

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Blackwell, Morton: Files
Folder Title: The Catholic League for Religious and
Civil Rights – Meeting with President 05/13/1983 –
Father Virgil Blum (3 of 4)
Box: 34

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

Marcella ^{of} fire

When do you
suppose this
has been for a
month!!

It would have
helped you on
your Brit paper

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

4/28/83

MEMORANDUM

TO: FAITH WHITTLESEY (COORDINATE WITH RICHARD WILLIAMSON)
FROM: FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR. *FJR*
SUBJ: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

MEETING: Brief greeting and photo with Father Virgil Blum
on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the
Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights

DATE: May 13, 1983

TIME: 2:00 pm

DURATION: 10 minutes

LOCATION: Oval Office

REMARKS REQUIRED: Background to be covered in briefing paper

MEDIA COVERAGE: If any, coordinate with Press Office

FIRST LADY
PARTICIPATION: No

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

cc: A. Bakshian M. McManus R. Williamson
R. Darman J. Rosebush
R. DeProspero B. Shaddix
K. Duberstein W. Sittmann
D. Fischer L. Speakes
C. Fuller WHCA Audio/Visual
W. Henkel WHCA Operations
E. Hickey A. Wrobleski
G. Hodges Nell Yates

CHECKLIST FOR PROJECT OFFICERS

General Responsibilities

- _____ Prepare and submit briefing paper to Richard Darman's Office by 3:00 pm of the preceding day. (14 copies)
- _____ Submit a complete, confirmed list of staff and attendees, identified by title, as well as the actual starting and completion times, to the President's Diarist, Office of Presidential Appointments and Scheduling within five (5) days after the event. (7560)
- _____ Coordinate with David Fischer on Presidential involvement and itinerary. (x2168)
- _____ Coordinate with Mark Weinberg in the Press Office (x2100) if applicable. Indicate home towns of participants.
- _____ If remarks are required, coordinate with the Speechwriters Office (x6266) well in advance.
- _____ For Rose Garden event, clear and reserve a backup location in case of inclement weather.
- _____ If participant brings a gift, contact Mary Power (x7133) for handling.
- _____ If any foreign visitor or dignitary is to be involved, please coordinate with Charles Tyson of the NSC (x3440).

West Wing Meetings

- _____ Notify and clear all participants. (Full name, social security number, date of birth).
- _____ Arrange parking with West Wing ushers and inform gate of arrival time and number of vehicles.
- _____ If tent name cards are needed, send a list of names to Muffie Brandon's office (x7064) 48 hours in advance.
- _____ All room arrangements (chairs, notepads, pencils, etc.) should be made through Carl Jones (x2275) or Nell Yates (x2605).
- _____ Coordinate with the Advance Office for Rose Garden events (x7565).

Residence Events

- _____ Coordinate with the Social Secretary's office (x7064) for all arrangements.
- _____ Coordinate with the Advance Office for Presidential Arrangements and logistical support. (x7565)
- _____ Send guest list to Social Secretary's office, preferably three weeks prior to the event.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Bill S.
pl do

April 21, 1983

MEMORANDUM TO MICHAEL K. DEEVER
FAITH R. WHITTLESEY

Kill

FROM: RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON

RE: CATHOLIC LEAGUE FOR RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL RIGHTS

I am prompted to forward this both to you as a result of our recent luncheon meeting on blue collar workers coupled with materials I have received from Bill Gavin.

As you know, Bill, who was a former speech writer to President Nixon and currently a Special Assistant to House Republican Leader Bob Michel, gave invaluable help to us on the campaign as a speech writer. He was particularly good at drafting language to address the ethnic Catholic group.

Bill is very active in the Catholic community. His book, "A Street Corner Conservative", is probably the best written about the Conservative Catholic crossover vote.

*get
for
W.S. 7/26*

He strongly urges us to have Father Virgil Blum meet with the President on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights on May 14, 1983. Apparently Father Blum will be in Washington at that time.

Enclosed are materials I have received from Bill of this event.

Based on my review of the material and my high regard for Bill, I strongly urge us to place it on the schedule.

cc: James A. Baker
Edward Rollins

APPROVED FOR
Date. *5/13/83*
Time. *2:00*
Length. *5 min*
Date *4/28/83* **FIR**

APR 8 1983

Dear Rich:

Say something in Austrian...weiner schnitzel.....

On to more pressing things:

Re;The invitation to Father Virgil Blum to meet with the President on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights. (MAY 14, 1983)

Reasons it would be good for the President to do so:

1. While the League has many clergymen as members it has no official connection with the "official" Church bureaucracy. Thus, the League represents the kind of volunteer, grass-roots, private initiative the President likes.
2. The League is primarily a civil rights group. This is an important fact. Like the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, it stands up for the rights of its co-religionists. But equally important it has stood up against bigotry directed at non-Catholics as well. Meeting with Father Blum would give the White House a chance to speak out against all bigotry and give the President a chance to set the record straight.
3. The League is a champion of tuition tax credits--and stresses the benefits to minority children (they have done a study on this).
4. The league has done a fine job in setting the record straight on news stories about the abortion controversy.
5. Finally, the League is made up of "street-corner Catholics" (like the present writer, as we say)...the kind President Reagan has counted on in the past. Rich, there are so many good things about this, I can't see a drawback. There has to be some imagination shown by the White House in reaching the Catholics of this country. This could be a small beginning....



APR 12 1983

Office of the Republican Leader
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

WILLIAM F. GAVIN

Special Assistant to
Rep. Robert H. Michel
The Republican Leader

Right —

As you can see, the President recognizes the League's contributions ... a meeting would be doubly beneficial, given the President's praise for the League —

Bill

H-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-0600



CATHOLIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 10, No. 4

April, 1983

inside ...

Coach Shula, Bishops Francis and McNicholas to headline anniversary fete

Catholic League spokesmen appeared on national television four times during February. Chairman James Hitchcock discussed "Sister Mary Ignatius" on two occasions, and Director of Public Affairs Michael Schwartz twice defended the right of parents to be notified when a federally funded agency gives their minor daughters prescription birth control drugs. For details, see page 2.

Burial of the 16,433 "shipping container" abortion victims has again been delayed through the legal maneuvering of a Los Angeles abortion clinic. See the article on page 3.

Also on page 3 is an article announcing a new Catholic League publication: *Constitutional Rights and Religious Prejudice: Catholic Education as the Battleground*, a 221-page book by Father Peter Stravinskis, the League's East Coast director of development.

This month's Heritage column, on page 5, recounts the efforts of the Knights of Columbus, in the early 20th century, to counter the widespread circulation of a phony oath in which Knights allegedly swore to kill all Protestants, etc.

Although the federal courts had earlier said that students in Gunderland, N.Y., could not conduct prayer meetings on public school property, they were doing it anyway—until a substitute teacher blew the whistle on them. See the article on page 6.

The League will soon publish an important new book on the institutional anti-Catholicism of *The Boston Globe*, written by Pat Largess, vice president of the Massachusetts Chapter. A profile of the author appears on page 6.

In his regular column on page 8, Father Blum asserts that presidential candidate Walter Mondale has already identified Catholic voters as political pygmies.

Most Reverend Joseph Abel Francis, S.V.D., auxiliary bishop of Newark, N.J., will be the principal celebrant of the concelebrated Solemn Pontifical Mass to be held May 21 in honor of the Catholic League's 10th anniversary.

Homilist at the Mass, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. in New York's St. Patrick's

Cathedral, will be Most Reverend Joseph A. McNicholas, bishop of Springfield, Ill.

Bishop Francis is a member of the Catholic League's Board of Directors and president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. Bishop McNicholas is chairman of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Liaison with Priests, Religious and Laity.

A reception and dinner will follow the Mass, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Waldorf-Astoria. Miami Dolphins Coach Don Shula will be keynote speaker. His Dolphins won the Super Bowl in 1972 and 1973, and they almost added a third National Football League championship last January when they lost a close Super Bowl game to the Washington Redskins.

Motivator

Shula is widely regarded not only as a top football strategist but also as an exceptional motivator of players. His teams are characterized by a closeness and camaraderie more often seen among college players than among pros. During the recent playoff series, several television announcers commented that the fellowship among Dolphin players is in part attributable to the team prayer meetings led by Shula.

Catholic League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., said he is extremely pleased that the League has as the featured speaker a Catholic American whose faith suffuses his public as well as his private life. "Don Shula is an exemplar of how we all should respond to the call of the Second Vatican Council 'to penetrate society with a Christian spirit,'" he said, adding, "I am sure that everyone who attends our dinner will hear a very inspiring and enlightening talk by Coach Shula."

Reservations for the reception and dinner can be made by writing to the League's East Coast office, Suite 3B, 1901 Olden Avenue Extension, Trenton, N.J. 08618. Individual admissions to the gala celebration are \$100; groups may wish to reserve a table for 10 at \$1,000.



Coach Don Shula

Plaudits from Reagan, Archbishop Laghi

The Catholic League's upcoming Tenth Anniversary celebration has occasioned letters of congratulations from President Ronald Reagan and from Archbishop Pio Laghi, the Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

"This occasion," wrote President Reagan, "presents a special opportunity for me to express my continuing high regard for the work of your organization. The Catholic League has played an instrumental part in preserving the values and ethics of the Judeo-Christian tradition of our nation.

"You have repeatedly demonstrated thoughtful leadership and concern in the effort to protect the sanctity of innocent human life. The League has also worked strenuously to strengthen the role of the family in our society, bring an end to religious discrimination in employment, and insure the rights of those with a strong spiritual commitment.

(Continued on page 6)

Four programs during February

National television exposure for the League

The Catholic League gained national television exposure on four separate occasions during the month of February.

On Feb. 1, Michael Schwartz, the League's director of public affairs, was the guest, together with Faye Wattleton, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, in a 15-minute discussion of the parental notification rule proposed by the Department of Health and Human Services when a federally subsidized agency gives prescription birth control drugs to girls 17 years of age and younger. The program, hosted by Phil Donahue, was aired nationally that same evening as part of the ABC-TV news program "The Last Word."

Schwartz supported the notice rule, arguing that parents have a right to know what the government is doing to their children. Wattleton opposed it, claiming the regulation was legally defective and would lead to undesirable social consequences.

'Sunday Morning'

On Feb. 6, CBS-TV's magazine show "Sunday Morning," hosted by Charles Kuralt, included a segment on the controversy in St. Louis over the play "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You." Prof. James Hitchcock, chairman of the League's Board of Directors, offered the Catholic League's perspec-

tive and Archbishop John May agreed that the production was offensive to Catholics. Film clips of the play, featuring a scene in which a doll was crucified, tended to support their objections, although the commentator insisted that the "real issue" was free speech rather than the acceptability of anti-Catholic bigotry.

The "Sister Mary Ignatius" issue caught the eye of popular talk show host Phil Donahue, who invited Prof. Hitchcock to be his guest on an hour-long program on the subject. Hitchcock was joined in objecting to the play by Stanley Anderman of the St. Louis office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who articulately denounced the presentation as an injection of religious bigotry into the community. Appearing in defense of the production were Fontaine Syer, artistic director of the theater company which presented the play in St. Louis and the individual who was chiefly responsible for selecting this play for production in that city; and a member of the faculty at a Chicago seminary, who said he "saw nothing wrong with" the play.

That program was taped on Feb. 16 and syndicated to more than 200 stations in the United States and Canada. It was broadcast during late February and March, depending on local schedules.

On Feb. 28, Donahue invited Schwartz and Wattleton back for a rematch on his hour-long daily program. Joining them in a discussion of the parental notice rule was Janet Benshoof of the ACLU's Reproductive Freedom Project.

League argument

Schwartz again argued that government secrecy in the dispensing of contraceptive drugs to minor girls was a violation of the rights of families, and that these programs had contributed to the dramatic increase in premarital pregnancy among teenagers, while the secrecy prevented any constructive solution to the problem. Benshoof claimed that it would be illegal and "totalitarian" for the government to reveal to parents that it was giving hazardous drugs to their children, while Wattleton contended that the only alternative to government secrecy in this matter would be more teenage pregnancies. Members of the studio audience contributed valuable comments on the health risks of contraceptive drugs, the methods of operation in birth control centers for teenagers, and the concerns and rights of parents.

This program was broadcast in local markets during March and early April.

New rules discourage infanticide

The Catholic League has commended President Reagan and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for their recent efforts to discourage the practice of infanticide against handicapped infants.

HHS announced March 2 that it will require all federally funded hospitals to post and keep posted in a conspicuous place in delivery, pediatric and maternity wards, and nurseries (including intensive care nurseries) a notice stating that "discriminatory failure to feed and care for handicapped infants in this facility is prohibited by federal law." Catholic League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan hailed the measures as "a strong expression of respect for the sanctity of human life."

Toll-free hotline

The required notices will advise that anyone having knowledge that a handicapped infant is being discriminatorily denied nutrition or medical care should immediately contact a toll-free 24-hour HHS hotline, or the state child protective agency, to report the alleged violation.

The notices will also state that "failure to feed and care for infants may also violate the criminal and civil laws of your state."

Last April 30, at the urging of the Catholic League, President Reagan directed HHS to notify hospitals that their federal fundings will be halted if they permit handicapped persons to die by starvation or denial of routine medical care.

The recently announced regulations are intended to ensure compliance with

the President's earlier directive, which was issued after the Catholic League advised the White House that Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination against handicapped persons in federally assisted facilities.

The League initiative and the White House response to it were inspired by the death of "Baby Doe" on April 15, 1982. Born with Down's syndrome in a Bloomington, Ind., hospital, Baby Doe was denied food, water and medical treatment at his parents' request and with the blessings of three separate courts.

In letters to President Reagan and Acting HHS Secretary Thomas R. Donnelly, Jr., Monaghan said the new HHS regulations will be of great help in deterring further deaths of handicapped infants through the denial of nourishment and health care.

Monaghan also welcomed the hotline for reporting violations. "The government's promise of enforcement will be more effective in saving lives than our ongoing efforts to encourage compliance with Section 504 through reporting forms," he said.

Last summer Monaghan and Prof. Charles Rice of Notre Dame University Law School drafted a legal memorandum which explained Section 504's legal protection of handicapped infants, and they prepared a discrimination complaint form designed to aid citizens in reporting incidents of discrimination to HHS.

Tens of thousands of the memoranda and complaint forms were then distributed by the Catholic League to health care facilities, pro-life organizations and interested citizens across the country.

Abortionists delay mass burial of 16,433 abortion victims

(ACLU). Before the stay expires on March 17, the abortion clinic is expected to file an appeal of Judge Chernow's decision, thus further delaying the burial.

In opposing the abortion clinic's motion for a stay, Patrick Monaghan, Catholic League general counsel, and League attorney, Paul Freese of Los Angeles, stated that the clinic had repeatedly sought to use the powers of the court to disrupt the lawful and reasonable religious expressions planned in connection with the expected burial of the human bodies.

"The abortion clinic's contention," the Catholic League attorneys stated, "is that if the Supreme Court and other courts have denied the humanity of the unborn child, this prohibits private citizens from recognizing the fact of their humanity. The Constitutional rights of free religious speech of American citizens protesting this Holocaust ought not be further denied by the Government by a stay or other injunctive procedures."

"Human beings cannot underestimate the ghoulishness of the abortion cultists," said Monaghan. "Government sponsored mass funerals, promoted by the law in the twentieth century, have tended to run towards 'incineration' (Auschwitz) as requested by the ACLU; however, there is also the precedent for what their advocates have termed 'underground storage' (Babi Yar). Then as now, there will be public prayer regardless. In time, there will be full recognition of the reality of what was done, and by whom."

Call — don't write

A telephone call can often be more effective than a letter in responding to offensive or inaccurate radio news broadcasts.

According to a League member from New York, a local radio station's recent 7 a.m. news included a report on the new code of canon law which began by saying that women are still second-class citizens in the Church because they still can't be ordained.

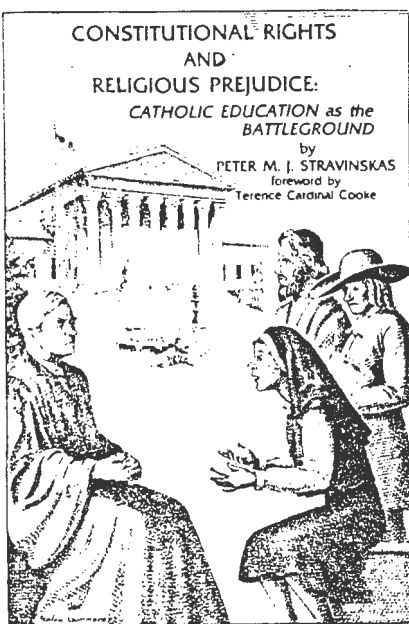
The League member phoned the station immediately, complaining that the remark was snide and offensive, and that it ignored the Church's teaching on the theology of the priesthood. The editor apologized and said the station would not use the tape again.

"I'm convinced that with news broadcasts, especially on the radio, the best response is a prompt, polite, but firm telephone call," the member said. "A letter might have gotten an apology, but it would not have kept the offensive tape off the 8 a.m. news."

Burial for the 16,433 abortion victims discovered more than a year ago in an abandoned shipping container has again been delayed through the legal maneuvering of a Los Angeles abortion clinic.

In a December 22 court order, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Eli Chernow had granted the Catholic League's request that the court authorize burial. At that time, Judge Chernow also explicitly recognized the First Amendment rights of religious-minded citizens to conduct a memorial service in conjunction with the burial.

Before the burial could take place, however, a California Court of Appeals, on March 3, granted a two-week stay at the request of the abortion clinic, the Feminist Women's Health Center, and the American Civil Liberties Union



A Catholic League Publication

Book explores educational freedom

The Catholic League has published an authoritative new book on educational freedom and private schools entitled *Constitutional Rights and Religious Prejudice: Catholic Education as the Battleground*, by Father Peter Stravinskias, the League's East Coast director of development.

In a foreword to the 221-page hard-bound book, Terence Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, says: "This study will be a help to enable fair-minded persons to examine the issues involved. With many Americans, I look forward to the day when all parents—of every economic group—will be able to exercise freedom of choice in the education of their children."

Father Stravinskias said he wrote the book as a means to trace and explore the constitutional possibilities for federal financial assistance to parents who choose private schools for their children.

Although that topic has been discussed and debated for over a century, Father Stravinskias's book is the first systematic attempt to link the constitutional question with that of religious prejudice—particularly as regards the Supreme Court's perception of the nature and purpose of Catholic schools.

At the public policy level, Father Stravinskias discovered that aid to private school parents has ample preced-

ents, would improve educational quality through increased competition, and is supported by a majority of Americans notwithstanding the substantial opposition generated through appeals to anti-Catholicism.

On the constitutional level, Father Stravinskias concludes that the First Amendment's prohibition of an establishment of religion was primarily designed to prevent the erection of a government-sponsored national church. He contends that the first 125 years of United States history and the success of other Western democracies in providing aid to private school parents while maintaining separation of church and state demonstrate that such aid could be easily implemented in the United States.

