

All sexual orientations subject to same ethics

To the editors:

I feel nothing but sympathy for those in our society afflicted by the aberration known as homosexuality but now referred to as "being gay." Far more intelligent and knowledgeable people than I have failed to pinpoint the cause of this aberration. Those affected have a heavy cross to bear.

At this point only God, it seems, is aware of the reason why this minority is out of step with nature's plan. However it is quite clear, it seems to me, that God is not pleased with promiscuity on the part of any group within society. Even a casual read-

ing of the bible leads any thinking individual to believe that "sexual messing around" is not viewed kindly regardless of your sexual orientation.

This aberration has been with us for all of recorded history and thus cannot be expected to go away. What then should be our response as individuals, as a society and as a religion to the existence of this fact of life?

It appears to me that ones sexual orientation does not in effect negate the ethics, the legality or the morality of the sexual behavior of the individual concerned. Should not all be expected to conform to standards

set forth by ethics, law and religion? Admittedly individuals from both groups will violate those standards but are they to be glorified for that behavior?

It therefore pains me and offends my sensibilities when we are asked to glorify illicit sexual behavior such as in the letter to the editor by Joel Freedman in the April 25th edition (*Catholic Courier*: "AIDS remembrance park could help to heal painful loss") which promotes an AIDS Remembrance Park. He states, "and bees and butterflies light from branch to blossom, the spirits of those no longer with us will be there for us to sense and feel."

I would suggest to Rev. Walter Szymanski, who is identified in Joel Freedman's letter to the editor as coordinator of the park project, that as an adjunct to this park or perhaps as another whole park we should dedicate a "Syphilis Remembrance Park." There as the bees and butterflies flit around we can glorify all of those now

deceased as a result of a very similar disease. Over the years we would have far greater numbers to remember than we have to date from Aids. The corollary is of course that both diseases are, for the most part, the result of illicit sexual behavior but the Syphilis Remembrance Park would apply to all groups in our society both homosexual and heterosexual.

Come on folks get real. Both Aids and Syphilis are dirty diseases identified and categorized as being for the most part spread by "sexually messing around." Neither should be glorified as if the victims are poor innocents worthy of sainthood. Certainly the victims of both deserve our sincere sympathy and our prayers but glorifying sexually transmitted diseases does not do either homosexuals or heterosexuals or society in general any favors.

Walter C. Ervin Jr.
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Elmira

British government guilty of human-rights violations

To the Editor:

Increased brutality, (house searches, verbal and physical abuse, long delays at check points), has been exerted by the British security forces in Northern Ireland during the past four months. Bishop Edward Daly of Derry City and Archbishop Cahal Daly of Armagh City have pleaded publicly for the police to stop the harassment. This can be verified by calling Cardinal Daly's office in Armagh or Archbishop Daly's office in Derry City. Associated Press felt that this would not be of interest to the American public.

Recently I wrote a letter concerning the purchase of 25,000 tons of coal from South Africa by a British company, Northern Ireland Electric. A rebuttal followed by Joyce Szwagiel of Auburn. Her letter implied the purchase never took place: I enjoyed her letter. It renewed my faith that if the British people knew what really happens in Northern Ireland they would stop it! This purchase was condemned by Britain's Labor Party. A motion was made in the House of Commons in February. That is Public Record! The question of why the government allowed this purchase may be

answered by thinking back to the bitter coal miner's strike. Thatcher sent troops in to break the union's back. Welsh coal miners send Labor Party to Westminster!

I explained this to Joyce Szwagiel and have sent her four news clippings concerning Northern Ireland Electric. Anyone, particularly African Americans and Irish Americans who would like a copy of the news articles concerning any of my letters, please send a note and a stamped envelope to my home address:

Michael Larson
6216 Bennett Street
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I will try to live up to what the Irish call "the Protestant work ethic" and respond as quickly as I can.

Joyce Szwagiel makes the point that British men and women are fighting with United Nations coalition. She fails to mention that the week of April 1st the British government was brought before the United Nations Human Rights Committee. This may not be her fault! I am sure Associated Press failed to inform her.

Michael Larson
Ontario

Tuition rise leads parents to rethink worth of Catholic school education

To the editors:

I'd like to respond to Brother Walsh's (letter) of April 25, 1991, "Catholic schools worth the price."

