaganda rights? These are the real reasons for Planned Parenthood's opposition to Justice Bork. It is to preserve a multimillion dollar blood-stained industry. That is Planned Parenthood's motivating force. They couldn't care less about the women or babies involved.

The end of the legalized killing of our fellow human beings is in sight. It is up to us, by our intensive prayers and efforts to oppose Planned Parenthood and their fellow death peddlers in every legal way possible. We can, and must, close this most disgraceful chapter in American history. Future generations, I am sure, will be appalled to learn that his great nation once legalized the killing of the unborn and during one 14-year period destroyed over 20 million totally innocent and helpless babies. May God have mercy on those responsible for this holocaust.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

A legacy of life

I would guess that I am like most of you this morning, when I feel a certain sense of summer closure on the day after Labor Day. We all do some work during the weeks of summer — that's for sure. But I think that many of us, besides enjoying a vacation, also enjoy a work schedule that is less demanding than the one to which we are accustomed through the year. That certainly has been true in my case.

Now the time has come for most of us to return to the normal demands of everyday living. I don't mind at all doing that, but my hope is that I will be consistent in maintaining the kind of time I need to pray and reflect on our unfolding experience. Otherwise, I find that life too easily becomes a series of things done. When that happens, we quickly lose our capacity to be humane and compassionate with others.

It is with this kind of awareness that I anticipate the presence of our brother John Paul among us. On one level, he will be a super-active person. To visit so many places in so short a time would test the physical and spiritual stamina of anyone. On another level, we shall have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of his prayer and thinking when he speaks with us during his visit. Many write of John Paul that he is a mystic in action. I believe that is true — that his deep interior life bears fruit in his association with people, and that his interaction with the people nourishes his life of prayer and contemplation. I look forward to observing these characteristics with you in the days ahead.

As I have mentioned earlier, I shall be traveling to Los Angeles next Tuesday to participate with all of the bishops of the United States in a meeting with our Holy Father at a Los Angeles seminary and in a eucharistic liturgy at Dodger Stadium. While there, I shall try to note the things which would be of special interest to you and to put them in writing for the next issue of the *Courier-Journal*.

In the meantime, please try to stay in touch with John Paul as he travels among us. In particular, I encourage you to be aware of the themes that are developed at each of his stops. I shall be doing that with a special awareness of how we are trying to engage in those themes in our own local church. The kind of pastoral awareness to which this visit calls us will be, I believe, a lasting, life-giving legacy of this journey.

Please pray for the pope and for the Church in the United States, that we will all grow in the faith in these days together.
Peace to all.

Notes editorial balance, disappointed by columnist's 'crass comment'

To the editor:

I should like to tell you how impressed I am, not only with the general high-interest level of your paper, but especially with the balance of your editorial policy. This is particularly reflected in the weekly facing columns of the Revs. Richard P. McBrien and Paul J. Cuddy.

In my former position, working for an order of priests and brothers in Washington, D.C., I had occasion to subscribe to 18 diocesan newspapers. And the *Courier-Journal* is the first one of my acquaintance to give equal billing to the liberal and the conservative theologies of our post-Vatican II Church.

That needed to be said, I believe, before saying how disappointed I am in Father Cuddy's column of August 20. Having already been a regular reader of Father McBrien's liberal

column in other papers, I have been pleasantly surprised these past six or seven weeks to read and learn from Father Cuddy's local conservative article in tandem with Father McBrien's. Father Cuddy has usually exhibited the kind of Christian level-headedness that is often not found in those to Father McBrien's left or to Father Cuddy's right.

Of the several offensive and misleading remarks that Father Cuddy made in his 20 August column, — e.g., that only those homosexuals that support the pope can be heroic, that nuns who favor the ordination of women are paranoid toward men, and that feminists advocate equal opportunity for children to drown in sinking ships — there is one on which I feel compelled to comment. In trying to excuse himself for his self-conscious fear of homosexuals, he

makes the following inconsiderate statement: "It is an injustice to assume that all people who are homosexually oriented are actively practicing, any more than to assume that all heterosexuals are catting around."

As a member of the Marriage Encounter movement, I am offended by Father Cuddy's reference to the fulfillment of the Genesis commandment, "Go forth and multiply;" as some sort of free-wheeling feline fecundity. In the consummation of our sacrament of matrimony, my bride and I experience the divine presence that enabled Mary to say, "My soul magnifies the Lord." Furthermore, I would be upset if Father Cuddy's crass cliché were to reach the eyes of my children or of non-Catholics who might not recognize its unmagisterial nature.

In *Humanae Vitae*, Pope Paul VI reminds us that, in conjugal love, "by means of the reciprocal gift of self, proper and exclusive to them, husband and wife tend towards the communion of their being in view of mutual personal perfection, to collaborate with God in the generation and education of new lives" (Sect. 8).