The book also provides penetrating insights into the consistent relationship that exists between a justice's image of parochial schools and how he votes on given educational cases before the Court.

Coons comments

Professor John E. Coons of the University of California at Berkeley and a member of the Catholic League's Board of Directors said of the book: It "opens a new phase in the dialogue over the roles of sectarian education in a society that calls itself free, but leaves poor and middle-class families without choice among schools." And William D. Valente of Villanova University has found it "at once a scholarly and practical exposition of one of the great political issues of our society."

The Catholic League will soon offer *Constitutional Rights and Religious Prejudice* to League members at a substantially discounted rate.

Catholic League Newsletter is published by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, 1100 W. Wells St., Mil., Wis. 53233.

James Hitchcock Chairman
Virgil C. Blum, S.J. President
John Hansen Treasurer
Ann Brosnan Secretary
Orlan Love Director of Publications

Annual membership dues: \$15
Contributions are tax deductible.



Congress tries to contain evil of abortion

By Patrick Monaghan
General Counsel

The thrust of the Respect Human Life Act of 1983, recently introduced by Congressman Henry J. Hyde, is to establish a minimum federal policy in the entire area of abortion and infanticide.

The bill does not go so far as to recognize constitutional protection for unborn children under the ambit of the 14th Amendment, but it obviously does not preclude such recognition. The bill adopts some of the findings from Senator John East's Committee hearings on human life. Section 1 of the legislation states that:

"The Congress finds that,

(a) It is the policy of the Government of the United States to protect innocent life, both before and after birth, and that the Government of the United States affirms that all human beings are endowed by their creator with certain inalienable rights among which is the right to life, as embodied in our Declaration of Independence."

The Respect Human Life Act codifies most of the current restrictions on the federal financing of abortion. With an exception for the life of the mother if the child were carried to term, no agency of the United States would be authorized to perform or promote abortions, nor could federal funds be used to pay for abortions.

Lastly, the bill establishes a right of direct appeal to the United States Supreme Court if any state legislation prohibiting or restricting abortion or infanticide, which is expressly based on the provisions of the Respect Human Life Act, is invalidated by any court of the United States.

Judicial imperialism

The Respect Human Life Act is an attempt to counter the imperial decrees of judges' actions under the guise of judicial review when such actions are in fact unconstitutional acts of judicial supremacy. It is an effort to see if the center can hold or if things must fall apart.

Critics of the bill may assert that it is an attempt to "legislate morality." To this, Mr. Hyde has stated "if you take morality out of law, you're left with force. And how many holocausts do we have to endure on this planet to know that force is a terrible way to judge right from wrong? Morality belongs in the law."

The Respect Human Life Act recognizes that the total abolition of abortion is, at the moment, not possible. Like the coiled snake in the cradle which Lin-

coln recognized slavery to be, so with abortion—the evil must be contained.

The Respect Human Life Act does recognize abortion and infanticide for what they are—evil. It is one thing to admit that abortion is with us, quite another to make it the official *policy* of our nation, with the support of our laws, the use of our money, and to promote and encourage it with all the powers of state and society.

The Hyde Amendment has been passed in every fiscal year since 1976. Every year this touches off an intense legislative battle which brings the government to a halt. The Respect Human Life Act would end this by making the Hyde Amendment a permanent part of our substantive law.

Those with true compassion for the poor would no more support abortion "for" the poor than they would support heroin "for" the poor. Evil is evil, and as evil, it is not amenable to egalitarian and equal protection arguments for dis-

tributing it. Abortion, like slavery and cancer, must be discouraged when it cannot be stopped, and decisively destroyed when possible. The Respect Human Life Act is a step in the right direction.

With the passage of the Respect Human Life Act perhaps Congress can free itself to get down to the very heart of this country's real business—the forging of a consensus to respect life. A consensus that mothers and fathers should not kill or abuse their children, born or unborn. A consensus that those "wanted" children who escaped the abortionist should not now grow up to follow the example set by their parents toward their inconvenient and slain brothers and sisters, and by choice kill the "unwanted old"—even if it would improve the fiscal soundness of Social Security.

The Respect Human Life Act of 1983 is an attempt to begin to respond appropriately to the blood-dimmed tide engulfing us.

Paper questions bishop's veracity

The Catholic League has admonished the Stockton (California) *Record* for publicly accusing the Bishop of Stockton of deliberately making a false statement.

In its Sunday, Feb. 6 edition, the *Record* published a lengthy lead editorial entitled "Bishop should be ashamed of comments on the press." Alluding to a Feb. 1 speech by Bishop Roger Mahony at a local Rotary Club meeting, the editorial contended that the bishop had made the "outrageous claim that an anonymous executive of a California newspaper chain had told him that 'it is our job to sell newspapers, not to tell the truth'."

Asserting that the bishop's alleged statement "is an unmitigated falsehood, and Mahony knows it," the editorial concluded: "It is as much a sin in our business as it is in the church, Bishop Mahony, to bear false witness. For shame."

League response

In a letter to the editor, the Catholic League advised the *Record* that it ought to have considered two points before it denounced the bishop. "First," said the League, "it is not entirely likely that a bishop would make up a statement like that out of thin air (and) second, it is not inconceivable that a newspaper execu-

tive might express such a sentiment."

The League later learned that if the *Record* had exercised journalistic responsibility and common courtesy, it would have had no reason at all to impugn the bishop's integrity.

According to Bishop Mahony, he mentioned the press not in his speech but only in response to a later question regarding obstacles to the successful negotiation of a nuclear arms treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union. In that context, he expressed the opinion that negotiations should be direct rather than conducted through initiatives and responses in the media.

Quotation

Then, recalling his own past frustrations with inaccurate and misleading press experiences, he repeated a quote which he attributed to the executive editor of a newspaper chain: "Newspapers are in business to sell newspapers; they are not in business to tell the truth."

In a letter to the editorial page editor of the *Record*, Bishop Mahony explained that there is a significant difference between his actual words about the business of newspapers and the quote attributed to him in the editorial (about the job of journalists). He also raised several questions about the *Record's*

(Continued on page 5)

The bogus oath of the Knights of Columbus

A classic technique of anti-Catholic agitators has been to attribute to Catholics conspiratorial designs on the lives and liberties of non-Catholics. One of the most infamous and most gruesome of these alleged conspiracies was embodied in a bogus "Secret Jesuit Oath," which apparently originated in the 16th century, when it was concocted by a Polish Jesuit who had defected from the Society and the Church.

This same piece of defamation was dusted off and refurbished for American audiences in 1912 by an anti-Catholic group called the Guardians of Liberty. In the American version, however, the conspirators were said to be the Knights of Columbus. Fourth Degree Knights were accused of swearing to "make and wage relentless war, secretly and openly, against all heretics, Protestants and

Masons...to extirpate them from the face of the whole earth," and to "hang, burn, waste, boil, flay, strangle, and bury alive these infamous heretics, rip up the stomachs and wombs of their women, and crush their infants' heads against the walls in order to annihilate their execrable race."

These sanguinary sentiments were broadcast throughout the land in leaflets, newspapers and sermons during 1912. A congressional committee investigated the hoax early in 1913 when Eugene Bonniwell, a Knight of Columbus and defeated candidate for Congress from Philadelphia, claimed that his opponent had libeled him by circulating the oath. The committee condemned the spurious oath, but exonerated the victorious candidate of responsibility for its distribution. Ironically, the anti-

Catholics turned this rebuke into a victory for themselves, by reprinting the oath from the *Congressional Record*, thus lending it an aura of authenticity.

The next step the Knights of Columbus took in their own defense was to initiate legal proceedings for criminal libel against Charles Megonegal, a Philadelphia printer, in 1914. Megonegal pleaded guilty to the charge, and with the consent of the plaintiffs, received a suspended sentence.

Later that same year Knights in California filed similar charges against the editor of a socialist newspaper in Santa Cruz who had reprinted the oath. In a jury trial, the editor was found guilty of libel, and that conviction was upheld on appeal.

During that same summer of 1914, the editors of a Mankato, Minnesota daily newspaper were successfully prosecuted for the same offense. The purpose of these prosecutions, of course, was not to punish the offenders (who were just a random few of thousands of anti-Catholic propagandists who were spreading this defamation) or to extract financial damages, but to discredit in public these false charges against the Knights.

Masons Investigate

In pursuit of this same objective, the K. of C. leadership in California, noting that the bogus oath was harshly anti-Masonic, invited a committee of leading Masons in their state to investigate for themselves the rituals and ceremonies of the Knights. Their report gave the Knights of Columbus a clean bill of health and denounced the oath as "scurrilous, wicked and libelous." A copy of the Masons' report was placed in the *Congressional Record* by a California Congressman who was a prominent Mason.

Although the Knights of Columbus had worked effectively in exposing the oath as fraudulent, the lie did not die easily. The bogus Knights of Columbus oath was a mainstay of the anti-Catholic propaganda of the Ku Klux Klan during the twenties, and it played a prominent role in the anti-Catholic agitation that surrounded the presidential elections of 1928 and 1960.

More recently, it has been reprinted in a 1981 book by Indiana faith healer Win Worley and, regaining its original attribution to the Jesuits, it forms the dramatic climax to one of the comic book hate tracts put out by the most venomous of present-day professional anti-Catholics, Alberto Rivera.

Bishop replies to paper *(Continued from page 4)*

coverage of his talk to the Rotarians:

"Why was no news story reported on the full contents of my talk to the Rotarians? If two *Record* reporters were present at the talk, why did they not identify themselves and ask me any clarifying questions? Why did not the editorial page editor — who was not present for the talk — give me a call to ask about my remarks, intentions and points? And why did the *Record* feel that this very minor issue deserved to be blown into a Sunday edition major editorial?"

After hearing the bishop's side of the story, one can't help entertaining yet another question:

Why would a newspaper ignore a bishop's speech on nuclear disarmament and focus instead on his off-hand remark about the press, with the result being a lengthy lead editorial questioning the bishop's veracity published five days later in the paper's Sunday edition?

One answer might be the paper's perfectly understandable strong interest in selling newspapers.



Winners of the Long Island Chapter's annual student essay contest are pictured with Chapter President William Lindner and Father Peter Stravinskis. To the left are the high school winners: Anthony Brunet of Chaminade (runner-up), Ann Bardwil of Maria Regina (runner-up), and Jeanne Kenney of Maria Regina (first place). To the right are the junior high winners: Christina Mackell of Manhasset St. Mary's (first place), Eugene T. Reilly of St. Ignatius Loyola (runner-up), and Noreen Anne Reilly of St. Ignatius Loyola (runner-up).

Voluntary prayer flares up at Guilderland school

Episodes of voluntary prayer have again broken out at Guilderland (N.Y.) Central High School, despite a recent federal court ban on such activity.

On Feb. 17, responding to complaints from a substitute teacher, school officials ordered 45 Guilderland students to stop engaging in the "illegal" prayer meetings that they had been conducting daily for several weeks in a school corridor.

Catholic League attorneys had earlier represented six Guilderland students (since graduated) who had sued the school board in an effort to gain legal recognition of their right to hold voluntary prayer meetings on school property during off-school hours.

The League took the case all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, arguing that the school board's prohibition of the voluntary prayer meetings violated the students' freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and religious freedom.

League attorneys contended that the

school board, by permitting all manner of other groups to meet on school property, had created a public forum. By depriving the prayer group of access to that forum, they argued, the board had singled out its members for discriminatory treatment based solely on the religious content of their proposed speech. Nevertheless, on Dec. 14, 1981, the Supreme Court left intact lower court rulings which said religion would be impermissibly advanced if the Guilderland students were allowed to conduct prayer meetings on school property.

Apparently, however, many Guilderland students were not greatly daunted by the Court's denial of their right to pray. According to Louis Zinnanti, a senior at Guilderland, the students began gathering in a school hallway before classes just prior to last Christmas.

"We would stand in a circle, hold hands and pray aloud," he said. "We had been doing it right out in the open and

other teachers had known about it, but no one said anything until the substitute teacher turned us in."

Zinnanti said other students had mocked and harassed those in the prayer group. "They would swear at us and call us names," he said. "But that didn't bother us. In the Bible it says we will be persecuted."

Catholic League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., said the Guilderland situation is emblematic of the entire secularist determination to privatize religion and to drive it completely out of government schools. "According to the secularists," he said, "voluntary prayer is permitted in public schools. But when they say 'voluntary prayer,' they mean entirely inconspicuous silent prayer by an individual. You can pray, all right, as long as no one knows you're doing it. But you're in trouble with the law if you bear public witness to your belief in God. You'd think we were living in atheistic Russia."



League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., and Chairman James Hitchcock listen as Michael Schwartz, the League's director of public affairs, makes a point at the recent Board of Directors meeting in Chicago.

Congratulations *(Continued from page 1)*

"Once again, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone in the history of your organization. You have my best wishes for continued success in the future."

Archbishop Laghi wrote: "The service which the Catholic League has given during the past decade well deserves particular recognition. Being unable to participate in the anniversary celebration you are planning, I wish to take this opportunity to share some comments of Pope John Paul II which I find to be appropriate for the occasion.

"The Holy Father addressed the following remarks to the College of Cardinals at the conclusion of their Second Plenary Meeting on Nov. 26, 1982:

"Let us together praise the Lord who has given us the energy and the constancy to give a new witness of our total adhesion to the Church, of our living commitment, so that she may be able happily to continue in the world in the search of a continually better utilization of the means at her disposal, the mission entrusted to her by Christ the Lord for the service of man."

Four new directors named to League Board

The Catholic League has named two prominent business leaders, a family rights advocate and a Catholic League activist to its board of directors.

Elected to the League board at its annual meeting Feb. 12 in Chicago were Joseph Hilly, vice president for labor relations at Trans-World Airlines; James P. McLaughlin, former president of United Parcel Service; Mrs. Ricardo Montalban, a pro-life and family rights advocate, and Dr. Anthony Czajkowski, president of the Catholic League's Washington Chapter.

Hilly, an attorney who graduated from Fordham University, is a long-time Catholic League member and supporter. He has served on the advisory boards of the League's Brooklyn and Manhattan Chapters.

McLaughlin, who rose from driver to president of UPS, serves on a presidential committee charged with cultural exchanges between the United States and the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Montalban gains visibility for her pro-life and pro-family activities through her association with two like-minded relatives: her husband, actor Ricardo Montalban, and her sister, actress Loretta Young.

Dr. Czajkowski, who was nominated for the board position by a vote of his fellow chapter presidents, is a retired history professor and division chief for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Largess documents *Globe's* bias

Old axioms often survive precisely because they're true. In the case of Pat Largess, vice president of the League's Massachusetts Chapter, there's one that proves especially appropriate: If you want something done, get a busy person to do it.

Largess has recently completed an 80-page book on the institutional anti-Catholicism of *The Boston Globe*. Entitled *Keeping Catholics in their Place: The Boston Globe's Cultural Imperialism*, it will soon be published by the Catholic League.

More than three years of Pat's spare time went into researching and writing the book, and it clearly shows. According to Catholic League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., the book by Largess is the most sustained and thorough effort to counter anti-Catholic defamation in the 10-year history of the League.

Veteran teacher

Pat and his wife Jeannine have three children, ages 14, 11, and 1. After attending a Jesuit high school and Boston College, he earned a master's degree in cultural anthropology from Brandeis University and has done field work in the West Indies. A teacher in the Boston public school system since 1968, Pat's specialty is English, but he has also taught remedial math, science, and social studies to disadvantaged students on the junior-high level.

Pat belies the stereotyped view of the "anti-choice reactionary" in his concern for the inner city poor; he has been a tax reform advocate for Boston's urban and minority communities for many years. And as an activist in his neighborhood civic association, Pat's deeds lend cre-

dence to his words: "I'm very much involved in the city of Boston and dedicated to its betterment."

Pat finds it unfortunate that members of the ruling elite in Boston do not approve of religious freedom rights for Catholics. "The people of this city are predominantly Catholic," he said, "but they sure take a lot of grief for it. It's a very strange and ironic situation, but the fact is it's difficult to survive as a Catholic in Massachusetts."

Anti-Catholicism noted

One prominent example of anti-Catholic sentiment has been the refusal of several municipalities to extend bus transportation to students attending Catholic schools, even though Massachusetts law requires equal service to private school students. Pat senses a strong anti-Catholic sentiment growing in Massachusetts, especially in this last year among certain local governments, including Boston's.

Nonetheless, Pat remains adamant that a powerful offense is our best defense. Thus he devotes many long hours to Catholic League activity. As vice president of the Massachusetts Chapter, he travels the state, promoting League membership before parent groups, parish councils, Holy Name societies, and other organizations. In addition, he edits the chapter newsletter and serves as the "media contact man."

"The League has demanded most of my elbow grease the past year," Pat admits. "This is the outfit I'm really throwing my efforts into." For which, of course, the League is pleased and grateful.



Robert P. Largess
Vice-President, Massachusetts Chapter

Screws tighten in Lithuania

The Catholic League has strongly protested the recent intensification of religious persecution in Lithuania.

Although Lithuania has been under Soviet domination since 1940, more than 80 percent of its 3.5 million citizens practice their Catholic faith with a fervor similar to that of the neighboring Poles. In recent months, however, Soviet officials have made it increasingly difficult for them to do so.

Besides increasing their routine harassment of Lithuanian Catholics, Soviet intelligence agents have been implicated in the deaths of three Catholic priests since October of 1980. And, on January 26, 1983, for the first time in 10 years, a Catholic priest faces imprisonment in Lithuania for religious activity.

According to Tass, the Soviet news agency, Father Alfonsas Svarinskas has used the Church to cloak his "illegal anti-constitutional and anti-state activities."

In a letter to Anatole Dobrynin, the Catholic League advised the Soviet ambassador to the United States that the Soviet oppression of Catholics in Lithuania is one of the most tragic signs of injustice in the world today.

The League told Dobrynin that no government can claim legitimacy when it denies its people the most fundamental of all human rights—religious freedom. To do so, the League said, "strikes at the heart of human freedom, and is an intolerable suppression of the fundamental rights of man."

To facilitate expressions of support for Father Svarinskas, we have included in this mailing a postcard addressed to Ambassador Dobrynin.

Reserve now for European tour

Now is the time for Catholic League members to make their reservations for the Catholic Heritage Tour to Europe, to be conducted in connection with the League's Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

Tourists will leave New York on May 22 for a 20-day pilgrimage led by League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., and Father Peter Stravinskas, the League's East Coast director of development.

Highlights of the tour (see the accompanying brochure) include the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, the Bavarian village of Oberammergau noted for the Passion Play performances, and a host of other scenic places in Ireland, Ger-

many and Italy.

The tour will conclude with seven glorious days in the Eternal City of Rome, where we are anticipating a private audience with our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II.

