

Pope expresses God's abhorrence of abortion

To the editors:

Does a woman's right to her own body allow for abortion? Does a woman have the right to prostitute herself or inflict harm on herself? Does she sustain her life's breath, her own heart beat? Obviously women and men have a limited right to their own body. Pope Paul VI wrote, "Just as a man does not have an unlimited dominion over his generative faculties as such, because of their intrinsic ordination towards raising up life of which God is the principle."

When Jesus (Math. 16:19) gave the first Pope the authority (keys) to the kingdom of heaven with the power to bind us to certain precepts of faith and morals, He created a new position of authority in His Church. The person in that position is responsible for leading the entire Christian world in faith and morals and is accountable to God for

this calling. In 250 A.D. Bishop Cyprian said, "Jesus founded a single chair, thus establishing by His own authority the source of the churches oneness." He added, "If a man not hold fast to this oneness of Peter, does he imagine that still holds the faith?"

St. Ambrose in the 4th century stated that whatever was condemned by all. St. Augustine followed with, "Rome has spoken, the dispute is ended." Appointed by God, the Pope must assent to the will of God. This submission is for the good of God's people for which early popes have named themselves as "servants to the servants of God."

Theologian Alan Schreck states that although popes are not impeccable they are alone given, at times, special guidance by the Holy Spirit as Peter was in the Acts of the Apostles. He writes, "this infallibility in teaching

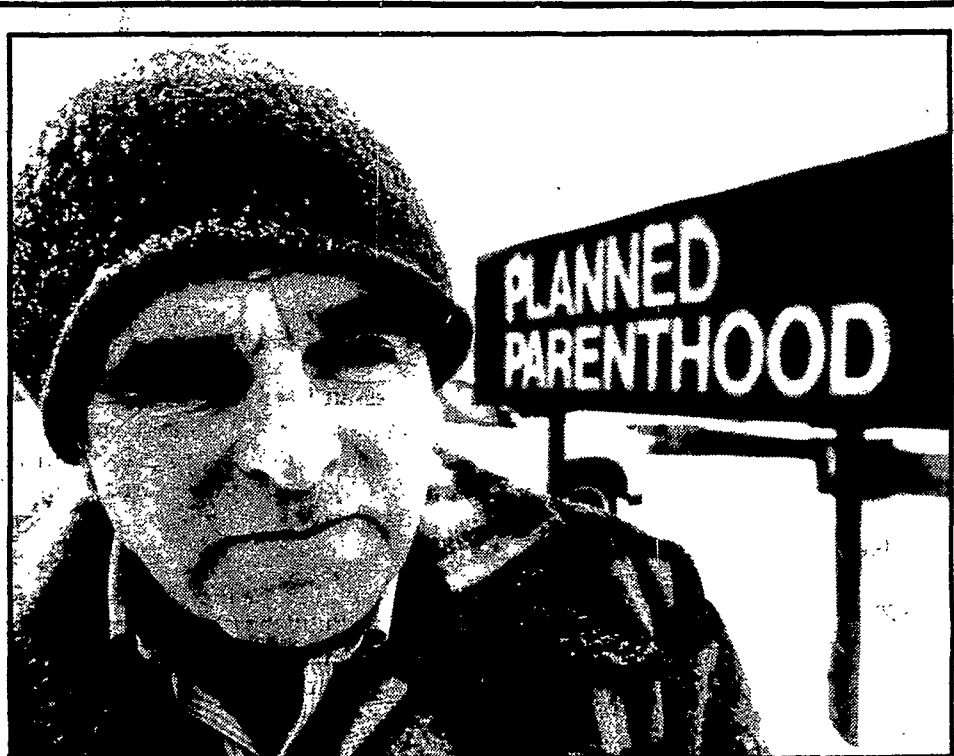
Christian truth is a sheer gift or chrism of God for the benefit of the Church; it is nothing to do with natural wisdom, ability, or virtue of the particular man who possess that gift through holding the office of pope." This gift given to the God's chosen pope, although seldom used, calls all Catholics to respect all forms of the pope's teachings.

The Second Vatican Council documents, guided by the Holy Spirit, teaches "our religious submission of will and of mind must be shown in a special way to the authentic teaching authority of the Roman Pontiff, even when he is not speaking 'ex cathedra.'" The pope is not God. But when I am asked, how do I know that what I believe is in line with what God wants me to believe in order that I have the best chance of going to heaven, I say follow the "shepherd," and in John 21:17, Jesus commands Peter to "feed

my sheep."

