

# What's to discuss with 'pro-choicers?'

By Father Paul Cuddy  
Courier columnist

Man has been defined as a rational animal, but we sometimes wonder at his ability to make judgments that have bizarre conclusions.

A remarkable example of mental twistedness was in Rob Cullivan's article in the *Catholic Courier* ("Diocese asked to condemn priest's actions," Feb. 8) regarding Father Anthony Mugavero's tussle with the law.

The diocese is deluged with a plethora of groups with diverse causes; some are sensible, some are crack-pot, some are worthy issues, and some are patently unworthy of discussion.

Now the pro-choice, a disarming term which actually means to choose between letting a baby live or be killed, wants Bishop Matthew Clark to clobber Father Mugavero and his associates for their work

to save babies from a gruesome death.

A special prize goes to a woman representing the National Organization for Women in Rochester. She says: "We believe the majority of Catholics do not agree with Father Mugavero's actions, and we believe that his actions are being sanctioned by local leaders of the Catholic Church."

Her first opinion is a conjecture floating from the NOW woman's desires. The second proposition makes for an interesting conjecture: are these leaders Bishop Clark, Father George Norton, or Brighton-area pastors? Who are they that we may praise them?

Next came the NOW woman's doozie. "We must believe that the Catholic Church leadership also does not value women and is contributing to the violence in women's lives."

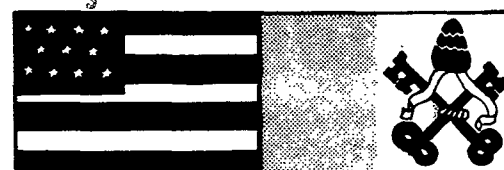
Contemplate this attack on the church

whose outstanding member — next to Pope John Paul II — is a woman, Mother Teresa of Calcutta. Is she not valued as a good woman?

Indeed here is a woman who is dedicated to Christ, to the poorest, and to the saving of unborn children — whom the NOW people advocate to be ghoulishly put to death. Mother Teresa and her sisters have declared that they will gladly receive any unwanted child, a magnanimous spirit which we recommend to the NOW folks.

Can you imagine a greater violence in a woman's life than to enter into her womb with knives and scissors and such — to chop up a baby within — or to flood the womb with a saline solution to scald and smother a baby to death?

The church for centuries has conducted orphanages to care for the homeless and the abandoned. Our diocesan Catholic Charities has worked for decades for the



## ON THE RIGHT SIDE

care and dignity of disadvantaged women.

Our own Sisters of Mercy and St. Joseph have Bethany House and Melita house for unwed mothers and for battered women. In addition, there is the Mercy House for the very poor.

I wonder how many of those NOW enthusiasts know the inspiring lives of St. Elizabeth Seton, whose spiritual descendants are Sisters of Charity at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester; or St. John Bosco and his Salesians; or St. Vincent de Paul and his Daughters of Charity.

Most Americans have seen the movie, "Boys Town," with Spencer Tracy as Father Flanagan. This movie is a result of contemporary Catholic concern for the disadvantaged.

Rob Cullivan's article concludes: "Following the meeting (between the abortion group and Bishop Clark's representatives), they agreed to continue the dialogue."

To me such a meeting between a "pro-death-to-babies" committee and Catholic officials — in order to clobber Father Mugavero — is comparable to some dastardly meeting with Nazi Holocaust overseers to discuss the predestined death to Jews and other "inferior persons" such as Poles, Catholics, Protestants, Jehovah's Witnesses and Slavs.

How can any Christian or Jew continue to meet in good faith with a group determined to propagandize and practice for the death of little babies whether it be by knives, scissors or saline solutions? The American Holocaust has already consumed 22 million babies in the United States. What is there to discuss?

# Life brings choices, but worrying doesn't help

By Father Albert Shamon  
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Matthew 6:24-34; (R1) Isaiah 49:14-15; (R2) 1 Corinthians 4/1-5.

Here is what the Mother of God said about next Sunday's gospel to Jelena, one of the two girls at Medjugorje to whom our Lady speaks: "Each Thursday reread and put into practice the passage from Matthew 6:24-34" (March 1, 1984). She repeated the same request August 5, 1986.

Why not tear this gospel out of the missalette after the Sunday Masses and post it on your refrigerator and do as Our Lady asked: Read the passage every Thursday and begin to put it into practice.

There are two reasons why Our Lady asks us to absorb these words of Jesus and make them a part of our lives: first, life is made up of choices; and secondly, the enemy of life is worry.

A game of checkers is made up of moves; life is made up of choices. What moves we make determine whether or not we win at checkers; what choices we make determine the outcome of our lives.

Therefore, Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters." You've got to choose and you have only one of two choices: God or money; His world or this world.

One of the greatest mistakes we can make is to assume that we can choose false or discreditable things and still deep down inside remain good people or the same people.

We become what we do. If we do it long enough or often enough the act or the habit transforms the person. It is much like the old temperance saying: "First the man drinks the drink; then the drink drinks the man; then the drink drinks the man."

You must choose God or money. But remember these consequences: money will buy a bed but not sleep; books but not brains; food but not appetite; finery but not beauty; medicine but not health; amusements but not happiness; religion but not salvation; a passport to everywhere but

heaven.

One of the reasons so many choose money is because of worry. Worry is fear of a future evil. Mind you that the evil is not present here and now. It is a future evil, impending, one that may come — maybe! Ninety percent of the evils feared never happen. Worry is circular: it spirals, builds up, so that eventually it crowds out God.

Jesus, therefore, listed seven reasons why we should not worry.

1. God gives life; surely He will give the life supports. Who gives the greater will give the lesser.
2. He feeds the birds, how much more those for whom He made the birds!
3. Worry is futile. Can worrying tack on even a single minute to one's life-span?
4. Pointing to the lilies of the field, Jesus reminds us that it is God who clothes them in such beauty. Will He do less for those for whom He created the flowers?
5. Only pagans worry over food, drink and clothing for they have no faith and no God. But we have a Father in heaven. Why should we worry?
6. Keep your priorities straight: Seek God first!



## A WORD FOR SUNDAY

7. Live a day at a time. God gave the manna in the desert a day at a time to teach His people not to worry about tomorrow, but to put their trust in Him.


A Persian proverb says: "Look to this day. For today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Therefore, look to this day."

How wise because the past is past; the future does not exist; only the present is ours. Therefore in the words of Longfellow: "Act, — act in the living present! heart within, and God o'erhead!"

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