You are cordially invited to join with other members and friends of the Catholic League in celebrating our Tenth Anniversary. Arrangements for the tour have been made by Faith Tours, a leading national religious tour operator whose president, Thomas Mulroy, is a member of the Catholic League. Information on how to make your reservation is included in the brochure.



The President's Desk

by Virgil C. Blum, S.J.

Mondale thinks Catholics are political pygmies

In a recent article, I asserted that Catholic school parents are nothing less than political pygmies.

Because of their total lack of clout in Congress, I observed, President Reagan could not persuade a single senator or congressman to co-sponsor his tuition tax credit bill in the 96th Congress.

"American Catholic school parents are chumps, patsies, dopes, born-every-minute suckers," I wrote. "They are political pygmies. And everyone in Washington knows it. From President Reagan down to the lowliest page."

My assessment of the political status of Catholic school parents has now been confirmed by the front-running Democratic candidate for the office of the president: Walter F. Mondale.

In a recent letter to the president of the Long Island Chapter of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Mondale wrote: "In response to your inquiry as to my views on tuition tax credits, I have always been opposed to this type of legislation."

There you have it. Two years before the presidential election of 1984, Walter Mondale has unceremoniously written off the concerns of Catholic and other private school parents as being of no relevance whatsoever to his ambition to win the presidency.

Opposed to freedom

Mondale's opposition to tuition tax credits is not rooted in a commitment to reduce federal expenditures for education. Quite the contrary. It is rooted in opposition to freedom of choice in education—a political position he must take in order to assure the support of the well organized and politically potent 1.8 million-member National Education Association.

But, in doing so, isn't Mondale running the risk of alienating Catholic voters, most of whom strongly approve of tuition tax credit legislation? Surely, Mondale is not willing to sacrifice a large segment of more than 30 million Catholic votes for the votes of a couple of million public school teachers, is he?

The answer, of course, is plain and simple: Mondale can get the votes of both the public school teachers and the Catholics. He knows that his opposition to tuition tax credits will not cost him

many Catholic votes because he knows that Catholics (unlike public school teachers) do not base their votes on a candidate's position on the vital issues—they base their votes on appearances and labels, such as religion, ethnicity and political party.

Appearances are very important to Catholic voters. When Hugh Carey was elected governor of New York in 1974, for example, the *Almanac of American Politics* attributed his victory to the fact that he voted like a Jewish liberal but looked like an Irish cop.

The *Almanac's* point was that Jews voted for Carey because they liked his position on vital issues, while Catholics, ignoring his position on the issues, voted for Carey because, as he argued, "I am one of you."

Mondale, of course, will not impress many Catholics as being "one of them"; but his appearance as the Democratic Party's standard bearer will mean a

great deal to millions of Catholic voters.

Walter Mondale knows full well that he can oppose Catholic interests on matters such as tuition tax credits and still get a large share of Catholic votes as long as he bears the Democratic label, to which Catholics have been traditionally loyal.

Governor Mario Cuomo of New York organized his political campaign with the same elementary knowledge of Catholic political behavior. The failure of Catholics to base their vote on candidates' positions on vital issues enabled him publicly to support elective abortions and oppose tuition tax credits during his recent campaign, and yet enjoy great support from Catholic voters because, as he reasoned, "I am one of you."

Walter Mondale and Mario Cuomo know, in short, that Catholics are political pygmies.

League objects to 'wrongful life' suits

At a March 8 hearing conducted by a Wisconsin legislative committee, Catholic League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan testified that there are obvious moral and philosophical reasons why the legislature should not grant legal status to so-called "wrongful life" lawsuits.

The committee hearing reflected the growing trend among lawyers to believe that a parent or child has legal grounds to sue for damages on the basis that a child's life or birth is wrongful. A typical "wrongful birth" suit, filed by parents against a doctor, claims that, had the parents been properly advised by the doctor, they would have known that the child was genetically defective and that, thus, they would have had the child aborted.

The central problem with such a legal theory, Monaghan told the committee members, "is the moral vacuousness of saying that a person would be better off dead, better off never having been born, or the thought that an unplanned pregnancy is a 'harm' of the kind that warrants tort compensation."

He further observed that "wrongful life" legal theories are "a part of the abortion-infanticide utilitarianism that emphasizes a pleasant, temporal 'quality of life' and denigrates individual responsibility and respect for all human

life regardless of condition."

Following Monaghan's presentation, another attorney testified that, indeed, there is sometimes legal justification for wrongful life suits. In an attempt at humor, the attorney then offered himself as an example, to which Monaghan replied: "If that is the case, have you considered your obligation to mitigate the damages?"

Kolbe curriculum

St. Maximilian Kolbe, an interfaith, interdisciplinary curriculum project, has been developed and recently published by the St. Louis Center for Holocaust Studies and the St. Louis Catholic School Office.

The curriculum is designed to increase understanding of the life and martyrdom of the recently canonized St. Maximilian, the Polish priest who perished at Auschwitz when he volunteered to take the place of a condemned prisoner.

The unit includes background material on St. Maximilian and the Holocaust, a teacher's guide, and units specially prepared for students at the elementary and secondary levels.

To order the unit, send \$5 to the St. Louis Center for Holocaust Studies, 10957 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63141.



CATHOLIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 9

September, 1981

Blasco wins bias suit

inside ...

In a case involving the U.S. Army, the Catholic League has come to the defense of a woman's right *not* to have an abortion. See the story on page 2.

* * *

Also on page 2 is an article describing the League's legal assistance to five Cuban refugees who have been imprisoned for two years without bail, charges or trial.

* * *

Radio station KMJC in San Diego has cancelled the anti-Catholic broadcasts of Rosalind Musselman, and the League has asked 20 other stations to do likewise. See the story on page 3.

* * *

Also on page 3 is a profile of Donna Steichen, a pro-life pioneer who serves as vice president of the League's Minnesota Chapter.

* * *

In this month's "Docket" column on page 4, Associate General Counsel Eva Soeka discusses the tangle of state and federal laws governing employment discrimination based on religion.

* * *

On page 5, this month's "Heritage" column recalls the bloody riots that occurred in 19th century Philadelphia when Bishop Kenrick asked the school board to excuse Catholic students from Protestant religious exercises.

* * *

As the stories on page 6 relate, the Washington Chapter has opened an office, the St. Louis Chapter is helping to educate teachers on the Human Life Amendment and the Long Island Chapter will honor Father Bruce Ritter for his ministry to troubled youth.

* * *

From "The President's Desk" this month, Father Blum discusses the illogical opposition of black leaders and Jewish leaders to tuition tax credits.

The Catholic League has been instrumental in vindicating an Italian-American Catholic's complaint that he suffered religious and ethnic discrimination while performing his duties as a case worker for the Polk County (Iowa) Commission of Veteran Affairs.

In a July 24 decision, hearing officer Odell G. McGhee of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission found that the case worker, Floyd Blasco, had been harassed, subjected to negative comments and denied a promotion to the position of executive director because of his religious preference and ethnic background.

Actual damages

McGhee ordered the defendants, the veteran affairs commission and the Polk County Board of Supervisors, to pay Blasco actual damages plus interest amounting to \$13,266. The money represents the salary increase that Blasco would have received, had he been named executive director in 1977.

Robert Destro, general counsel for the Catholic League, which represented Blasco, hailed the decision as a precedent in the League's efforts to counter employment discrimination based upon religious beliefs and ethnicity.

"Religious and ethnic discrimination occurs much more frequently than is

commonly thought," said Destro, "but rarely is it as blatant and devastating to an individual as it was in this case. Because Floyd Blasco was willing to stand up in defense of his religious beliefs and ethnic heritage, he has set an example for all other victims of similar prejudice. We hope that his triumph over religious and ethnic discrimination will help to increase the public's awareness of the problem and, in the long run, help to lessen the frequency of its occurrence."

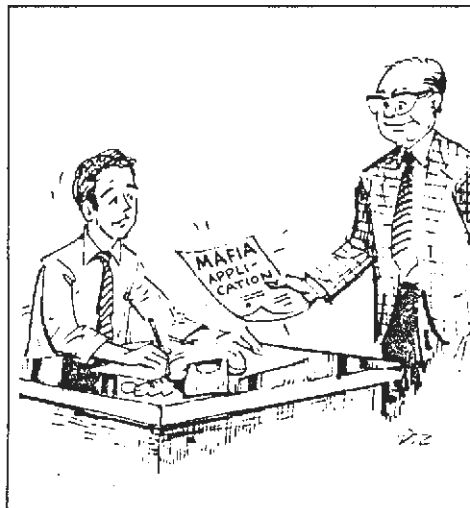
Blasco accepted the case worker's job in 1975 with the understanding that he would succeed Donald Swim as executive director upon Swim's retirement. Once Swim discovered that Blasco is an Italian-American Catholic, however, he began to harass him. Blasco testified that Swim would enter his work area during lunch each day, ask questions about the Catholic Church's teachings, and then offer critical and derisive comments.

Concrete evidence

Court records disclose that Blasco was given a "Nigger Application" by a co-worker, who stated that she did so at Swim's behest. Blasco was told to fill out the application "for your friends," apparently because Swim resented the fact that Blasco treated all his clients — including blacks — with dignity.

Later, Swim gave Blasco a form called a "Mafia Application" and told Blasco that he had to fill it out if he wanted to work at the veteran affairs commission. On another occasion, Swim gave Blasco an article entitled "Lessons from Luigi Fratto," the subject of which was organized crime and the Mafia. Swim advised Blasco to read the article if he wanted to get ahead.

When Swim announced his retirement in 1977, Blasco indicated that he wanted to apply for the position. Swim replied, "You aren't going to make it." As if to ensure that his prediction would come true, Swim then recommended the only other applicant for the job. Blasco was not interviewed, even though his qualifications were better than those of the other applicant.



Seminarian to receive benefits

The Kenosha County (Wisconsin) Department of Health and Social Services has been ordered to resume payments to a 14-year-old foster child whose state support benefits were cut off when he enrolled in a Catholic high school seminary.

The state had contended that the boy was no longer entitled to the benefits because he no longer resided with his foster parents. In representing the boy's religious freedom rights, however, Eva M. Soeka, the League's associate general counsel, contended that public welfare benefits cannot be conditioned upon the relinquishment of a First Amendment right.

In her remarks at an April 30 hearing on the case, Ms. Soeka explained that non-payment of benefits to the child would, in effect, place a penalty on the exercise of his religious freedom rights.

"Unless payments are resumed," she said, "the child will eventually have to choose between the seminary without state support or leaving the seminary in order to receive state support. Clearly, such a choice would burden his right to exercise his religious beliefs."

In ordering the benefits reinstated, the hearing examiner noted that Wisconsin has long recognized, for purposes of determining dependency and benefit eligibility, that a child is still a resident of the foster home, even while temporarily absent to attend a boarding school. Because the court was administrative rather than judicial, the examiner could not rule on the free exercise contentions.

Ms. Soeka entered her religious freedom arguments on the record to ensure that they could be raised on appeal, in the event of an adverse ruling. "For the sake of the child and his foster parents," she said, "I am pleased that an appeal will not be necessary."



Army general says abort or get out

In a case that turns the common perceptions of "abortion" and "women's rights" on their heads, the Catholic League has come to the defense of a woman's right *not* to have an abortion.

According to the *Army Times*, Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton, Jr., of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, has proposed that soldiers who become pregnant during their first enlistment should be forced to have an abortion or face discharge.

Reprimand urged

In a letter to President Ronald Reagan, the Catholic League called Gen. Becton's proposal "morally repugnant" and said that it merits, "at the very least, a strong reprimand."

League General Counsel Robert Destro

told President Reagan that Gen. Becton's abort-or-get-out proposal is grounded in patently sexist assumptions and "discloses a gross lack of respect for the moral conscience of the American fighting woman and a highly distorted view of the rights of women in general." Gen. Becton's proposal indicates that he respects neither the dignity of the unborn, the dignity of the women under his command, nor the moral foundations of laws, said Destro.

"We sincerely hope that you will take the first opportunity to investigate this matter very carefully," Destro said. "We will be doing so, and we trust that your intervention will prevent the Army from adding an unnecessary moral dilemma to those already faced daily by those whose patriotism protects the freedoms Gen. Becton would deny the women in his command."

Cuban refugees languish in prison

The Catholic League is providing preliminary legal assistance to five Cuban refugees who have been held in federal penitentiaries without bail, charge or trial for nearly two years.

The Cubans were among the thousands of refugees who arrived in the United States by flotilla when Castro temporarily permitted dissidents to emigrate. Although they had family members and sponsors waiting in the United States, they were arrested by agents of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and imprisoned, first at the federal penitentiary in Talladega, Alabama, and currently in the basement of the federal penitentiary in Atlanta, Georgia.

The League learned of the prisoners' plight through two members of the

League's Board of Directors, Magalay Llaguno and Archbishop Edward McCarthy. League General Counsel Robert Destro, in an effort to obtain accurate information on the case, has had legal questionnaires translated into Spanish and sent to the prisoners.

"From all appearances," said Destro, "this case constitutes one of the grossest violations of civil rights that I have ever seen." He said the League will pursue the matter in cooperation with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society until the Cubans are released or until he is given a legally valid reason why they cannot be released.

"The most ironic aspect of this case," said Destro, "is that the Cubans thought they were coming to the United States to escape such treatment."

League to offer Kneeling Santa

Under a special arrangement with the manufacturer, the Catholic League will soon be offering its members a unique opportunity to obtain the perfect gift for all who love Christmas—a hand-cast, hand-painted reproduction of the original Kneeling Santa figurine by the world-renowned sculptor Rudolph Vargas.

The figurine depicts St. Nicholas kneeling in reverent prayer before the Christ Child, thus freeing Santa from his modern commercialized image and restoring the proper relationship between the secular and sacred sides of Christmas. For many families it has already become a

cherished heirloom, an enduring symbol of the true meaning of Christmas, representing both the solemn and the fun sides of the season.

Thanks to the generosity of the manufacturer, who is a long-time supporter of the Catholic League, the profits from the sales of the Kneeling Santa to League members will be used to support the League's activities for the preservation of our Judaeo-Christian heritage. Details on how to order the Kneeling Santa will be enclosed in the October and November mailings of the *Catholic League Newsletter*.

Station drops Musselman program

Radio station KMJC in San Diego has informed evangelist Rosalind Musselman that it will no longer broadcast her "Fishers of Men" program because of her continued advertisement of anti-Catholic booklets.

Deacon James Steinberg, a reporter for the San Diego diocesan newspaper *Southern Cross*, first brought the matter to public attention with an article in his paper's June 4 issue. The Catholic League then protested the Musselman broadcasts in a letter to KMJC President Lee Bartell.

Beshore program remains

According to Steinberg, however, KMJC continues to broadcast the anti-Catholic programs of another evangelist, Dr. F. Kenton Beshore, despite mounting public disapproval. Steinberg said that the San Diego County Ecumenical Conference recently went on record as condemning all public manifestations of anti-

Catholicism.

Meanwhile, the Catholic League has sent letters of protest to each of the more than 20 stations nationwide that currently carry the Musselman program.

A public trust

The League reminded the station managers that, as broadcast licensees, they have a public trust to present programming that is in the public interest. Far from serving the public interest, Musselman's program "is hate propaganda that will produce suspicion, friction and animosity within the community," the League said.

The League advised each station manager that KMJC had already dropped Musselman's program because of its anti-Catholic nature. "Any radio station concerned with the integrity of religious broadcasting and serving the public interest will do the same," the League said.

Dictionary deletes anti-Catholic entry

In a response to a Catholic League request, the publisher of the *International Bible Dictionary* has agreed to delete an anti-Catholic entry from future editions.

Under the heading "serpents," the dictionary listed the following entry: "Hezekiah destroyed a true and most sacred relic; Rome, on the contrary, fabricates false relics and adores them."

Having been informed of the entry by Father Ralph Federico of Bemus Point, N.Y., the League's director of publications, Orlan Love, brought this matter to the attention of Daniel Malachuk, president of Logos International, the book's publisher.

Love advised Malachuk that "Catholic readers will no doubt take offense at this gratuitous insult to their faith" and that "non-Catholic readers will be not only misinformed but also encouraged to think

ill of their Catholic neighbors." In the interest of accuracy and respect for Catholic sensibilities, said Love, the entry should be deleted from all future editions of the dictionary.

Publisher replies

In a prompt reply to Love's letter, Malachuk said, "I have instructed the editorial department to remove the paragraph from the next print run scheduled very shortly." Noting that Logos International "has always desired to serve as a bridge of fellowship between Christians," Malachuk explained that the "dictionary was compiled in the early 1900's in England when there was hostility between the Anglicans and Rome" and that Logos International "merely reprinted the early edition."

Goldwater won't rent to 'drunken Irish'

In an interview published in the August 3 issue of the *Wall Street Journal*, U.S. Senator Barry M. Goldwater expressed his opposition to the public accommodations provision of the 1964 Civil Rights Act by declaring, "You try to tell me I have to rent my house to a drunken Irishman... I'm going to tell you to go to hell."

In a letter to the *Arizona Republican*, the Catholic League upbraided the Sen-

ator for publicly resorting to an ethnic slur that is "unfair, inaccurate, and detrimental to the civil rights of Irish-Americans."

"What makes this stereotyping even more galling," the League continued, "is that... you profess your repudiation of racial prejudice. If it is wrong to be prejudiced against blacks or Indians, it is equally wrong to be prejudiced against Irish people."

Profile



DONNA STEICHEN
Vice President, Minnesota Chapter

Serving her third term as vice president of the League's Minnesota Chapter is veteran pro-life activist and writer Donna Steichen of St. Cloud.

Donna joined the fledgling pro-life movement in the late 1960s, years before most Americans even realized that legalized abortion was a threat to unborn children. With the establishment of Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life, she became the first chairman of the St. Cloud Chapter, and she has since served several terms on MCCL's state board of directors.

A graduate of St. Cloud State University with a degree in English, Donna has built a considerable reputation as a journalist. She writes a regular column for her diocesan newspaper, the *St. Cloud Visitor*, and she is a frequent contributor to the *National Catholic Register*. Most of her articles reflect her interests in the pro-life movement, education and natural family planning.

In 1979 Donna helped organize Citizens' Rights in Education, an ad hoc parent interest committee, which has successfully worked for changes in local public school sex education policies, which in the past had permitted classroom instruction by Planned Parenthood clinic staff members, without parental notice or consent.

Chapter President James Ahler says she has been "invaluable" in her role as chairman of the Chapter's Liaison Committee, which establishes and maintains contacts with other individuals and organizations. Ahler also notes that "it is largely because of her activities that the chapter has a strong membership outside of the Twin Cities."

Donna and her husband LeRoy are the parents of four children and the grandparents of three.

Religious freedom in the workplace

by Eva M. Soeka,
Associate General Counsel

As illustrated by this month's lead story on the Floyd Blasco case, the exercise of religious freedom rights in the workplace is a hotly debated issue.

