

Viewpoint

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eventually reach a consensus in three areas:

• *Abortion is an economic issue.* "There's a question of the whole economic system that impels some people to feel that (abortion) is the only choice they have," Womack explained.

• *Abortion should not be a substitute for birth control.* "We need to very careful of seeing abortion as a legal form of birth control," he said, noting that he believed couples should be informed of other birth control options before entering into a sexual relationship.

• *Abortion is a tragedy that involves loss.* "There may be some agreement on the fact that abortion is a tragic situation ... Losses need to be grieved," he pointed out.

Most importantly, Womack said, the task force exists to prove, "that people of faith and good will can honestly disagree on (the abortion) issue."

The minister said he hopes the task force will become a model for similar dialogue groups of pro-life and pro-choice Christians.

Maher has already hosted a couple of meetings over the last year between local pro-life and pro-choice advocates, and he noted that GEM is a model of an ecumenical agency promoting adoption and working to eliminate "a lot of the causes that lead people to think abortion is a choice."

Such work may be the only way to completely eliminate the practice of abortion, Womack commented. "I don't think we're ever going to reach a state in this country where no abortions can occur," he said, adding that only "moral suasion" and not "legislation" could convince women to stop using abortion.

Advent

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cence, simplicity and trust we had as children. We believed that promises would be kept, that what we were waiting for would truly happen just as we hoped.

Each year, I choose an Advent character to walk with me through the season of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. This year, I have chosen Joseph. Joseph was confused, yet he continued to believe in his dream. I will ask him to help me be aware of the announcements of God's will in my life.

You may choose to reflect on the pregnancies of Elizabeth and Mary during this

time. One could ask, 'How can I bring the Word to birth in my life and in the world around me? What do I hope to give birth to in my life? How life-giving is my 'yes' to God?'

Join with us in this column during the next several weeks, as we meditate on the season of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany. Using the images and symbols of the season, especially as they are presented in the prayers and preface of each Sunday, let us journey to Bethlehem and beyond. Emmanuel — God with us!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Weatherholt is director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy.

Christmas

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56 Mr. H. has a family of five. He has a very modest income, but it is difficult to stretch it to replace the furnace. Mr. H. doesn't want a handout, just a little help as he helps himself and his family.

57 Mr. and Mrs. J. are a young couple that recently purchased a small home in Seneca County. Unfortunately, Mr. and Mrs. J didn't realize that the electrical system would need extensive repairs. They have used everything they have, but need to fix the electrical system before it causes a fire hazard.

58 Mr. and Mrs. F. have been able to support themselves. Now, Mr. F. has become very ill, and the family income has decreased. Mrs. F. does the best she can, but needs some help with an electrical

problem in the house, which has caused a fire and safety hazard. The F. family could use a helping hand.

59 Mr. and Mrs. C. have four children. Mr. C. has a job, but it is difficult to make ends meet. The oldest child has a medical condition, requiring medication on a daily basis. The cost of the medication takes away from funds needed for food.

60 A Mexican family — consisting of a mother, father and three children, ages 12, 9 and 6 — came to Rochester from Texas to obtain medical care for their 12-year-old daughter. The daughter is severely crippled, cannot talk, has a tracheotomy, is fed through a tube into her stomach and is on a catheter. This child has required the mother's constant care since birth. The family left Texas with nothing except some medical equipment for the sick daughter, and the father earns a low income doing janitorial work.

Sr. Lucy Sroczyk, SSJ, St. Stan's teacher

Sister Lucy Sroczyk, SSJ, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph for 70 years, died Sunday, Nov. 19, 1989, at the congregation's convent infirmary in Pittsford. She was 94.

A native of Poland, Sister Lucy came to the United States in the early 1900s. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph congregation from St. Hyacinth Parish in Auburn. Sister Lucy earned her diploma from Nazareth Normal School, which later merged with Nazareth College.

She joined the faculty at St. Stanislaus School in 1921, marking the beginning of a 46-year career at the school, where she taught grades two through six. She retired from teaching in 1967 because of failing

health. Sister Lucy was much loved by her students, and is most fondly remembered by the people of St. Stanislaus Parish.

Sister Lucy is survived by two sisters, Sister Coletta Sroczyk of Rochester and Honorata Pelc of Poland; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grand-nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in the Sisters of St. Joseph mother-house chapel on Nov. 21. Father Andrew Grzela, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church, was the principal celebrant. He was assisted by Monsignor William Shannon.

Burial took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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