# Editorial & Opinion

# 'Selectivism' not unique to U.S. Catholics

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There is a tendency of some people to think that selectivism is something new and peculiar to Catholics, and that it exists only in the Unit-

Catholics in Latin America and in the Latin nations of Europe, where they constitute the vast majority of the population, have been selective for years. Argentina just legalized divorce in spite of the pope's voiced objection during his recent visit there on the eve of the election.

The Catholic nations of Europe have legalized divorce. The lone exception is Ireland, which has just voted against legalizing divorce. This has cut the ground from under the Irish Republican Army. Protestants in Northern Ireland cannot be expected to support a united Ireland as long as they can point to non-Catholics being forced to conform to laws dictated by the Catholic Church.

Selective conservatism also afflicts other religions. Protestants have their fundamentalists. Jews have their extreme orthodox who want to prevent the non-orthodox people in Israel from attending movies on Friday. The conservative Khoumeni and his Shiite Moslems

dictate to the Sunni Moslems and non-Moslems in Iran, which is a theocratic dic-

Whether it is called fundamentalism or conservatism, such extremes are a tendency to overemphasize the institution while ignoring, switching or minimizing the one or two basic principles upon which the institution was founded.

Catholic liberals select and emphasize the commandment handed down by Jesus Christ to "love thy neighbor as thyself" as the basic commandment and guide for people to live with each other in peace and justice. They just want the commandment put into practice by the economically powerful in their treatment of the less powerful.

The five papal encyclicals on social justice and the bishops' pastorals on peace and the economy are based upon this commandment. Catholics cannot violate that commandment and at the same time claim to be supporting the commandment to love God. Referring to the commandments to love God and neighbor, Christ declared, "On these two commandments depend the whole law of God."

## Seeks prayers help for residents 'oppressed' by Supercollider bid

Our church has always sought to respond to the needs of the oppressed. I would like to bring to your attention the plight of your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ in Wayne County. Perhaps you have already heard of the state's proposal to build the Super-Collider the 53-mile "atom smasher" - in Wayne County. Laws are already on the books to allow the government to take over approximately 1,000 families' residences. The impact on the rural communties of this type of project is more than the people can handle. Already, signs of stress are showing, especially in the

children and the elderly who are in fear of the destruction of their homes and their way of life.

What I am asking you today is to find out about this rape of a community and to write to your legislators. The downstate area succeeded in being withdrawn from consideration due to support from the area around the collider — people not directly affected by losses. We need your help, your letters, your prayers. Carol May

Stoney Lonesome Road Williamson

# More Letters

Not only employers who fail to treat their employees with justice but also people who vote for politicians who they know use their office to promote the interests of the rich at the expense of the workers and consumers are violating the commandment to "love thy neighbor" by ignoring it.

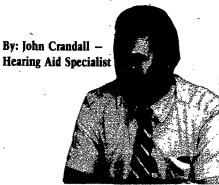
To divert attention from their dissent, the conservatives continue their campaign to elevate the mosaic commandment dealing with adultery and sex as more important than the commandment emphasized by Christ, the popes and bishops. Whose selection do you choose?

Walter O'Hagan Sherman Street Auburn

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