At the very heart of the debate is the issue of accommodation. Does a private employer have a duty to accommodate the religious practices of an employee? For example, if an employer closes his business on Christmas or Good Friday, is he thereby obligated to give time off with pay to Jewish employees for Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur? Judicial and legislative attempts to answer this question, on both the federal and state levels, have resulted in a tangle of confusing and often inconsistent case and statutory law.

Although the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 made it an unlawful employment practice for an employer to discriminate in any way against an employee on the basis of religion, it addressed the problem of religious *belief* rather than religious practice. Nothing was said about accommodation.

In 1966 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) issued

Destro to address law conference

Catholic League General Counsel Robert Destro has accepted an invitation to speak on "State Involvement in Education and Religion" at the Second International Conference on Law and Individual Freedoms to be held October 15-18 in Quebec City, Canada.

Destro and Eva M. Soeka, the League's associate general counsel, will attend the third annual Supreme Court Review and Constitutional Law Symposium to be held September 18-19 in Washington, D.C.

the first of its guidelines on discrimination based on religion, and it imposed "an obligation on the part of the employer to accommodate to the reasonable religious needs of employees." However, it was not until 1972 that Congress, by affirmative legislation, added the following to the 1964 Act:

The term "religion" includes all aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief, unless an employer demonstrates that he is unable to reasonably accommodate to an employee's or prospective employee's religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business.

Finally, in 1977, the U.S. Supreme Court in *T.W.A. v. Hardison* made it clear that the 1972 Congressional action did make "reasonable accommodation" a part of the 1964 Act.

Although that decision apparently settled the issue on the federal level, questions such as the definition of undue hardship to an employer have continued to plague the courts. Moreover, many states had passed, independent of any federal statute, state fair employment acts which paralleled the 1964 Act. Unlike Congress, however, the state legislatures did not subsequently add accommodation requirements.

State law varies

Thus, the Wisconsin Supreme Court was recently able to rule that the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act imposes *no duty* upon a private employer to accommodate the religious practices of an employee. That case, *American Motors Corporation v. Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations*, involved an engineer who was fired after requesting, and being denied, days off to attend a religious convention required of members of his faith. Under federal law, which was not considered in the Wisconsin case, the same employer would have been required to accommodate, so long as the accommodation did not result in "undue hardship" to the employer's business.

Although the legal issues are clear, the answers are not. Federal law on its face recognizes and protects the right to religious practice as well as religious belief in the workplace, but many states do not. In the future, however, it is hoped that judges and legislators responding to the accommodation issue will recognize that protection of religious belief without a corresponding protection of religious practice is little, if any, protection at all.

League seeks input to O'Connor hearings

Catholic League General Counsel Robert Destro has sought an opportunity to testify at the upcoming Senate confirmation hearings of Judge Sandra Day O'Connor, the Reagan Administration's nominee to succeed U.S. Supreme Court Justice Potter Stewart.

In a letter to Senator Strom Thurmond, chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Destro said he would like to express the League's views on several issues which concern the League's civil rights and First Amendment activities, but would neither support nor oppose the nomination itself.

"Since Judge O'Connor's views on many of the religious and civil rights issues we litigate are unknown," said Destro, "we would appreciate the opportunity to inform the Committee of our perspective on these issues, and we trust that the information we would provide will be helpful."

Status Call gains wide following

The third issue of *Status Call*, the League's quarterly legal newsletter, has now been published and mailed to more than 2,500 people, most of whom are attorneys.

In less than a year, the mailing list for *Status Call* has doubled, reflecting what League General Counsel Robert Destro calls "a very warm reception" for the publication which summarizes recent court decisions, law review articles and books dealing with religious and civil rights issues.

Eva M. Soeka, the League's associate general counsel, reports that complimentary copies of the third issue have been sent to more than 31 diocesan attorneys. "In that way," she said, "we will not only help to build a solid civil rights image for the League, but we may also stimulate referrals of possible civil rights cases for the League."



**REMEMBER THE LEAGUE
IN YOUR WILL.**

Catholic League Newsletter is published by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, 1100 W. Wells St., Mil., Wis. 53233.

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| James Hitchcock | Chairman |
| Virgil C. Blum, S.J. | President |
| John Hansen | Treasurer |
| Ann Brosnan | Secretary |
| Michael Schwartz | Dir. of Public Affairs |
| Orlan Love | Director of Publications |
| Kathy M. Hoar | Dir. of Internal Affairs |

Annual membership dues: \$10
Contributions are tax deductible.

The burning of Philadelphia

When Bishop Francis Patrick Kenrick became Bishop of Philadelphia in 1842, the Catholic population of the city was overwhelmingly composed of poor immigrants, mostly from Ireland, who were faced with the difficult choice of either sending their children to public schools where Protestant religious indoctrination was mandatory, or not sending them to school at all.

Exemption sought

As one of his first official acts, Bishop Kenrick submitted a petition to the school board, requesting that Catholic children be exempted from participation in Protestant hymns, prayers and religious services and that they be permitted to read from the Catholic Douay version of the Bible rather than the King James version. In the heavily charged atmosphere of the Know Nothing era, this modest request provoked a storm of protest.

APA established

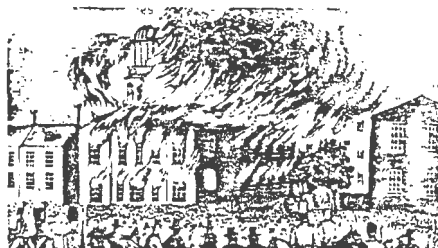
A week after Kenrick's petition was presented, 94 Protestant ministers met to establish the American Protestant Association, aimed at protecting America from the subversive influences of popery. Nativists twisted Kenrick's request and falsely accused the Catholics of trying to ban the Bible from public schools. The Native American Party intensified its bitter propaganda campaign against the Catholics, and attracted hundreds of new recruits.

For the next year and a half, accusations flew and tensions mounted in the city until, on May 6, 1844, the nativists held a public meeting in the middle of the Irish section. The fanatical Lewis Levin, later elected to Congress on the Native American ticket, delivered a fiery speech that provoked a fight between his audience and the Catholic residents of the neighborhood. In the midst of this fracas someone — each side blamed the other — fired a shot and a bloody battle broke out. By the end of the day four nativists lay dead.

Inflammatory journalism

The next morning's edition of *The Native American* proclaimed: "Another St. Bartholomew's Day is begun on the streets of Philadelphia. The bloody hand of the Pope has stretched itself forth to our destruction." A nativist meeting was to assemble that afternoon at Independence Square. Participants were warned, "Let every man come prepared to defend himself."

That meeting quickly turned into a



riot. The nativist mob poured into the Irish section, breaking into homes, destroying property and terrorizing the residents. More shooting took place, leaving nine people dead. Two Irishmen were arrested and later tried for rioting.

The violence reached its peak on the third day. Most of the Catholics had fled from the city overnight in fear for their lives, and the nativist mob roamed aimlessly but angrily through the deserted streets of Kensington. They set fire to St. Michael's Church and to the school, convent and rectory attached to it and then began burning down blocks of houses in the neighborhood.

Church burned

Toward nightfall, the mob moved southward to St. Augustine's Church, where they were met by Mayor John Scott and a contingent of police. Scott tried to calm the crowd, but his efforts at pacification served only to arouse them further. He was pelted with bricks and rocks, and then St. Augustine's was burned to the ground. Lost in that fire were a library of more than 3,000 volumes and 16 original paintings imported from Europe.

Troops were called out that night, the city was placed under martial law, and the violence gradually subsided. A grand jury commissioned to inquire into the cause of the disturbance blamed the rioting on "the efforts of a portion of the community to exclude the Bible from our Public Schools."

Congress urged to help end hunger strike

The Catholic League has asked more than 60 members of Congress to seek a congressional declaration in favor of a humanitarian resolution to the hunger strike in Northern Ireland's Long Kesh prison.

In a letter to the congressmen, the League noted that the recent deaths of Joe McDonnell and Martin Hurson on hunger strike in Long Kesh, and the ensuing civil unrest, "underscore the urgency of finding a humanitarian solution to the prison protest."

At issue, the League said, is the question of the status of those prisoners who have been convicted under the special emergency procedures which suspend many important elements of the due process of law.

The League enclosed an article from

its monthly newsletter in which Don McEvoy, vice president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, argued that the protesting prisoners are entitled to special, rather than criminal, status.

Special rules

"Bobby Sands was not arrested, convicted and imprisoned under the procedures of British criminal law," said McEvoy. "A common criminal would have had a lawyer, a jury, a chance to defend himself against the charges brought against him."

Sands was instead "sent to Maze prison under a special set of rules which applied only to him and his I.R.A. com-

patriots," McEvoy said. Noting that the British have to obey their own laws, he said, "It is unconscionable to apply special rules for imprisonment and then callously declare that this situation is no different from that of any common criminal."

Referring to Britain's partial approval of a recent compromise put forward by the Catholic bishops of Northern Ireland, the League advised the congressmen that such a move may signal the British government's willingness to depart from its intransigent posture on the issue.

Accordingly, the League concluded, prompt and decisive action by the Congress "may significantly promote progress toward peace" and, "even more importantly, it could help to prevent any more needless deaths."

CHAPTER NEWS

Washington Chapter opens office

A central office for the Catholic League's Washington Chapter opened August 1 in the Washington Building at 15th St. and New York Ave. on the northwest side of the District of Columbia.

Establishment of the new office coincides with the Chapter's plans to expand its speakers' bureau, to increase its recruitment of minorities and youth, to conduct a general membership meeting later this year, and to name regional vice presidents for the greater Washington area.

Chapter President Anthony Czajkowski announced the appointment of the new vice presidents at a July 15 meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee. They are John M. Leonard for the District of Columbia, E. F. Egan for Maryland, Richard Cooley for Northern Virginia and Daniel J. Bartolini for the Balti-

more area.

"I was extremely pleased with the enthusiasm displayed at the July 15 meeting," said Dr. Czajkowski, "and I believe that we can build on it to structure an active and effective chapter in the nation's capitol."

The speakers' bureau will attempt to reach more Catholic parishes and organizations whose members are not aware of the League and its work. Chapter speakers have already appeared at 24 parishes in the Archdiocese.

The general meeting, to be held sometime in November, will feature a prominent speaker who has not yet been named. According to Dr. Czajkowski, the meeting will be an attempt to bring together not only all League members in the area but also all who are interested in protecting the religious freedom rights of Catholics and others.



Father Bruce Ritter, O.S.F.

Chapter to honor Father Ritter

In recognition of his ministry to troubled New York City youth, Father Bruce Ritter, O.S.F., has been named to receive the Long Island Chapter's second annual award for meritorious service to the Catholic community. He will accept the award at an October 10 dinner to be held at Chaminade High School in Mineola, N.Y.

Father Ritter founded his widely acclaimed Covenant House as a shelter for homeless and exploited young people. It grew rapidly, soon becoming a haven for young urban transients. Today it is a professional agency with 40 full-time employees and 150 volunteers, operating eight group homes, and two temporary runaway houses. It has assisted more than 10,000 young people, most of whom have run away from home and become the exploited victims of the so-called "victimless crimes" of prostitution, pornography and drug traffic.

Other activities

The Long Island Chapter will hold its annual membership meeting December 3, with the main attraction to be a symposium on the media, featuring a panel discussion by several practicing New York journalists.

Chapter President William Lindner also reports that George Gallup, whose name is synonymous with public opinion polling, has agreed to address a meeting of the chapter next February 25. The topic of Gallup's talk will be, "Good News for Catholics Is Good News for All of Us."

St. Louis sends teachers to pro-life meeting

The League's St. Louis Chapter has raised more than \$400 which will be used to enable five Catholic high school teachers to attend a national conference on the Human Life Amendment. The conference, sponsored by the National Right to Life Educational Trust Fund, will be held September 11 and 12 at St. Louis University's Center for Health Care Ethics.

Chapter Secretary Pat Hanley directed the project, and Chapter President Jack Dunsford did most of the actual solicitation of funds.

Among the speakers at the conference will be attorney Dennis Horan, a member

of the League's Board of Directors, and Jesuit Father Robert Henle, professor of law and philosophy at St. Louis University and the author of several supplements to the *Catholic League Newsletter*.

Dunsford also reports that the League has received a donation of more than \$100 from a legal defense fund for the former mayor of St. Louis, John Poelker, who was sued several years ago when he refused to allow municipal funds to be used to support abortions at the City Hospital. The Supreme Court later vindicated Poelker, who is a member of the St. Louis Chapter's Advisory Board.

Mangano criticizes biased reporting

Anthony Mangano, president of the League's Westchester Chapter, has criticized a local newspaper for singling out Catholic public officials in an abortion-related news article by identifying them — and only them — according to their religious affiliation.

In a letter to the *Gannet Westchester Newspapers*, Mangano asserted that reporter Michael Sansolo "displayed an annoying and harmful bias" in his gratuitous identification as "Catholic males" of nine Putnam (N.Y.) city officials who supported state legislation requiring that parents be notified before their minor child has an abortion.

Underlying the identification tactic, said Mangano, "is the false and defamatory presumption that Catholic public servants are so enslaved by Church doctrine that they cannot come to an independent judgment on matters of public policy having a moral dimension." The tactic also implies that Catholics are the sole abortion opponents in the United States, said Mangano.

Mangano also advised the newspaper that the National News Council has repeatedly upheld complaints against the tactic of identifying Catholics — and only Catholics — in abortion-related news.

League and Princeton co-sponsor workshop

The Catholic League and the Princeton Theological Seminary will co-sponsor a two-day workshop on religion and politics December 10-11 on the Princeton University campus.

Among the speakers will be Father Peter Stravinskias, the League's Eastern regional director, discussing the Historical background of the First Amendment; eminent church-state attorney William B. Ball, discussing parental rights in education; and Rev. Richard Gilbert of Princeton, discussing morality in the media.

Chapter leaders compare notes

The Catholic League's third annual conference of chapter leaders was conducted over the weekend of July 25 to 27 at Seton Hall University, South Orange, N.J. Nineteen participants representing 12 local chapters of the Catholic League came from points as widely scattered as Boston, Miami and Los Angeles to review the successes and problems of their chapters and to develop plans for the coming year.

In addition to League President Father Virgil C. Blum, S.J., who chaired the meeting, the Catholic League's staff was represented by Father Peter Stravinskias, Eastern regional director; Michael Schwartz, director of public affairs; and Kathleen Hoar, director of internal affairs.

Among the major topics that were discussed were the participation of chapters in the League's membership renewal efforts and the involvement of high school students in Catholic League activities through local chapters.

Fairgoers receive League literature

Catholic League enthusiasts distributed more than 3,600 pieces of promotional literature at the Ocean County Fair in Lakewood, N.J., between July 21 and 23.

The League rented a display booth, which was manned at various times by Father Peter Stravinskias, the League's Eastern regional director; Brother Lawrence Syriac, S.M., of Chaminade High School in Mineola, New York; four of Brother Syriac's students, Ken Collins, Joe Cronin, Frank Fanerzani and Chris McCarton; and several senior citizens who are League members.

When she calls, members renew

During the past four months, Mrs. Anne Stravinskias of Toms River, N.J., has parlayed precise organization, a pleasant telephone voice and a firm belief in the Catholic League into a membership renewal program that is a model of success and efficiency.

Since early this summer, she has persuaded hundreds of New Jersey League members to renew their memberships, many of which had been expired for months or even years. In the process, she has personally brought in more than \$13,000 in dues to support the League's activities.

Her technique is simple: Each month, League headquarters in Milwaukee sends her a computer printout of members who have expired or soon will. She then looks up their phone numbers and gives them a call, asking them to renew their commitment to the League. Her success ratio is above 70 percent, which is a tribute to her enthusiasm for the League.

"I love people, and I love to sell," she says, "but I only sell people products that I believe in. I think many people can tell that I mean it in my heart when I say that the Catholic League is crucial to the future of Catholicism in America. When people seem reluctant to renew, I tell them that it's okay if they don't want to, but that they really should, if not for themselves, then for their children and grandchildren."

Mrs. Stravinskias offers a few other tips to League members who may serve on chapter renewal committees: "If people

don't agree to renew right away, it's good to follow up with a mailing; that way, they can't forget you called. And it helps to be persistent. I called one number for five weeks before I received an answer. The man had been on vacation, and he was happy to renew."



Mrs. Anne Stravinskias

CBN shows *Miracle*

The Christian Broadcasting Network, which reaches 12 million homes in the United States, televised the League's film, *Miracle in the Inner City*, during prime time on August 23.

"The CBN cable broadcast is an invaluable aid to the League's efforts to focus public attention on the great apostolate of the Catholic Church in providing quality education and religious and moral values to disadvantaged black and Hispanic children," said League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J. "We at the League are grateful for CBN's assistance."

Nebraska announces advisory committee

The Catholic League's Nebraska Chapter has established a state advisory committee, according to Chapter President John T. Carpenter, an Omaha attorney.

Members of the advisory committee are John B. Foley, Walter R. Jahn, C. Robert Jeffrey, John McGinn, Sister Genevieve Schillo, C.S.J., Lloyd E. Skinner, Ronald R. Volkmer and Teresa Bloomingdale, all of Omaha; James Bruckner, James R. Cunningham, Rev. James D. Dawson, Joseph Hanigan, John F. O'Neill and Guy Sanders, all of Lincoln; and Thomas Olson of Fremont.

OUR MEMBERS SAY:

A California woman writes: "I'm still interested in receiving the Catholic League papers even though, at 79 years old, I am often overwhelmed at some of the negative reaction the population at large shows toward our faith... The newsletter is interesting and well-written. I look forward to its receipt and pass it on to others."

A League member from Kentucky writes: "I'm sure that you have many members who, like me, are public school teachers, and I'm equally sure that most of them know nothing about the National Education Association's pro-abortion position or about the Pro-life Caucus and the [shoddy] treatment it has gotten at the past two NEA conventions... Besides notifying NEA members of the pro-abortion position and the Pro-life Caucus, you might also inspire parents to protest to NEA and its local and state affiliates—all of which are very conscious of their need for public support."



The President's Desk

by Virgil C. Blum, S.J.

A coalition against religious freedom

to represent more than 70 million people. The coalition is dedicated to fighting enactment of the Packwood-Moynihan tuition tax credit bill.

Many of its constituent organizations, such as the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, have a vested interest in the demise of private schools, and others, such as the American Civil Liberties Union and Americans United for Separation of Church and State, have a history of anti-Catholic prejudice. Opposition from these groups should come as no surprise.

Jewish organizations

Joining the coalition are such Jewish organizations as the American Jewish Congress, the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and such black organizations as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the National Urban League.

It is shocking that Jews, who have organized more than 340 national organizations to defend their own rights, should join hands with groups professedly hostile to the religious freedom rights of Catholics in an effort to kill a tuition tax credit bill that aims to lessen the penalty on the choice of Catholic schools. (It should be noted that Rabbi Morris Sherer, president of Agudath of Israel of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, supports the Packwood-Moynihan bill.)