In its pastoral constitution, *Quadium et Spes*, the Second Vatican Council teaches that, through conjugal love, the spouses, "become witnesses of the mystery of that love which the Lord revealed to the world by his dying and by his rising to life again" (Sect. 52).

In an address shortly before his election to the papacy, John Paul II said, "Although everything seems to confirm that love is a 'thing of the world,' that it is born in souls and

bodies as a fruit of emotional sensitivity and sensuous attraction, reaching to the hidden depths of the sexual constitution of the organism, yet through all of this and as if over and above all this, love is a gift" of the Holy Spirit (Sect. 3).

If Father Cuddy was referring to extra-marital sex in his remark, then this should have been specified. If not, then Father Cuddy owes parents — including his own — a word of apology. For official Church teaching supports the divine nature of conjugal love, in which we reflect the work of God the Creator, continue the work of God the Redeemer, and are recipients of the work of God the Holy Spirit.

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'Worried pastor' neglected to quote passage on traditional devotion

To the Editor:

In Father Hohman's July 30 criticism of Ted Cosby's letter ("Marian exaggeration worries Pittsford pastor"), he quotes from Vatican II's *Lumen Gentium*, dogmatic Constitution on the Church, to justify his fears of "false exaggeration" in the cult of the devotion to the Mother of God. However, Father Hohman neglected to quote the preceding sentence, which encourages the traditional devotions to Mary which have been "recommended by the teaching

authority of the Church."

The apparitions and messages of Fatima have been approved by the Church because they are not only biblical, but also foster traditional Marian devotions, such as the rosary and brown scapular, and Eucharistic devotions. At Fatima, Our Lady pleaded with us to pray these devotions and do penance to hasten a promised era of peace. So why should we not believe that surely, someday, Mary, as mediatrix to Jesus the mediator and (as) Mother of the

Church, will save the world from its own destruction and bring about peace through the prayers and devotions offered to Christ through her, as St. Dominic and Mary herself prophesied? Our answer is found in *Lumen Gentium* #69, which exhorts the faithful to pray perseveringly to the Mother of God to "intercede with her son" until all are "gathered together in peace..."

In fact, Pope John Paul II quotes the above passage in his encyclical letter "Mother of the Redeemer." Considering the perilous times in which we live, that quote may be the reason the pope proclaimed this a Marian Year.

In his encyclical letter, our Holy Father also refers to the Marian devotion of St. Louis de Montfort and highly recommends St. Louis' formula for consecration to Jesus through Mary. Very pertinent to this discussion of Father Hohman's fear of Marian exaggeration, is St. Louis' treatise on "True Devotion to Mary" in which he lists seven kinds of false devotees to Mary. One kind is the scrupulous devotee, who discourage

and even hinder devotion to the Blessed Virgin because they claim that it detracts from our one Mediator, Jesus Christ. This was the belief of the Jansenist heretics of St. Louis' Day. The saint refuted this error by explaining that "the more we honor the Blessed Virgin, the more we honor Jesus Christ, because we honor Mary only that we may the more perfectly honor Jesus, since we go to her only as the way by which we are to find the end we are seeking, which is Jesus (#94)."

This is the true devotion to Mary that our Holy Father encourages during this Marian Year. This diocese

and numerous parishes in it are planning appropriate Marian devotions in this extraordinary year of grace. For example, Holy Rosary Church in Rochester is sponsoring the Marian videotape "Be Not Afraid Novena" September 28-October 6, culminating in a diocesan-sponsored holy hour celebrated by Bishop Hickey on October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. These devotions will help participants grow in true devotion to Jesus through Mary and give glory to God through His mother.

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Conservative pairs sisters with unlikely ally

To the editor:

A conservative Catholic publication listed the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester, N.Y., with religious groups that oppose the Strategic Defense Initiative. These religious do not have the scientific knowledge to take such a stand. I believe they are naive and uninformed, and are dupes of radical groups.

If it is any consolation to them, they are on the same side as the Soviet Union, which can't stand it that the U.S.A. should perfect its SDI before the U.S.S.R. can perfect its, on which they have been working for years.

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C-J Letters Policy

The *Courier-Journal* wishes to provide space for readers throughout the diocese to express opinions on all sides of the issues. We welcome all signed, original letters about current issues affecting Church life.

Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we seek, insofar as possible, to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the Church. We will choose letters for publication based on likely reader

interest, timeliness and a sense of fair play. Our discerning readers may determine whether to agree or disagree with the opinions of the letter writers.

We reserve the right to edit all letters. Mail them to: Letters to the Editor, *Courier-Journal*, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Please include your full name as well as telephone number and complete address for verification purposes.