As a member of the Southwest Quadrant I want to point out that the increase of tuition is much too high and that I do not consider it a good investment. One of my children would be attending the new junior high which only answers to maybes and ifs. Here it is May first and there is still no principal or staff selected. The particular school my children attend now is an investment because of its quality of a Catholic Education and its affordability to the many families of the parish. Our school budget cost per pupil was under \$1,500 versus Brother Walsh's quote of \$2,640. Why didn't the finance committee of the new quadrant learn from our parish which was running smoothly on its budget — till the Bishop's announcement — instead of

pushing their financial plan on us. The tuition for my family will triple. How do you ask — It's simple first I must pay tuition 1,600 — then I have to support my church, and let us not forget the subsidy each and every parish must meet for this quadrant plan. My parish has to put in \$300,000. Don't forget — November comes and we have the Thanksgiving Appeal. *Who pays* all these — we the parishioners.

Brother Walsh — put yourself in my shoes. You are a priest — I support you plus — I have a husband and three kids. The kids need food, clothes — which I only buy at K-mart — and shelter. I work hard each day and so does my husband. Yes we're middle class making about \$38,000, but do you know a few years ago my husband was sick and our income declined — we've tried to catch up but can't. Our taxes are up the economy is down. There are many like me and worse who struggle each day to just making it. The diocese offers free education to those families of 5 making \$15,000 and you have grants — but I don't qualify — If the quadrant system is so great — to help all — Why aren't all the schools in Monroe County adopting the Quadrant System? Catholic Education is for the rich and poor.

In your (letter) you mentioned the Pennsylvania Schools are doing well and growing yet — you failed to mention how they got to this point. Do they have quadrants; tuition; what neighborhoods are the schools in? The Rochester Diocese would grow too but only when we have a Quality Affordable Catholic Education.

I agree Catholic Education is a good investment up until now and my children will be better because of this investment they've received however, the time has come that the investment is the Junior High Program along with the High Cost of tuition has forced us to rethink our investment for our children.

P. Battisti
Barn Swallow Lane Rochester

Paper has room for all

To the editors:

Congratulations on your fine coverage of all the news and opinions of all of God's people. You are to be commended for your patience and dedication to bringing all views to the readers. Kudos to you for reminding us, the faithful, that in the Catholic Church, there's room for all of the Good Shepherd's flock, Father Cuddy, Father Shannon, Father Curran, Father McBrien, and all of us in between. Keep up your good work!!!!

Rose A. Sagan
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'Traditional Catholics' view suffering as God's gift

To the editors:

Recently a letter in the *Catholic Courier* praised your paper for having examined the different sides of the abortion issue, beliefs regarding Mary, etc. The letter stated that your paper has been for everyone, not just the "traditionalist" in the Catholic Church. I have been a lukewarm Catholic, who went to mass weekly, but did not know what Our Blessed Lord taught. I have since become a "traditionalist" Catholic, because of my new understanding of the following quotes.

1 Corinthians 1:23-25 states, "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block..." I learned that suffering is the way to heaven. Those in the

church who believe that a pregnant girl who is young, poor and incapable of caring for a child should have a right to abort — in order to prevent a child from being raised in poverty — deny that suffering is allowed by God. My catechism taught, "Who made me? God made me." This applies to the child in the womb whether born rich or poor.

St. Bernard wrote, "All men wish to enjoy Our Lord, but not to the extent of following His example; they will reign with Him but not suffer with Him." St. Joseph took in a pregnant girl, Mary, and made it his cross, giving up sexual relations for a higher call. Like St. Joseph, we are all called to be saints, to suffer for Christ in order to reign with Him. If the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, then it must

experience suffering and care for those who suffer.

Anyone who believes that Catholic faith is suppose to be easy is quiet mistaken. are challenged by our selfish, fallen nature. When we rise above our nature and die to self, then we will better the world. 1 Corinthians 2:2 reads, "For I am determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified". I believe if you read the documents of Vatican II in light of these quotes, you will see that our daily suffering for Christ is still approved by the church as the only means to heaven. I believe "traditional Catholics" are those who except suffering as a gift from God.

Frank Netti
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Legal abortion allows doctors to avoid blame

To the editors:

Some present-day doctors want abortion legalized forever so that it will not be the "I" but the "they" or the law, who is responsible.

Their very insistence on it being legal is in itself a recognition of the crime of murder, which one seeks to escape by throwing their burdens on the anonymous or the state.

Such men with criminal intent think that by making the knife long enough, or by putting it into the hand of the state, they will keep murder legal.

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