Perhaps even more shocking is the fact that the two most powerful and prestigious black organizations have joined a coalition that aims to kill a bill that would greatly aid black children by providing tax refunds for low-income private-school families.

Parents seek quality

Inner city public schools are in shambles; they have been aptly called blackboard jungles. For quality education, thousands of black parents in every major city make great financial sacrifices to send their children to inner city Catholic schools. In a study of 55 inner city private elementary schools in eight cities, the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights found that 50 percent of these families make less than \$10,000 a year.

For their heroic efforts to give their children a quality education, their own leaders conspire to penalize black parents by depriving them of tuition tax credit refunds. These black children want compassion and understanding from the NAACP and National Urban League, not opposition that keeps them shackled to discredited government schools.

Chief Justice Warren Burger once declared that the denial of education benefits to children in Catholic elementary schools "penalizes children... because of their parents' choice of religious exercise" in sending them to church-related schools.

Strangely, though, the penalty vanishes once the student reaches college age. The federal government and more than half the states give substantial tuition grants to students who choose church-related colleges, and the federal government also provides interest-free loans to hundreds of thousands of such students.

Age not a factor

Are the penalties on religious exercise based on the students' age? That hardly seems likely, especially when one considers that the Catholic Church operates most private elementary and high schools, while at the college level, there are twice as many Protestant as Catholic schools. Religion, it seems, makes the crucial difference.

To ensure that the penalty on religious exercise remains in force for Catholics, a new and powerful organization has now been formed. Called the National Coalition for Public Schools, it is comprised of 41 major national organizations claiming



"A Catholic may be saved in spite of his church. He will never be saved because of it. Romanism is a pagan counterfeit of the Christian religion, ancient paganism and idolatry, claiming to be the church which Christ founded... The Roman Church is not another Christian denomination. It is a satanic counterfeit, an ecclesiastic tyranny over the souls of men. . . . It is the old harlot of the book of the Revelation — the Mother of Harlots." — from an article entitled "Romanism and the Charismatic Movement, by Bob Jones, published in the July-August issue of *Faith for the Family*.

Editorializing on the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II, Jones wrote in that same issue: "Unlike the pope, decent men decry violence and abhor assassination; however, the justice of God is apparent in this case. 'They that take the sword shall perish with the sword'; and a pope who encourages and blesses terrorism by Roman Catholic assassins and murderers should expect to fall victim to terrorism and violence."

League criticizes *Forbes* editor

The Catholic League has criticized the editor of *Forbes* magazine for indulging in a subtle appeal to religious bigotry with his July 6 commentary entitled "Do As the Romans Do."

According to M. S. Forbes, editor of the prestigious business publication: "When Italians in Rome and all the rest of historic, official, overwhelmingly Catholic Italy voted by better than 2 to 1 not to repeal their liberal abortion laws, surely there was a message for those here so intent on abolishing abortions, including even pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. Here's an instance when, in the United States, we should do as the Romans do."

In a letter to *Forbes*, the League asked

why abortion foes in the United States should be influenced by the beliefs and actions of Italians. "What affinity is there between the two groups?" the League asked.

The answer implied by Forbes, said the League, "is that American anti-abortionists, like Italians in general, are 'overwhelmingly Catholic.'"

In making such an implication, the League said, Mr. Forbes had engaged in the pro-abortion tactic of identifying abortion as a Catholic issue.

"If you think abortion is such a boon to mankind," the League told Forbes, "then you should promote it on its own merits, if such there are, rather than appealing to religious prejudice in your attempt to discredit its foes."



Religion: An American Freedom

by President Ronald Reagan

The following remarks on religious freedom are excerpted from a transcript of President Ronald Reagan's speech to the National Association of Evangelicals, delivered March 8, 1983, in Orlando, Florida. The League reprints them not to lend partisan political support to a public official who may soon become a candidate for reelection but because the League heartily approves of public statements by any influential leader who speaks out forcefully on behalf of the religious freedom issues in which the League is deeply involved and to which the League is deeply committed: the right of parents to be notified when a government-funded agency gives their minor children contraceptive drugs, the right of religious-minded students not to have their freedom of speech abridged, the right to life, and the right of all citizens not to be subjected to racial, ethnic or religious hatred.

This Administration is motivated by a political philosophy that sees the greatness of America in you, her people, and in your families, churches, neighborhoods, communities—the institutions that foster and nourish values like concern for others and respect for the rule of law under God.

Now I don't have to tell you that this puts us in opposition to, or at least out of step with, a prevailing attitude of many who have turned to a modern-day secularism, discarding the tried and time-tested values upon which our very civilization is based.

No matter how well-intentioned, their value system is radically different from that of most Americans.

And, while they proclaim they are freeing us from superstitions of the past, they have taken upon themselves the job of superintending us by government rule and regulation. Sometimes their voices are louder than ours, but they are not yet a majority.

An example of that vocal superiority is evident in a controversy now going on in Washington. Since I'm involved, I've been waiting to hear from the parents of young America. How far are they will-

ing to go in giving to government their prerogatives as parents?

Let me state the case as briefly and simply as I can. An organization of citizens sincerely motivated and deeply concerned about the increase in illegitimate births and abortions involving girls well below the age of consent estab-



President Ronald Reagan

lished clinics nationwide to offer help to these girls and hopefully alleviate this situation.

Again let me say, I do not fault their intent. However, in their well-intentioned effort, these clinics provide advice and birth control drugs and devices to underage girls without the knowledge of their parents.

For some years now, the Federal Government has helped with funds to subsidize these clinics. In providing for this, the Congress decreed that every effort would be made to maximize parental participation. Nevertheless, the drugs and devices are prescribed without getting parental consent or giving notification. Girls termed "sexually active"—that has replaced the word "promiscuous"—are given this help in order to prevent illegitimate birth or abortion.

We have ordered clinics receiving Federal funds to notify the parents such help has been given. One of the nation's leading newspapers has created the term "squeal rule" in editorializing against us, and we are being criticized for violating the privacy of young people. A judge has granted an injunction against en-

forcement of our rule. I have watched TV panel shows discuss this issue, have read columns pontificating on our error, but no one seems to mention morality as playing a part in the subject of sex.

Is all of Judeo-Christian tradition wrong? Are we to believe that something so sacred can be looked upon as a purely physical thing with no potential for emotional and psychological harm? And isn't it the parents' right to give counsel and advice to keep their children from making mistakes that may affect their entire lives?

Many of us in government would like to know what parents think about this intrusion in their family by government. We are going to fight in the courts. The rights of parents and the rights of family take precedence over those of Washington-based bureaucrats and social engineers.

But the fight against parental notification is really only one example of many attempts to water down traditional values and even abrogate the original terms of American democracy. Freedom prospers when religion is vibrant and the rule of law under God acknowledged.

Founding Fathers' intentions

When our Founding Fathers passed the First Amendment, they sought to protect churches from government interference. They never meant to construct a wall of hostility between government and the concept of religious belief itself.

The evidence of this permeates our history and our government: The Declaration of Independence mentions the Supreme Being no less than four times; "In God We Trust" is engraved on our coinage; the Supreme Court opens its proceedings with a religious invocation; and the members of Congress open their sessions with a prayer.

I just happen to believe the school children of the United States are entitled to the same privileges as Supreme Court Justices and Congressmen. Last year, I sent the Congress a constitutional amendment to restore prayer to public schools. This week I am resubmitting that amendment and calling on the Congress to act speedily to pass it.

Let our children pray. Perhaps some of you read recently about the Lubbock school case where a judge actually ruled that it was unconstitutional for a school district to give equal treatment to religious and non-religious student groups, even when the group meetings were held during the students' own time.

The First Amendment never intended to require government to discriminate against religious speech. Senators Denton and Hatfield have proposed legislation in the Congress on the whole ques-

tion of prohibiting discrimination against religious forms of student speech. Such legislation could go far to restore freedom of religious speech for public school students and I hope the Congress considers these bills quickly. And with your help, I think it's possible we could also get the constitutional amendment through the Congress this year.

More than a decade ago, a Supreme Court decision literally wiped off the books of 50 states statutes protecting the rights of unborn children. "Abortion on demand" now takes the lives of up to one and a half million unborn children a year.

No time to rest

Human life legislation ending this tragedy will someday pass the Congress, and you and I must never rest until it does. Unless and until it can be proven that the unborn child is not a living entity, then its right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness must be protected.

You may remember that when abortion on demand began many, indeed, I'm sure many of you, warned that the practice would lead to a decline in respect for human life, that the philosophical premises used to justify abortion on demand would ultimately be used to justify other attacks on the sacredness of human life, infanticide or mercy killing. Tragically enough, those warnings proved all too true: Only last year a court permitted the death by starvation of a handicapped infant.

I have directed the Health and Human Services Department to make clear to every health care facility in the United States that the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 protects all handicapped persons against discrimination based on handicaps, including infants.

And we have taken the further step of requiring that each and every recipient of Federal funds who provides health care services to infants must post and keep posted in a conspicuous place a notice stating that "discriminatory failure to feed and care for handicapped infants in this facility is prohibited by Federal law." It also lists a 24-hour, toll-free number so that nurses and others may report violations in time to save the infant's life.

In addition, recent legislation introduced in the Congress by Representative Henry Hyde not only increases restrictions on publicly financed abortions; it also addresses this whole problem of infanticide.

I urged Congress to begin hearings and to adopt legislation that will protect the right to life of all children, including the disabled or handicapped.

I'm sure you must get discouraged at times, but there is a great spiritual

awakening in America, a renewal of the traditional values that have been the bedrock of America's goodness and greatness.

One recent survey by a Washington-based research council concluded that Americans were far more religious than the people of other nations; 95 percent of those surveyed expressed a belief in God and a huge majority believed the Ten Commandments had real meaning for their lives.

Another study has found that an overwhelming majority of Americans disapprove of adultery, teen-age sex, pornography, abortion and hard drugs. And this same study showed a deep reverence for the importance of family ties and religious belief.

I think the items we have discussed here today must be a key part of the nation's political agenda. For the first time the Congress is openly and seriously debating and dealing with the prayer and abortion issues—that's enormous progress right there.

I repeat: America is in the midst of a spiritual awakening and a moral renewal. With your biblical keynote, I say today let "justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream."

A positive view

Now, obviously, much of this new political and social consensus I have talked about is based on a positive view of American history, one that takes pride in our country's accomplishments and record. But we must never forget that no government schemes are going to perfect man; we know that living in this world means dealing with what philosophers would call this phenomenology of evil or, as theologians would put it, the doctrine of sin.

There is sin and evil in the world, and we are enjoined by Scripture and the Lord Jesus to oppose it with all our might. Our nation, too, has a legacy of evil with which it must deal. The glory of this land has been its capacity for transcending the moral evils of our past.

For example, the long struggle of minority citizens for equal rights, once a source of disunity and civil war, is now a point of pride for all Americans. We must never go back.

There is no room for racism, anti-Semitism or other forms of ethnic and racial hatred in this country. I know you have been horrified, as have I, by the resurgence of some hate groups preaching bigotry and prejudice. Use the mighty voice of your pulpits and the powerful standing of your churches to denounce and isolate these hate groups in our midst. The commandment given us is clear and simple: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."



CATHOLIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 11

November, 1981

inside ...

Catholic League attorneys have appealed a court decision that barred students at Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland, Maryland, from participating in a public school program known as the "All County Band." See the article on page 2.

* * *

Launched just a little more than a year ago, the Catholic League's youth education program is being met with enthusiasm by Catholic school teachers and administrators. See the story on page 3.

* * *

This month's "Docket," on page 4, is written by the Christian Legal Society's Thomas S. Brandon, Jr. He cites the Catholic League's "Students for Voluntary Prayer" case as an example of how the courts have denied the free speech rights of high school students who wish to pray together on public school premises.

* * *

This month's "Heritage" column, on page 5, relates the circumstances surrounding President Franklin D. Roosevelt's appointment of Myron Taylor as his personal representative to the Vatican.

* * *

Highlighting this month's Chapter News is an account of a speech given by the Nebraska Chapter's Jack Carpenter to a gathering of Omaha parents and teachers. Also on page 6 is a report of the Minnesota Chapter's response to two recent broadcasts that were offensive to Catholics.

* * *

A spokesman for the Army has replied to the League's complaint about a general who publicly advocated an "abort-or-get-out" policy for soldiers who become pregnant during their first enlistment. See the story on page 7.

* * *

In his regular monthly column on page 8, League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., warns that the right of religious-minded citizens to influence the formulation of public policy is under increasing attack in the United States.

Chapters focus on tax credits

The Catholic League's most valuable resource — its volunteer chapter leaders — put on an impressive performance October 3, as officers of several East Coast chapters gathered at St. Michael's School in Crandon, N.J., to present a day-long workshop seminar on tuition tax credits.

League members from six chapters, as well as members of the general public, attended the meeting, which was coordinated by Father Peter Stravinskas, the League's East Coast regional director of development.

Source of pride

Father Stravinskas said he takes great pride in his association with the League's chapter leaders. "These people have full-time jobs which are quite demanding, and they have families to care for, yet they devote countless hours to League activities," he said.

Noting that their thorough preparation was apparent to those who attended the seminar, he said, "They may be part-time volunteers, but when they speak on behalf of the League, they are polished experts, true professionals in every sense of the word."

Father Stravinskas began the workshop by discussing the history of the First Amendment. He traced the evolution of the constitutional argument against providing tax aid to parents who send their children to church-related schools, noting that "opponents of such aid have gradually succeeded in persuading a large segment of the public that the First Amendment calls for an absolute separation of church and state." What the authors of the Constitution actually intended to prohibit, he explained, was the establishment

of a national religion, not public support for beneficial public services such as private education.

A workshop on how to deal with the media was conducted by the presidents of two New York-area chapters, William Lindner of Long Island and Anthony Mangano of Westchester.

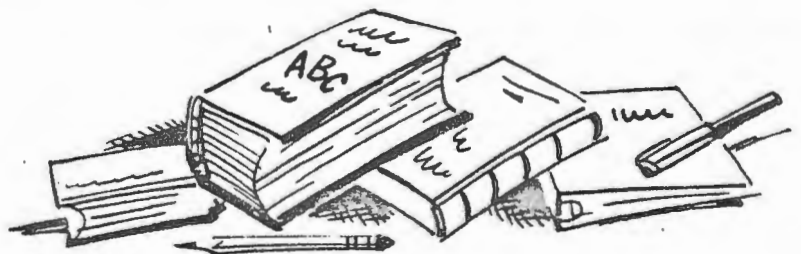
Mangano stressed the League's role as a source of information on education freedom. "Our primary function," he said, "is to provide the media with accurate information in the form of press releases and background articles that can be used to help reporters and editors understand the issue. Our secondary function is to correct misinformation when it occurs — whether in a news article, an editorial, a cartoon or a broadcast. This can be accomplished most effectively through letters to the editor, telephone calls to reporters and editors, and articles for newspaper opinion pages."

Media monitors

Lindner, in his portion of the workshop, emphasized the importance of developing a network of media monitors who can swiftly and accurately report instances of misinformation so that timely responses can be formulated. He also explained in detail how his chapter formulates such responses.

Mrs. Mary Patnaude, chairman of the New Jersey Right to Educational Choice Committee and an active member of the League's Northern New Jersey Chapter, discussed various ways in which parents can work to promote educational freedom. She flavored her remarks with anecdotes from her own experiences during her 12-year pursuit of justice for parents

(continued on page 2)



League appeals Bishop Walsh decision

The Catholic League has asked the Maryland Court of Special Appeals to reverse a lower court decision barring students at Bishop Walsh High School in Cumberland from participating in a public school program known as the "All County Band."

The program had been open to Walsh students in 1978 and 1979, and several of them had successfully auditioned for seats in the band. In 1980, however, in response to complaints from public school teachers and parents that Walsh students were depriving public school students of seats in the band, the Allegany County Board of Education restricted competition for seats in the band to public school students.

Unpalatable choice

With legal assistance from League General Counsel Robert Destro and Cumberland attorney Robert Reinhart, several Walsh students then sued the school board, alleging that the board's policy forced them to choose between their federal constitutional right to attend nonpublic schools and their state constitutional right to equal access to public school programs.

"Quite simply," said Destro and Reinhart in their brief, "[the students] are ineligible because they have made a constitutionally protected choice to asso-

Tax credits

(continued from page 1)

who exercise religious freedom in choosing their children's schools.

Frank Russo, vice president of the Long Island Chapter, concluded the workshop with a finely wrought presentation on the financial implications of tuition tax credits. Opponents of tax credits, he noted, have repeatedly made the erroneous claim that their enactment will result in an annual drain on the federal treasury of more than \$5 billion. Actually, he explained, enactment of tuition tax credits will enable many families to shift their children from public to private schools, thus reducing the cost of private education. "If only 6 percent of public school students shift," said Russo, "the cost saving to the taxpayer would equal the tax revenues lost through tax credits."

Also contributing to the success of the tax credit seminar was Msgr. John Davis and his parishioners at St. Michael's, who provided the meeting place and refreshments which, according to Father Stravinskis, were "fit for kings."

ciate with others to gain a religious perspective on education."

In a decision handed down last April, however, Judge James Getty of the Circuit Court for Allegany County ruled that the Walsh students were not actually subjected to such a choice. Once the choice is made to attend a nonpublic school, the judge said, the student automatically waives the right to participate in the publicly funded education programs established under the Maryland constitution.

But in the papers filed Sept. 29 with the Court of Special Appeals, Destro and Reinhart point out that, in general, waiver of a constitutional right occurs only when an individual intentionally relinquishes or abandons a known right or privilege.

According to Destro, the court record demonstrates that the Walsh students had no idea that they were waiving any rights when they chose Bishop Walsh.

Rights not waived

"On the contrary," he said, "the students have consistently sought to avail themselves of the educational opportunities provided. When they attempted to enroll, they were refused. When told they were ineligible, they complained to the school board, to the public through demonstrations, and finally to the courts. There was no waiver of rights in this case... The record shows instead a school board intent upon taking rights away from students who had no idea they would lose them."

In their appeal, Destro and Reinhart also reiterated the students' claim that the board's exclusionary policy violates

their religious freedom. Judge Getty had dismissed that claim, noting that the Walsh students had not been excluded because of their religious beliefs.

Religious discrimination

"Judge Getty's reasoning is deceptively simple," said Destro. "Few school boards would be bold enough to hang a 'no Catholics need apply' sign on the schoolhouse door. But had the judge examined the facts more closely, he would have found that the impact of the board's decision falls *only* on those students who have chosen religiously based education. This, too, is religious discrimination. The denial of access to public schools because students have opted for a religious perspective on education exacts a penalty on their exercise of a constitutional right."