Abortion, therefore, is a terrible evil, not because anti-abortionists say so, but because God inspired Pope Paul VI to support past bishops in declaring the following in his document *On Human Life*. "We must 'once again' declare that the direct interruption of all generative process already begun, especially by willed abortion, even if for therapeutic reasons, are to be absolutely excluded as licit means of regulating birth." To pro-choice advocate Susan Bojdak of Macedon: no, you have no right to an abortion of a living child growing within you. This moral law does not come from an ordinary, male dominated institution, but from Christ's representative. As St. Augustine said, "Where Peter is, there is the church."

Frank Netti
Weedsport-Sennett Road



PRO-LIFE PAMPHLETEER — Kevin Bushe, a maintenance worker at the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard, is among several Catholics who have spent the past eight years passing out leaflets at the Planned Parenthood offices in Rochester. Each Saturday, activists take shifts distributing information about abortion alternatives to women entering the offices.

We can't kill someone else for the sake of convenience

To the editors:

This is in response to Suzanne Bojdak's letter about abortion (*Catholic Courier*, March 19, "Attacking PP's founder ignores real argument") in which she repeats the argument that "women have a fundamental right to maintain control over their own bodies." It doesn't make sense to start using this argument after a woman is pregnant. Ms. Bojdak complains about the church's position on birth control, but it has been documented that some percentage of couples using any particular form of birth control will get pregnant. Endorsing birth control isn't the answer. The time to start taking control of one's body is before deciding to be sexually active. If becoming pregnant is unthinkable in your situation, don't take the chance. God wants us to be happy, not to put ourselves into situations where we must make agonizing decisions.

Claiming the right to control our own bodies does not give us rights over anyone else's body. There is a separate living person involved when the "rights" argument is used in the abortion debate. We don't have the right to kill another person for the convenience of our own bodies. And it takes more responsibility, more "control" to decide not to take (what appears to be) the easy way out.

Ruth Uschold
Hiawatha Trail
Spencerport



Margaret Sanger was the founder of Planned Parenthood.

Woman's duty includes caring for unborn child

To the editors:

Concerning Suzanne M. Bojdak's letter of March 19, 1992, in the *Catholic Courier* ("Attacking PP's founder ignores real argument"): Assuming a woman is maintaining control over her own body, shouldn't this include the unborn baby in her womb. Protecting it, by receiving the right nourishment, seeking the best medical care?

Do the people of Planned Parenthood let the one seeking an abortion view a video of an abortion? If they did perhaps that woman would change her mind.

The number of abortions performed daily is enough to stagger one's imagination.

Since Suzanne M. Bojdak suggested others read Kristen Luker's *Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood*, I suggest she read *Rachel Weeping: The Case Against Abortion*, by Father James T. Burtchaell upon return from Jerusalem.

Rena B. Camblin
Meadow Drive
Palmyra

A woman does not possess right over her own body when with child

To the editors:

Suzanne Bojdak's letter (*Catholic Courier*, March 19: "Attacking PP's founder ignores real argument") states "let us dispense with rhetorical nonsense and non-argument and stay true to our disagreement: Do I have the right to my body or not? I vote 'yes.'"

I vote "No!" when it involves another person in the womb. If one

doesn't know the fetus is not a person, to abort it is willing to kill it if it is a person. If one knows it is a person, to abort it is killing. If one considers it the euphemistic "clump of cells" or "uterine tissue" one depersonalizes it and accommodatingly dismisses the well-documented biological, genetic, and scientific conclusions that life begins at conception. To quote Father Francis Canavan (*Pins in the Liberal Balloon*): "if we start with the determination to find reasons that will justify killing it, we shall say it is not human, or that it is not alive, or even that it is not a being..." I would add: one shall say I have a right to my body.

As for the Planned Parenthood comments, the social philosophy of Margaret Sanger's PP organization is exhaustively covered in Robert Marshall's and Charles Donovan's book *Blessed are the Barren*, a thoroughly documented, detailed investigative history and report of PP's perverse influence upon family life and social mores — to the detriment of the world and this country, in particular.

A.J. Annunziata
Holiday Drive
Horseheads

Womb is sacred place that contains a human

To the editors:

Life comes from God. His "breath of life fashions the human frame in the Mother's womb" (Ecclesiastes 11:5). He placed it there as a sacred trust. We would be horrified were someone to break into the Tabernacle and steal the sacred hosts. We trespass on holy ground and violate a sacred trust when the inner-sanctum of the womb is invaded. "What God has joined together, let no man put asunder!"

Gloria Jenner
Fox Meadow Road
Rochester