Another argument reiterated in the students' appeal is that the school board exceeded its authority, as defined by Maryland statutes, when it excluded the Walsh students from the All-County Band.

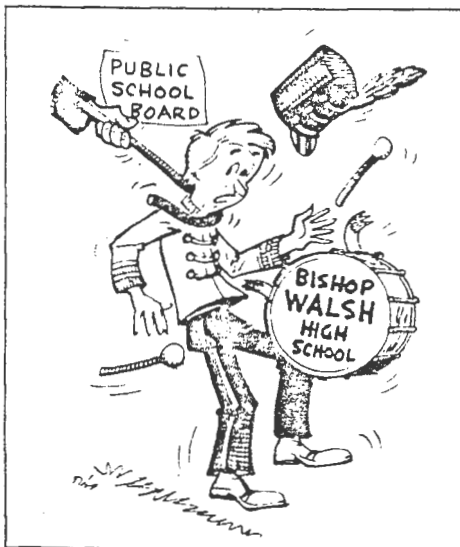
The pertinent section of the Maryland Education Code states that "All individuals who are 5 years old or older and under 21 shall be admitted free of charge to the public schools of this state." According to Destro, there are no statutory exceptions to the requirement that public educational opportunities be available to all within the prescribed age limits.

One-sided duty

Yet, said Destro, court testimony by Dr. Wayne Hill, superintendent of Allegany County schools, clearly indicates that he perceives the board's duty as applying only to public school students.

According to a transcript of his testimony, Dr. Hill said that after the Walsh students had participated in the program for two years, "objections were raised by the band directors and people in our own school community, pointing out the fact that if private school students were admitted to the All-County Band, this would thus prevent the participation by that number of public school students, and we had far more public school students for the band than we could accommodate. Our first responsibility, in my opinion, is to the public school students."

Destro said Dr. Hill's testimony ignores his duty to treat "all children" equally, as mandated by law. Moreover, said Destro, it implies that he perceives his duty as being to assure educational opportunities for some students by denying it to others.



League urges respect for religious freedom

The Catholic League has called upon the Soviet and British governments to guarantee religious freedom in their respective countries.

Specifically, the League has asked the British government to guarantee the confidentiality of sacramental confessions made by inmates at Long Kesh prison in Northern Ireland, and it has asked the Soviet government to stop physically mistreating Catholic priests in Lithuania.

The former request, channelled through British Ambassador to the United States Sir Nicholas Henderson, came in the wake of widespread suspicion among prison chaplains, inmates and their families that confessions and other confidential conversations have been electronically monitored by prison officials.

Those suspicions intensified recently when a reporter for the London *Sunday Times* claimed he had seen transcripts of the deathbed talks between the Pope's personal secretary, Father John McGee, and the dying hunger striker Bobby Sands.

According to one of the Long Kesh chaplains, Father Denis Faul, priests have now taken steps to ensure that the secrets of the confessional are not recorded by

British intelligence. "We now hear confession in the jail chapel just before Mass — out in the open body of the church surrounded by dozens of prisoners," he said, adding that priests had suspected for a long time that hidden listening devices were being used in the prison camp.

In its letter to Ambassador Henderson, the League said such suspicions are a cause of anguish to the prisoners, to their chaplains, to the general public and to those for whom the absolute confidentiality of the confessional is an indispensable aspect of religious freedom.

Guarantee sought

Accordingly, the League asked Henderson to seek from his government a public declaration guaranteeing that the confidentiality of such conversations had not in fact been violated and will not be violated. In the event that violations have already occurred, the British government should acknowledge the specific instances and offer assurances that they won't be repeated, the League said.

"Such a declaration will free those immediately concerned from a cruel and unnecessary psychological stress," the

League said. "It will reassure their families and the general public, and it will protect the British government against the public odium which such a suspicion is bound to engender."

The Catholic League's appeal to the Soviet government was prompted by recent reports that Soviet militia arrested, beat and kicked Father Richardas Cherniauskas, a Catholic priest, as he conducted a spiritual retreat for 50 young people near Moletai, in Soviet-occupied Lithuania.

In a letter to Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin, the League expressed its disapproval of the incident and reminded the ambassador that "no state can or should interpose itself between man and God."

The League also wrote to Senator Roger W. Jepsen, who has earned a reputation as a champion of human rights for those behind the Iron Curtain. "Please use your personal influence and the influence of your office to focus public attention on this deplorable situation," the League urged. "Please help to marshal world opinion against Soviet suppression of religious freedom and other fundamental human rights."

Youth education program is well received

Father Peter Stravinkas, the League's East Coast regional director of development, reports a growing enthusiasm among Catholic educators for the League's high school studies program.

Developed just over a year ago by Father Stravinkas, the program includes curriculum materials for units on the human life issue, anti-Catholicism in America, parental freedom of choice in education and secular humanism.

Pilot program

The pilot program was launched last fall at Mt. St. Mary's Academy in North Plainfield, N.J., at Northeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia and at Red Bank Catholic High School in Red Bank, N.J.

During this past summer, Father Stravinkas and his secretary, Pat Adamo, have processed an additional 50 requests for the curriculum materials. "After the first of the year, we will do a follow up to determine how many of those 50 schools are actually using the materials and with what success," said Father Stravinkas.

On October 1, Father Stravinkas discussed the League's high school program at a gathering of all the Catholic secondary school administrators in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. "This program is long overdue" was the general response of the 75 administrators in attendance, according to Father Stravinkas. He said that the five packets of curriculum materials that he had with him were purchased on the spot, and that he expects additional requests to reach his office by mail.

The League's high school curriculum should gain new momentum next April, since Father Stravinkas has accepted an invitation to discuss the program during a workshop at the annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Besides his efforts to introduce the League to high school students, Father Stravinkas has also presented lengthy discussions on the League at three seminaries: Mt. St. Mary's in Emmetsburg, Md., Immaculate Conception at Huntington, Long Island, and St. Charles in Philadelphia. "Of all the groups I've spoken to about the League, said Father Stra-

vinckas, "the seminarians have been among the most receptive."

Father Stravinkas has also laid the groundwork for Catholic League discussion groups at such prominent Catholic colleges as Georgetown and Catholic University in Washington, D.C., and St. John's University in New York.

Importance cited

The League's youth education program is of crucial importance not only to the future of the Catholic League but to future generations of American Catholics as well, according to League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J.

"American Catholics have always been, for the most part, oblivious to their rights and obligations in our interest group democracy," he said. "For that reason, we have had little success in asserting our just claims and interests in the formulation of American public policy. Because we want to improve that record through our youth educational programs, we are greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic response we've received from Catholic educators."



Free exercise of religion: favored child or poor third cousin?

by Thomas S. Brandon, Jr.
Editor, *The Advocate*

It has often been said that the Free Exercise Clause is the "favored child" of the First Amendment. The thrust of some recent cases appears to reduce the status of the Free Exercise Clause to that of a poor third cousin, if not an orphan.

Two recent decisions by the U.S. Court of Appeals have made the blunt statement that religious speech is not entitled to the same protection as all other forms of speech. The cases of *Brandon v. Board of Education* and *Collins v. Chandler High School District* dealt with prayer in public schools.

In *Brandon*, a group of students asked to use a room of the school in which they could pray on a voluntary basis before school. The court said this activity

amounted to an "establishment of religion" and was "too dangerous to permit." The students in the *Brandon* case have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review this decision, but the court has not said whether it will review the case or let it stand.

In *Collins*, the Student Council at Chandler High School requested and received permission from the school's administration to begin student assemblies with prayer. This practice, too, was held to be an "establishment of religion," and was not saved on the basis that the assemblies were voluntary. The court followed the reasoning of the *Brandon* decision.

Religious speech suffers

Both cases referred to the case of *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*. However, they exhibited a lack of understanding of that case by saying that "religious speech is not entitled to the same protection as political speech when the Establishment Clause is involved." The *Tinker* case is viewed as the foundational case for all students' (and teachers') rights. In *Tinker*

the court said, "It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional rights . . . [a]t the schoolhouse gate." Evidently, the courts in the *Brandon* and *Collins* cases believe that students and teachers shed the constitutional right of free exercise of religion at the schoolhouse gate but all other rights are retained during the school day.

Equal treatment required

Even if the Free Exercise Clause was not a "favored child," it must be argued that the students' religious activity is entitled to at least the same or equal protection as other activities performed at school which do not interrupt the educational process or violate the rights of others. The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment requires the equal treatment of persons in applying the law, regulation or rule. It seems incongruous to our concept of freedom for students to be allowed to say anything about any issue as long as it is not religious.

Copyright 1981 The Christian Legal Society, P.O. Box 2069, Oak Park, Illinois 60303.



THE POPE SPEAKS

"It is a duty of conscience, for anyone inspired by a Christian concept, to promote justice effectively by safeguarding faith and freedom as well as the other spiritual goods of a people."

— Pope John Paul II, in an address delivered January 12, 1981

"Christians . . . are called by God to be involved in the world in order to transform it according to the Gospel. . . . Those duties include positively contributing to the establishment of just laws and structures that foster human values."

— Pope John Paul II, Nairobi, Kenya, 1980

"It is therefore difficult, even from a 'purely human' point of view, to accept a position that gives only atheism the right of citizenship in public and social life, while believers are, as though by principle, barely tolerated or are treated as second-class citizens or are even — and this has already happened — entirely deprived of the rights of citizenship."

— Pope John Paul II in his first encyclical, *Redemptor Hominis*.

New books feature League expertise

Members of the League's staff and Board of Directors have contributed greatly to a pair of recently published books.

League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., is the author of an article included in *Private Schools and the Public Good*. And among the contributors to *New Perspectives on Human Abortion* are League General Counsel Robert Destro and Directors John T. Noonan, Jr., and Dennis J. Horan, who is one of the book's three editors.

Father Blum's article is entitled "Why Inner-City Families Send Their Children to Private Schools: An Empirical Study." The article reports the major findings of the League's study of inner city private education.

Associate Professor Edward M. Gaffney of the University of Notre Dame Law School is the editor of the book, which includes selections by such renowned educational experts as John E. Coons, Stephen D. Sugarman, Thomas Vitullo-Martin, Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan, Father Andrew Greeley and Denis P. Doyle, the

author of this month's *Newsletter* supplement. The book can be ordered from the University of Notre Dame Press, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556 at \$8 per copy. Orders of five or more books can be obtained at \$6 per copy through the Center for Constitutional Studies, Notre Dame, Indiana 46556.

New Perspectives on Human Abortion is a collection of articles written largely by attorneys, physicians and university professors.

Besides being one of the book's three editors, Prof. Horan is the co-author, with Thomas J. Marzen, of two articles: "Abortion and Midwifery: A Footnote in Legal History" and "The Supreme Court on Abortion Funding: The Second Time Around."

Prof. Noonan's contribution is entitled "The Experience of Pain by the Unborn," and Destro's article is entitled "Religion: Establishment, Free Exercise and Abortion."

At \$9 per copy, plus \$1 for handling, the book can be obtained through Americans United for Life, 230 N. Michigan, Chicago, Illinois 60601.

The President's man at the Vatican

Formal diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See were broken off on a mutually sour note in 1868, shortly before the Papal States were absorbed into the Kingdom of Italy. But in 1939, a convergence of foreign and domestic political considerations made the resumption of diplomatic contact with the Vatican attractive to President Franklin Roosevelt.

World War II had just broken out in Europe, and Roosevelt's highest priority in foreign policy was to aid the Allies against Hitler. Isolationist opinion was strong at home, however, and this forced Roosevelt into a posture of neutrality. To make matters worse, this isolationist feeling was strongest among Catholics, who were indispensable to Roosevelt's electoral coalition and to the success of his domestic programs.

Opening diplomatic contact with the Vatican would, at a single blow, cement Catholic voters to the Roosevelt coalition by symbolically rewarding them for their past support and also help overcome Catholic resistance to the Administration's foreign policy. In addition, Roosevelt hoped that a diplomatic representa-

tive at the Vatican would help to prevent Italy from entering the war on Hitler's side. If this could be accomplished, it would be a significant, if indirect, contribution to the Allied cause. Finally, for the sake of public opinion, nothing could be more natural than for the world's most powerful neutral nation and the world's most respected moral authority to join in a "partnership for peace."

The final element in Roosevelt's political equation was the expected anti-Catholic backlash to the appointment of an American diplomatic representative to the Vatican. If the thing was to be done, it would have to be done delicately.

Taylor is appointed

On Christmas Eve, 1939, the President sent personal greetings to Dr. George A. Buttrick of the Federal Council of Churches, Rabbi Cyrus Adler of Jewish Theological Seminary, and Pope Pius XII, urging cooperation for peace among religious leaders. The letter to the Pope, however, included the additional news that Myron D. Taylor had been named as the President's "personal representative" to the Holy See.

Taylor was a Protestant who had recently retired as chairman of the United States Steel Corporation. When Cardinal Pacelli, now Pius XII, visited the United States in 1936, he had been a house guest of Taylor, and more recently, Taylor had served as head of an American refugee relief organization based in Rome, so he was known and trusted in the Vatican.

Catholic prestige enhanced

Taylor was officially a "personal representative" rather than an ambassador because Roosevelt wanted to avoid a congressional dispute over the appointment. For the same reason, Taylor was to pay his own expenses and reside in his own personal villa in Florence. These technicalities did not prevent either Catholics or Protestants from seeing the appointment as a significant enhancement of Catholic prestige.

Catholics were nearly unanimous in praising the appointment. They thought it would improve the prospects for peace, create better U.S. relations with Latin American nations, and finally recognize the proper importance of the Vatican in international diplomacy. Undoubtedly, another motivation for this Catholic enthusiasm was the feeling that the appointment would place an official seal of approval on the dual loyalty of Catholics to the papacy and the Republic, which had created so much suspicion against Catholics in the past. The lone dis-

sender among the hierarchy was Boston's Cardinal O'Connell, who feared the appointment would offer a pretext for a renewed outbreak of anti-Catholic feeling.

The Cardinal's apprehensions were well founded. Almost every major Protestant denomination protested the appointment, with the Baptists, Methodists and Lutherans most vehement in their objections. Hesitant at first, the Federal Council of Churches soon called for the withdrawal of Taylor's appointment. While Protestant opinion was far from unanimous, an indication of the broad consensus on this issue is that the liberal *Christian Century* found itself in a rare editorial alliance with fundamentalists who charged that the President had made a pact with "the devil in Rome, Pope Pius." The centerpiece of the Protestant objection was, naturally, the claim that the appointment violated "separation of church and state."

Catholics respond

Catholic leaders responded to these complaints in equally combative terms. Archbishop Francis Spellman of New York said that all "men of good will" must approve collaboration between the President and the Pope in the cause of peace. He noted that there were no objections to the appointment of ambassadors to England or Japan, even though the king and emperor were heads of their respective national churches.

President Roosevelt tried to mollify his critics by assuring them that the appointment was temporary and personal rather than official. Privately, in a letter to a senator from North Carolina, he expressed himself somewhat more bluntly, declaring that if those now protesting "had done a little preaching from the pulpit against the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920's I would have a little more genuine American respect for their Christianity!"

Mixed results

In spite of the furor, Taylor remained at his post until the war was over. The appointment did not achieve Roosevelt's short-term goal of keeping Italy out of the war, or his long-term goal of getting a Vatican endorsement of the Allied cause. But it did help enlist Catholic support for the Administration's foreign policy and served as a vital diplomatic listening post during the war.

Later presidents have named diplomatic representatives to the Vatican, and the protests have steadily diminished in intensity and scope.

Public radio fires cheap shot

The Catholic League has asked National Public Radio to stop insulting the Catholic Church in its syndicated broadcast material.

The League's request was prompted by a September 30 sports commentary which began with the following line: "In addition to the way the Catholic Church has loused up the matter of sex . . ."

In a letter to Frank Mankiewicz, president of National Public Radio, the Catholic League said the comment was not only utterly false but also totally irrelevant to the subject, which was gambling and professional sports. The League called the comment "nothing more than a gratuitous defamation of the beliefs and values of a large segment of the listening audience."

The League advised Mankiewicz that "people of all faiths dislike having their religion insulted; they like it even less when the insult is gratuitous; and they like it least of all when their own tax dollars are used to subsidize dissemination of the insult."

Noting that the harmful effects of the comment cannot now be undone, the League called for a public apology and assurances that such defamation will not again occur.

Chapter leaders meet with bishops

Father Peter Stravinskis, the League's East Coast regional director of development, has met with several bishops recently to elicit their support for League chapters. In most instances, he was accompanied by local chapter officers.

Father Stravinskis and Dr. Anthony Czajkowski, president of the Washington Chapter, met with the Most Rev. Eugene A. Marino, auxiliary bishop of Washington, who agreed to serve on the chapter's advisory committee and to bring the League to the attention of the deans.

President John Pateracki of the Connecticut Chapter, Father Stravinskis, and other chapter officers, met with the Most Rev. Walter Curtis, bishop of Bridgeport, who expressed his strong support of the League. Bishop John McGann of Rockville Centre told Father Stravinskis and President William Lindner of the Long Island Chapter that he is extremely pleased with the chapter's style and activities. He suggested that the chapter organize a conference on the League for diocesan clergy, and he said he would gladly include League literature in diocesan mailings to the clergy.

Father Stravinskis also met with Auxiliary Bishop John O'Connor of the Military Ordinariate. Bishop O'Connor is writing an article about the League which will be included in the chaplains' monthly periodical.

CHAPTER NEWS

Carpenter addresses educators

Jack Carpenter, president of the Catholic League's Nebraska Chapter, was a featured speaker at the Archdiocese of Omaha's 1981 Fall Education Conference held October 12 at Gross High School.

Parents, teachers and administrators in attendance heard Carpenter discuss "Tuition Tax Credits: An Issue for Hysteria, or Parent Rights in Education?"

Carpenter discussed the historical background of public and private schools in America, and he explained that the dual system of education has always been beneficial to society. He noted, however, that the dual system is now endangered because adverse economic conditions

threaten to put many private schools out of business.

According to Carpenter, the problem can best be solved through a program of federal tuition tax credits, which would ease the financial burden borne by most parents who try to provide their children with a religiously oriented education.

Unfortunately, he noted, enactment of such a program has long been frustrated by a not always well intentional appeal to the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state — an argument which Carpenter emphatically declared is "irrelevant to the issue of tuition tax credits."

Parents' rights

What is relevant, he said, are the rights of parents to religious freedom and equal protection. "Private school parents pay their share of education taxes," he said, "but as soon as they elect to send their children to a church-related school, in accordance with the dictates of their conscience, they are severely penalized; they are forced to pay twice for their child's education. That is wrong, and we've got to work to change the system."

The Nebraska Chapter also set up a booth at the education conference, from which chapter members distributed League literature on the education issue.

St. Louis Chapter is on television

The League's St. Louis Chapter was featured on a segment of the October 25 "Confluence" television program broadcast over KMOX-TV. The program presents ecumenical religious issues in a magazine-style format.

Representing the chapter was former president Jack Horgan, who explained the goals and activities of the League and its network of chapters.

Minnesota Chapter criticizes broadcasts

James Ahler, president of the League's Minnesota Chapter, has offered constructive criticism to a local radio station and a local television station on how to be less offensive to their Catholic listeners.

On the September 25 Bob Allard show, broadcast over WAYL radio in Egan, Minnesota, Bruce Laube of the University of Minnesota described a caller who expressed problems with his sexuality as "a recovered Catholic." The term went unchallenged except by a followup caller who expressed amazement at the use of such a deprecating term. Her query resulted only in a justification of the term as a humorous reference.

In a letter to WAYL Program Director Greg Kulka, Ahler said: "To those of us who share the Catholic faith, such expressions are not humorous. Dealing with Catholicism as though it were a dread disease from which one 'recovers' or as though Catholicism requires perverse sexual repression is an expression of

religious bigotry, not of humor. . . . We certainly hope that the promotion of such attitudes is contrary to the policy of WAYL and that some effort will be made to place restraints on unchallenged expressions of bigotry such as this on future WAYL programming."

Misleading report

Ahler also took exception to a news report broadcast over KSTP-TV in St. Paul, which characterized Pope John Paul's latest encyclical as saying that "a woman's place is in the home." Calling that characterization "false and misleading," Ahler quoted pertinent passages of the encyclical in a letter to News Director Stan Turner.

What the Pope said, quoted Ahler, is this: "Having to abandon these tasks (of caring for children and educating them) in order to take up paid work outside the

home is wrong from the point of view of the good of society and the family when it contradicts or hinders these primary goals of the mission of the mother." Further, the Pope said that "(women) should be able to fulfill their tasks in accordance with their own nature without being discriminated against and without being excluded from jobs for which they are capable. . . ."

Noting that KSTP's characterization of the Pope's message did not square with his actual words, Ahler said the station's lapse in fairness and balance was even more disappointing because it comes from a station whose past coverage has been praiseworthy.

Ahler told Turner that he was particularly galled by the treatment he received when he called the station to complain about its unfair coverage. "Apparently distortion of the Pope's message was considered by the staff on duty to be not only justified but humorous," he said.

Army replies to League complaint

A Pentagon spokesman has responded to the Catholic League's complaint about a U.S. Army general who advocated an "abort-or-get-out" policy for soldiers who become pregnant during their first enlistment.

According to the June 29 issue of *Army Times*, Lt. Gen. Julius Becton stated: "If I were king, I would discharge, honorably discharge, a woman when she becomes pregnant, if she's a first-termer. . . . She would either abort or be discharged, let's put it that way, since abortion is now a legal, proper step."

In letters to President Reagan, the secretary of the Army and several congressmen and senators, League General Counsel Robert Destro called for an investigation of the matter. The general's comments, Destro said, disclose "a gross lack of respect for the moral conscience of the American soldier, a highly distorted view of women's rights in general, and a lack of respect for the human dignity of the unborn."

In reply to Destro's complaint, Col. Jack C. Wheeler of the Army's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel assured the League that the personal views of General Becton on pregnancy, discharge and abortion "do not reflect Army policy." According to Col. Wheeler, the Army does not, in any event, "require or officially encourage anyone to have an abortion."

Col. Wheeler also assured the League that Gen. Becton "is aware of the significance his rank and position lend to his personal opinion, and the need to consider the full impact of his statements prior to making them public in the future."

Concern remains

Replying to Wheeler's letter, Destro said he is aware that the Army neither requires nor officially encourages anyone to have an abortion. Nevertheless, the League remains concerned, said Destro, because "informal command attitudes are often translated, in practice, into informal Army policy."

If Gen. Becton's views are transmitted to those in his command, said Destro, the Army could well suffer serious legal and ethical problems in the future. "We trust that this will not occur, and urge that your office keep close watch with us for evidence that his personal views on these subjects are not translated into the unofficial policy of his command," Destro concluded.

The League has also been notified by Congressman Clement Zablocki that the Department of the Army is investigating the matter and that a full report will be prepared.

Don't forget Santa

League members will notice that, for the second straight month, their *Newsletter* mailing includes a brochure which explains how they can help the Catholic League by giving their loved ones a Kneeling Santa figurine.

As the brochure explains, profits from the sales of the Kneeling Santa to League members will be used to support the League's efforts to preserve our Judaeo-Christian heritage.

So when you give your children or grandchildren the Kneeling Santa, you will not only be helping them to understand the proper relationship between the secular and sacred aspects of Christmas; you will also be helping to assure that, through the League's efforts, Christ's Gospel values will continue to be a potent force in our society.

The Kneeling Santa order forms will not be included in the December *Newsletter* mailings, since orders placed in December cannot be processed in time to guarantee delivery before Christmas. Members are encouraged to place their orders as soon as possible to beat the Christmas rush.

Religious Roundtable offends Catholics

The Catholic League has criticized Religious Roundtable, an organization ostensibly committed to asserting Judaeo-Christian values in public life, for characterizing the Catholic Church as a corrupt and tyrannical institution.

The August issue of the organization's newsletter, *The Roundtable Report*, included a front-page sketch of religious history which referred to "a millenium of spiritual darkness during which the established 'Church' wielded tyrannical power over the State, and genuine followers of Christ were persecuted and tortured. . . ." The sketch went on to say that "the yoke of tyranny was broken and history turned a corner. . . ." and that "salvation was no longer dispensed by a corrupt 'Church.' . . ."

Distressing sentiments

In a letter to H. Edward Rowe, executive director of Religious Roundtable and editor of its newsletter, the League expressed its distress over the sentiments conveyed in the historical sketch.

"The general sense of these statements," said League Director of Public Affairs Michael Schwartz, "is that the Catholic Church is the enemy of both political liberty and Christian faith. Moreover, the use of quotation marks around the word 'Church' suggests that the author does not regard the Catholic Church as a genuine Christian body, but as a counterfeit church."

Contentious viewpoint

"It seems entirely inappropriate for such views to be put forward by an organization whose avowed purposes are civic rather than missionary," he said. "Such a narrow and contentious viewpoint lends credence to the claims of the opponents of your movement who accuse you of promoting a particular religious orthodoxy under the guise of civic reform."

Schwartz acknowledged that many Catholics sympathize with the Religious Roundtable's political objectives. "But," he said, "if your publication gives the impression that a condition of a good Christian or a good American is to despise the Catholic Church as tyrannical and corrupt, you will not only have to forego the support of those Catholic citizens, but also that of non-Catholic Americans who understand and cherish the principle of religious freedom."

Contributions to the Catholic League are tax deductible.



On September 17, the Iowa Civil Rights Commission upheld an earlier ruling that the Polk County Commission on Veterans Affairs had discriminated against Floyd Blasco, pictured above, because he is an Italian-American Catholic. The Catholic League represented Blasco in his successful suit.



The President's Desk

by Virgil C. Blum, S.J.

Democracy and pluralism under attack

Senator Barry Goldwater recently blasted the New Right, saying "I don't think what they're talking about is 'conservatism.' . . . The religious issue of these groups (abortion, school prayer) has little or nothing to do with conservative or liberal politics. One of the great strengths of our political system always has been our tendency to keep religious issues in the background."

This new doctrine that religion has no place in politics is now being espoused by conservatives and liberals alike. Yet this belief implicitly denies the fundamental premise of our pluralistic society and the First Amendment right of citizens to try to influence governmental policies according to their own religious and moral values.

One would expect those who do not believe in a transcendent God to decry the consideration of religious and moral values in public policy making. What is truly shocking here is that even religious-minded men and women are rejecting the whole American experience from colonial times and claiming that religious and moral beliefs must be jettisoned when public policy is made.

The Founding Fathers based their case against the tyranny of King George on the Word of God; the abolitionists based

their case against slavery, as did Abraham Lincoln, on the Word of God; the prohibitionists based their case against the drinking of alcoholic beverages on the Word of God; the labor unionists, as did Msgr. John Ryan, based their case for collective bargaining on the Word of God; the advocates of racial equality, notably the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., based their case against racial discrimination on the Word of God; and today advocates of the right to life of unborn children base their case on the Word of God.

Yet today more and more religious-minded politicians are becoming convinced that if they carry their own religious and moral values into their public roles and weigh these beliefs in public policy decisions, this is tantamount to forcing their religion upon others.

This posture is in complete conflict with the pluralistic nature of our society. It assumes that the only people and the only politicians who have a right to participate in the making of public policy are those who set aside their religious and moral values. Anyone adhering to Judaeo-Christian values, and trying to live by them, is turned into a silent and non-voting second-class citizen.

This doctrine is a rejection of the principles of our democracy—government of the people, by the people and for the people—because it would exclude from active involvement in the democratic processes religious-minded citizens and politicians. It would restrict public

policy making to individuals who are non-believers or who will not bring their Judaeo-Christian values into the political arena.

The adoption of this doctrine of "religion has no place in politics" by religious-minded politicians sometimes makes them responsible for public policy they personally find morally abhorrent.

Not long ago in Maryland, for example, the Prince George's County Council voted on legislation to ban funding of abortions at tax-supported hospitals. The legislation was defeated on a 5 to 5 vote when a pro-life Council member abstained from voting, saying, "Because of my personal religious beliefs, my immediate reaction was to favor its adoption. But I believe also that my election to public office did not grant me the license to impose my religious and moral beliefs on others who disagree."

By abstaining from voting, this Council member rejected the principles of our representative democracy and of our pluralistic society (which has the right to expect that constituent groups will have an impact on public policy making); she abrogated her First Amendment rights to bring her religious and moral values into public policy formation; she rejected her duty as a Christian to bring Gospel-values into the political arena; and, perhaps unwittingly, she became morally culpable for the abortions performed in the tax-supported hospitals of Prince George's County.

Reprint policy

The Catholic League encourages individuals and organizations to reprint material from the *Catholic League Newsletter*. This may be done without obtaining permission, so long as appropriate credit is given to the League. The only exceptions to this policy are articles which the League reprints with the permission of other publications or organizations. For example, anyone wishing to reprint this month's "Docket" column would have to obtain the permission of the Christian Legal Society.

New book exonerates Pius XII

The Catholic League has expressed its gratitude to the Associated Press for publicizing a new book which refutes the popular myth that Pope Pius XII was insensitive to the plight of European Jews during World War II.

Entitled *The Papacy in the Modern World*, the book was written by Father Derek Holmes, a Church historian. According to a recent AP dispatch, Father Holmes's new book asserts that the Pope's "apparent indifference to the fate of Jews during the Nazi reign of terror in Rome was a smokescreen to hide the fact that he was sheltering 400,000 Jews from German deportation."

The AP dispatch goes on to say that, according to the book, two German diplomats in Rome deliberately lied to their Nazi superiors in Berlin about the Pope's sympathy for Jewish suffering, their purpose being to stop the Germans from

occupying the Vatican and to safeguard the Pope's efforts to save the Jews.

Allegations that Pius XII was indifferent to the plight of the Jews stem directly from the deliberate deceptions by the German ambassador to the Vatican, Baron Ernst von Weizsacker, and his deputy, Albert von Kessel, according to the AP account of Father Holmes's book. In reality, Vatican authorities, acting on the Pope's orders, were sheltering at least half the Jews in Rome, Father Holmes said.

In a letter to the Associated Press, the Catholic League thanked the wire service for calling attention to the book and its message and for helping to rehabilitate the image of a great but largely unappreciated religious leader who willingly endangered the Vatican in order to protect thousands of Jewish people from the onslaught of Nazism.

Catholic League Newsletter is published by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, 1100 W. Wells St., Mil., Wis. 53233.
James Hitchcock Chairman
Virgil C. Blum, S.J. President
John Hansen Treasurer
Ann Brosnan Secretary
Orlan Love Director of Publications
Annual membership dues: \$10
Contributions are tax deductible.

Sectarian bigotry is born again

by Greg Erlandson

It most closely resembles a "Classics Illustrated" comic book, those cartoon retellings of great novels. Called "The Big Betrayal," it is the latest product of Chick Publications. But this comic book aims not to edify, but incite.

On the cover is a picture of John Wilkes Booth shooting President Abraham Lincoln while St. Peter's dome looms in the background. Its message: Rome "still controls governments of the world" through her Jesuits and her intrigues. The United States is still her target, and she is "still participating in the assassination of the world leaders" who do not go along with her.

"Right now [sectarian anti-Catholicism] is more widespread and virulent than it has been at any time during the past 50 years, and it shows no sign of having crested," claims Michael Schwartz. Schwartz is the director of public affairs for the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, the only Catholic organization which nationally monitors secular and sectarian anti-Catholicism today.

Centered primarily in the South and Southwest, but with a national audience — thanks to syndicated radio shows and widely distributed books and tracts — fundamentalism's new anti-Catholicism is yet another recurrence of America's longest lasting and most subtle prejudice.

Oldest prejudice

While intellectual anti-Catholicism has never disappeared in this country, in the last five years *religious* anti-Catholicism — thought dead since John F. Kennedy's election to the presidency — has re-emerged, spread by a variety of authors, singers and pastors.

"I think that there is something of a revival of anti-Catholicism," noted Kenneth Kantzer, editor of *Christianity Today*, a leading magazine for Protestant evangelicals. But he hastened to add that "I don't think it is a dominant mood of any section of Protestantism."

Schwartz himself traced this recent outbreak to the widely publicized Chick comic books. Chick Publications, already an established name in Christian bookstores, recently published "Alberto" and "Double Cross," tales of an alleged ex-Jesuit, Alberto Rivera. Rivera claimed that, as a Spanish priest, he had been ordered to attack Protestants and desecrate their churches as part of a world-wide Vatican plot. In "The Big Betrayal," the Catholic Church is held responsible for the death of Lincoln and even the Civil War.

Primary target

For Chick, a primary issue is the Vatican "machine," capable of any conspiracy or international treachery. Priests are usually drunkards and lechers, and Jesuits are capable of any perfidy.

At the recent Christian Booksellers Association convention held in Southern California, Chick Publications distributed a flyer explaining why so many bookstores had removed their copies of "Alberto" and "Double Cross" (both successful sellers, from all reports). "When we printed the two true stories . . . the forces of Rome partially succeeded in keeping them from the public. The machine gave instructions to its faithful followers to put pressure on the bookstores. It was not by chance, but a well planned attack."

Some stores still sell the controversial works. Msgr. Edward O'Donnell, editor of the *St. Louis Review*, told of one store in St. Louis that now sells them only on request — like pornography. But many

. . . Catholic emigrants were pouring into the United States. But they must be directed where to settle. . . Rome wanted them to come to Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, etc., while the land was still cheap. With their exploding families, wealth and unity, they could rule everything.

— "The Big Betrayal"

responsible shops stopped sales once the claims of Rivera were investigated.

Performing an invaluable ecumenical service, *Christianity Today's* Gary Metz exposed Rivera's fraudulent claims in an article published earlier this year.

The Roman Church is not a cult. It's an empire! . . . Never has something so black and wicked gotten away with appearing so holy and mysteriously beautiful . . . for so long!

— Keith Green, *Catholic Chronicles III*

While Chick's products can do great harm to the young and ignorant, even more harmful may be the slick, sincere and seemingly well researched tracts of Keith Green.

Green is a highly popular Christian singer. Raised as a Christian Scientist, then "reborn," he performs around the country and has developed a large following. Living near Lindale, Texas, a center of fundamentalist activity, Green, his wife and their Christian community publish the *Last Days Newsletter* with a series entitled "The Catholic Chronicles."

"What is wrong with the Catholic Church," said Green in an interview with the *Register*, "is its emphasis on man's responsibility rather than Jesus' finished work on the cross."

Using a combination of Church documents, Catholic catechisms and anti-Catholic texts like Loraine Boettner's *Roman Catholicism*, Green "analyzes" Catholic doctrine, showing its non-biblical roots.

Broad criticisms

Punctuating his text with scriptural references, Green might criticize transubstantiation one month, penance the next. But what is always most virulently attacked is the Catholic reliance on Church tradition. The rites of the Church, Green tries to prove, are either arbitrarily imposed by Church councils or are pagan in origin. What they are *not* is Christian and scripturally authentic.

Green stresses that "it has nothing to do with Catholics themselves," admitting, "I don't know many of them." He is fearful, however, of what he calls a "renaissance" in the Catholic Church. As evidence of that, he cites the example of John Michael Talbot, a converted Catholic who has led many young people to Catholicism through his music.

Green, believing "God told me to do it," seems to feel the Catholic Chronicles are more a matter of obedience to Divine Will than a task of pleasure. While he will not say there are sure to be more Chronicles, he does suggest future topics could include Church history and charismatics.

Though he expressed no sympathy for the "crazy hate sensationalism" of some anti-Catholicism, he remains coyly reticent about publications like the

Chick comics, claiming not to know the material well enough to condemn or endorse it.

His mail, Green said, ran four to one in favor of the Catholic Chronicles. But a recent "Protestant Chronicle," an examination of evangelism, aroused twice as many negative letters — a sign that evangelism can be at least as defensive as Catholics when told they may be in error.

The one person seemingly not in error is Green, who says "I don't believe just because somebody's Catholic he is going to hell," but the Church "must change officially, doctrinally, before I become tolerant of it as a whole."

Deep roots

For those Catholics who grew up before Vatican II, none of these charges will seem particularly new, but for Catholics raised in the past 20 years, anti-Catholicism often seems inexplicable.

Yet the roots of anti-Catholicism are in America's soil, and go back to the first settlers. Sectarian antipathy was a pronounced ingredient of the first colonies. But anti-Romanism increased with the arrival of Catholic immigrants, starting with the Irish.

In the 19th century, Michael Schwartz notes, it was felt that "Poles, Italians, the Irish were unable to live in a democratic society. They were poor, criminal, and Catholic. Now the same things are being said about the Mexicans."

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum of the American Jewish Committee feels there are "two dominant tendencies of bigotry in U.S. history." First there is class politics. In times of great anxiety, people "look for scapegoats — simple answers as to why they are hurting."

Second is status politics, when established groups are threatened by others coming up the ladder. Both elements may be at work today.

But what Tannenbaum finds unique about America's religious demographics is that since World War II — but particularly in the '70s — 40 to 50 million evangelical Christians have been entering the mainstream of American society. People who may have never before had much contact with Catholics or Jews are now rubbing shoulders with them in the city and on the job. The resulting prejudice may be a cultural backlash.

Schwartz sees an indirect cause being the "rise of the importance of the born-again Christian" as evidenced by the success of people like Jimmy Carter and Jerry Falwell. With the aid of the "Electronic Church," said Schwartz, this has "rekindled the mentality that looks upon America as a uniquely Protestant Zion." This in turn has been accompanied by the return of extremists like the Ku Klux Klan.

Another factor is the rise of millennialism. The apocalyptic tradition — growing stronger as we draw closer to the year 2000 — makes much literal hay of

the symbolism of the Book of Revelation. The Catholic Church as the Anti-christ and the Whore of Babylon are themes increasingly heard. Tim LaHaye, a key figure in the Moral Majority and a nationally known pastor and author, for example, in his book *Revelation Illustrated and Explained* has material as "virulently anti-Catholic as anything written," judged Schwartz. More can be expected.

While Keith Green can write that "we really, really love Catholics! It is our only motive for publishing this series of articles," in actuality a climate of bigotry and fear is reasserting itself. Well-intentioned critics of Catholic doctrine end up in league with demagogues if care is not taken.

Rabbi Tannenbaum recalls the recent statement made in Dallas, Texas, by the Rev. Bailey Smith, head of the Southern Baptist Convention, that God does not listen to the prayers of the Jews. He feels it is more than a coincidence that not long afterward a fundamentalist preacher in Texas refused to share a speaker's platform with Phyllis Schlafly because of her Catholicism.

Another case is the Rev. Dan C. Fore, head of the Moral Majority's New York chapter, who recently explained that God gave Jews a special talent for making money. He denied he was anti-Semitic, saying of those who persecuted the Jews: "Those weren't Christians, they were Roman Catholics."

And in San Diego, Calif., Rosalind Musselman of "Fishers of Men Final Call Ministry," in one of her commentaries on radio station KMJC, expressed the wish that Pope John Paul would not recover from his bullet wounds, the assassination attempt having been a way for the Vatican to curry world sympathy.

As this prejudice spreads, particularly in regions like the Southwest where anti-Catholicism is combined with an anti-Mexican racism, the social damage is incalculable. But the effect cultural figures like Green have upon Catholic youth is being closely watched.

Green, says Schwartz, is particularly troublesome to young Catholics. The Catholic League has been "besieged, mainly by priests reporting young people who have read the pamphlets and are leaving the Church."

Danger to youth

In Orange County, a conservative, affluent area south of Los Angeles, anti-Catholic centers like Calvary Chapel attract kids with their fellowship and fervent evangelization, according to William Hardwick, director of the diocese's youth ministers. For Hardwick the problem stems from the fact that 75 percent of Orange County, according to a 1975 Gallup Poll, was unchurched. The fundamentalist Churches see it as an open field, says Hardwick, and there is comparatively little evangelization on the part of mainstream Churches, Catholic or otherwise.

Many of my friends at our fellowship go to Mass, and it's funny, after reading your article, all of us seem to have been touched in the same way. [They stopped going to Mass.] We didn't react because 'Keith Green said so,' but out of enlightenment from the Lord.

— A Catholic Girl's Letter to Keith Green

For Len Beckman, a youth minister at St. Callistus in Garden Grove, Calif., the secular message of the media is compounded by the anti-Catholic preaching of the fundamentalist. The pressure not to believe can be overwhelming. For now, Beckman tries to research and answer each objection a Catholic young person might have to his Church when being tempted to join a fundamentalist sect.

What can be done?

What can be done about a prejudice that seems unwilling to ever completely disappear?

We must first realize that — obviously — not all Protestants are anti-Catholic. In fact, many observers believe that the bridges between Catholics and evangelicals are stronger than ever.

Tom Minnery, a writer for *Christianity Today*, told the *Register* that Chick attracts only "people without much education." Rather than a growth in hatred, he saw a "growth of the evangelical in Catholicism as more people read the Bible."

Bishop Peter Gillquist, a former Campus Crusader who is now head of the fledgling Evangelical Orthodox Church — a challenging combination of Orthodox belief and evangelism — believes that "by and large there is a better feeling among the mainstream evangelical Protestants toward Catholics than even when I was growing up."

Gillquist and *Christianity Today* editor Kantzer both say that more outspoken references to Scripture by Catholics would help establish common ground. "Make plain your basic biblical and evangelical commitment," said Kantzer. "This tends to disarm [critics]."

While *Christianity Today*'s ecumenical record is exemplary, the Catholic League's Michael Schwartz believes the "great bulk of Protestants who could do something do not." While he says the public record of people like Moral Majority's Jerry Falwell is "very good," he criticizes Falwell's refusal to disassociate himself from anti-Catholics like LaHaye and Fore. Noting that many members of Moral Majority are conservative Catholics, Schwartz feels the "organization may be headed for trouble."

But for Schwartz, who has spent almost 15 years examining the issue, "Anti-Catholicism is not a Protestant problem or a secular problem; it is really a

Catholic problem.” Catholics should fight anti-Catholicism as other minority groups have fought bigotry.

He also argues for a new apologetics, while conceding — given the fragmentation of the Church today — that Catholics themselves may not be able to agree on the content of such works.

Perhaps the biggest problem is that the Church is not sure of its own identity and is vulnerable to attack. One young evangelical even tried to explain to the *Register* that “there are three Catholic Churches now — the conservatives, the experimenters and the charismatics.”

There may after all be a silver lining to this new sectarian opposition to the Catholic Church, if it can force Catholics to define their beliefs and their institutions more clearly. The fundamentalist refusal to re-examine differences for the sake of ecumenism may be in Catholics’ best interests.

For the Catholic Church, a new look at an old problem may expose the need for sounder catechetics and more aggressive evangelization.

“Culturally,” concludes Schwartz, “Catholicism will either be gutted — or Catholics will regroup and stand up for their rights. That is the challenge that lies before us.”

The ‘acceptable’ prejudice by Greg Erlandson

The pro-life movement is primarily a Catholic movement, yet Catholic women have as many abortions as any other group of women. Perhaps the explanation for this lies in part in the role of confession in Catholicism. . . . Thus, many Catholics have unsanctioned sex, use birth control, and have abortions, knowing they can later “work it off on their knees” . . .

— Deirdre English, Executive Editor of *Mother Jones Magazine*

Anti-Catholicism has always been a socially acceptable prejudice. Long after racism and anti-Semitism were condemned by religious and political leaders, prejudice against Catholics continues. For Michael Schwartz, his first two years at the Catholic League were primarily spent monitoring secular prejudice.

In a press release distributed by the Catholic League, Schwartz noted that “Catholics are . . . at a disadvantage in the academic community because of latent religious prejudice. The Ladd-Lipset survey showed that Catholics are grossly underrepresented on the faculties of the more prestigious universities, and Louis Harris discovered that more than one-third of the non-Catholic public believes that Catholics are ‘narrow-minded, under the influence of Church dogma.’ ”

This intellectual prejudice, always present in the United States, has been heightened by the prominent role the Catholic Church has played in the anti-abortion movement. What social analysts are calling the “new elite” — the young, well-educated, secular middle class, like the readers of *Mother Jones* — is quite capable of the worst prejudices against Catholics in its defense of women and “reproductive rights.”

Msgr. Edward O’Donnel, editor of the *St. Louis Review*, recalled that in the court test of the Hyde

Amendment, Hyde’s Catholicism became an issue, as did the Catholic backgrounds of jurors in Massachusetts’ famous infanticide prosecution of Dr. Kenneth Edelin. Catholics like theologian Rosemary Ruether and Andrew Greeley are often celebrated primarily because their dissident views coincide with prevailing anti-Catholic bias.

One danger of such intolerance is that it can result in “scientific studies” which seek to confirm class bias. Dr. Zena Blau, a University of Houston sociologist, recently concluded that children with Catholic mothers are less intelligent than others. Asserting that children whose mothers are non-religious had the highest I.Q. scores of her sample, Blau concluded that “the impact of the high-control religious institutions is adverse to a child’s intellectual development.”

Using 1,000 Chicago schoolchildren as her evidence, Blau has attempted to justify academically the prejudice of her peers. It is most telling that, unlike the furor which greeted the racial theories of Harvard’s Arthur Jensen, the academic response to Blau’s study has been remarkably restrained.

Reprinted with permission from The National Catholic Register, an independent national Catholic weekly published at 1901 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, California 90067.



CATHOLIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 5

May, 1982

inside ...

The League's Massachusetts Chapter is urging the University of Massachusetts at Boston to make amends for the publication of a scurrilously anti-Catholic article in *Wavelength*, the student literary magazine. See the article on page 2.

* * *

The Catholic League has commended members of the Iowa legislature for speaking out against bigoted remarks made recently by Bob Jones, Jr. Ever the equal opportunity bigot, Jones fulminated against Catholics, Jews and blacks while speaking in Des Moines. See the story on page 3.

* * *

In this month's Docket column on page 4, General Counsel Patrick Monaghan observes that children playing "Simon Says" have enough sense not to jump off a cliff when Simon says, "jump off a cliff." Unfortunately, he notes, many adults don't have the sense to balk when the Supreme Court says it's okay to kill babies.

* * *

Admirably filling the space usually reserved for our Heritage column is a guest editorial by Bob Ewegen of the *Denver Post*. In his perceptive analysis of religious bigotry on page 5, Ewegen says the only antidote for hatred is personal witness.

* * *

At its annual meeting, the League's Board of Directors re-elected the current slate of officers and added four new members. The League is proud to announce the addition of Archbishop Robert F. Sanchez, syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran, law professor John E. Coons, and Cuban-American leader Frank Salas to its Board of Directors. See the article on page 7.

* * *

In his regular column on page 8, League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., says that the public school teachers' unions are again gearing up to defeat tuition tax credits in an effort to protect their vested interest in their monopoly on education tax funds.

Kentucky textbook law upheld

The Catholic League has been instrumental in the successful defense of a Kentucky law authorizing the loan of state-purchased textbooks to private school students. And in helping to defend the law, the League has also helped to discredit charges that private schools are racially discriminatory.

Judge Henry Meigs of the Franklin Circuit Court upheld the Kentucky Nonpublic Textbook Assistance Program in a summary judgment entered March 30 in favor of the state and a group of Catholic school parents. The parents are represented by the Catholic League and Louisville attorney Ted Amshoff.

The law had been challenged in 1980 by a group of parents and the Kentucky Education Association (KEA), the Kentucky affiliate of the national public school teachers' union.

First Amendment arguments

The KEA challenge incorporated the traditional First Amendment arguments that the program impermissibly advances religion and fosters excessive entanglement between church and state. The KEA also contended, however, that many recipients of the textbook aid attend racially segregated private schools, and that it is unlawful to provide financial aid to racially segregated institutions.

On behalf of Catholic school parents, the League intervened in the case not

only to refute the KEA's spurious allegations but also to assert the parents' religious freedom rights.

Serving as co-counsel for the parents, Amshoff and Eva Soeka, the League's former associate general counsel, argued that if the law were struck down, Catholic school children would be deprived of public benefits to which they are entitled, and that the sole reason for this discrimination would be their parents' exercise of religious freedom in choosing their children's schools.

No evidence of segregation

To refute the KEA's allegation that Kentucky private schools are racially segregated, Amshoff and Soeka submitted affidavits from several Louisville Catholic schools which demonstrated that the schools do not have racially discriminatory admissions policies and that they are in fact well integrated. The KEA submitted no evidence to the contrary.

In deciding the case, Judge Meigs said, "The schools attended by the children of the intervening defendants in this action are racially non-discriminatory, and the regulations promulgated by the Department of Libraries assure that no students in racially discriminatory institutions receive such textbook loans." He also said that the Kentucky law "does not violate the Establishment Clause of the First

(continued on page 7)



A Kentucky court recently found no evidence that the state's private schools are racially segregated. The above photo was taken at a Catholic school in Louisville.

University publication defames the Church

The Catholic League's Massachusetts Chapter is seeking reparation for an outrageously anti-Catholic article published in the February-March issue of *Wavelength*, the student literary magazine of the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

In a letter to University President David C. Knapp, with carbon copies to the leading public officials in the state, Chapter President Francis X. Ahearn said the "article is nothing less than a piece of religious hate literature, and, as such, it has no place in an official publication of a university maintained and operated by the taxpayers of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

Deliberate deceit

The title of the article, "A Dissenting Jesuit's View of the Catholic Church," and its byline "by Father Penn" are calculated to convince the reader that it was written by a former Jesuit priest. At the very end of the article, however, is an easily overlooked or misunderstood disclaimer that "Father Penn is a fictitious being."

The tone and content of the article are apparent in the subheadings that are interspersed throughout: "Guilt and Fear,

the Foundation of the Church's Power"; "Church and State, a Dangerous Alliance"; "Birth Control, More Starving Babies"; "Sex, Sexism and Sexuality, a History of Repression"; "The Pope, Why Follow the Leader?"; "The Church's Teachings, Incomplete Mythology"; "Confession, Alleviation of Fabricated Guilt"; and "Catholic Education, a Guide to Brainwashing."

The anonymous author accuses the Church of being greedy, hypocritical, discriminatory, barbarous, cruel, superstitious, exploitative, repressive, manipulative and hostile to the well-being of society.

Ahearn, in his letter to President Knapp, objected to the article not only because it is deceptive, demeaning, false and defamatory, but also because it violates the religious freedom rights of Catholics, abuses the freedoms of speech and press, and compromises the integrity of the University.

Freedom of religion asserted

Ahearn reminded Knapp that Catholics, like other citizens, have a right to the free exercise of their religion without molestation or abuse from public authorities. "Yet," he observed, "the Catholic students of the University have seen their [mandatory] student activity fees used to pay for an attack on their Faith, while the Catholic citizens of Massachusetts have seen such an attack published under the auspices of an institution supported through their taxes."

Moreover, he said, views expressed in an official University publication are inevitably and rightly perceived as reflecting positions which the University and the Commonwealth implicitly recognize

as legitimate contributions to public discourse. For the University to disclaim all responsibility for *Wavelength's* "deceptive, malicious and bigoted attack" on the Catholic Church, he said, would be simply hypocritical.

As a matter of simple justice, he said, the University must ensure that the next issue of *Wavelength* is devoted to a retraction and apology for the scurrilous article, as well as articles illustrative of the positive contributions of religion in general and Catholicism in particular.

If the student editors of *Wavelength* are unwilling to make such a just gesture of reparation, he said, they should be replaced because their refusal would, in itself, be sufficient demonstration that they have violated a trust given them by the University and that they have mishandled funds collected in a mandatory fashion from students.

Ahearn also urged the establishment of a firm policy barring any university publication from promoting religious bigotry in the future.

Ambivalent reply

In his reply to Ahearn, Knapp expressed his own personal sense of outrage that the article had appeared. But, citing numerous legal precedents, he expressed doubt that the University is legally capable of obtaining a formal apology or of taking measures to prevent a similar incident in the future.

Ahearn, who reports that leading state officials are deeply concerned about the matter, said he is formulating a reply that will provide Knapp with extensive information on his rights and responsibilities as chief administrator of a state university.

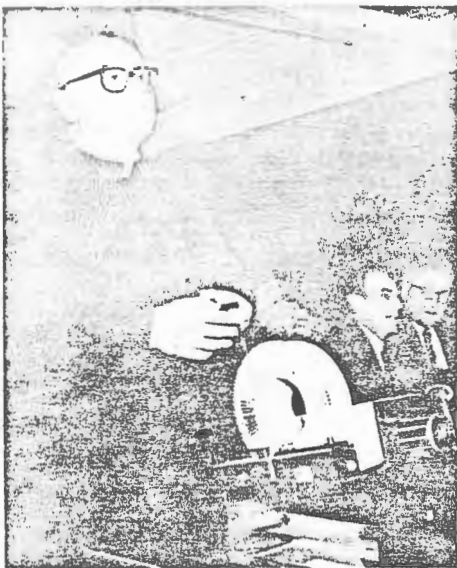
Chapter launches educational program

The Connecticut Chapter of the Catholic League has launched a new educational program based on regional forums on issues confronting Catholics today.

The first such forum was conducted at St. Joseph's Church in Occum, Conn., on March 28. Speakers included Robert Largess, vice-president of the League's Massachusetts Chapter; Sister Patricia Brewer of the Connecticut Catholic Conference; Mary Dihner of Connecticut Right to Life; and Marshall Fightlin of the Norwich Diocesan Family Life Office. Topics included the self-image of American Catholics, freedom of choice in education, secular humanism and the right to life.

The second such forum, co-sponsored with a New England group called *Humanae Vitae* Renewal, focused on family rights. It was conducted on April 17 at Somers, Conn., where the speakers were Marshall Fightlin, Father Randall Blackall, Rhode Island State Representative William McKenna and attorney Leslie Payne, also a vice-president of the League's Massachusetts Chapter.

Connecticut Chapter President John Pateracki said the chapter plans to continue conducting forums like this, and expressed the hope that they would not only help make Catholics in the state aware of the critical issues of the day, but also increase recognition of and membership in the Catholic League.



Rev. John Flynn, vice-president of the League's Massachusetts Chapter, is pictured giving a slide presentation on the League at a recent meeting in Lowell. The meeting was arranged by Rudolph Ouellette and Chapter President Francis X. Ahearn, who says that chapter representatives are seeking opportunities to discuss the League and show their slide presentation.

League elects new directors

The Catholic League Board of Directors, at their annual meeting March 20 in Chicago, re-elected James Hitchcock as chairman of the board, Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., as president, Emile Comar as vice president, John Hansen as treasurer, Ann Brosnan as secretary and Walter S. Stumpf as assistant secretary.

The board also elected four new members: Archbishop Robert F. Sanchez of Santa Fe, syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran, law professor John E. Coons and Cuban-American leader Frank Salas.

Archbishop Sanchez, ordinary of Santa Fe since 1974, is a member of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Communications Committee and chairman of its Ad Hoc Committee for the Spanish Speaking. After being ordained in 1959, he served eight years as a professor and assistant principal at St. Pius X High School in Albuquerque.

Sobran, who does a syndicated radio commentary as well as his regular newspaper column, is widely considered to be one of the most perceptive and articulate social critics of our time. A graduate of Eastern Michigan University, he is a senior editor of *National Review*, and an editor of and regular contributor to *Human Life Review*.

Coons, a law professor at the University of California at Berkeley, is one of the nation's foremost experts on and advocates of parental rights in education. He is the author of California's Education By Choice voucher initiative, as well as several books on educational freedom. His best-known book is *Private Wealth and Public Education*, which provided the rationale for *Serrano v. Priest*, the case that established that it is unconstitutional for a state to base tax support of public

schools solely on the property valuations within individual school districts.

Salas, chief engineer for the Fuller Construction Company in Miami, is a graduate of the University of Havana and was active in the cause of religious freedom rights in Cuba before coming to the United States in 1959. He is a member of Agrupacion Catolica Universitaria, the association of Cuban Catholic scholars based in Miami, and he is committed to fostering Cuban-Catholic values and culture. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Catholic League's Miami Chapter.

The agenda for the board meeting included consideration of proposals for commemorating the Catholic League's 10th anniversary, which will occur May 22, 1983.

National convention

Among the proposals was a plan to hold a national Catholic League convention, at which leading American Catholic spokespersons would speak on such issues as the right to life, parental freedom in education, religious freedom and anti-Catholicism — the major issues in which the League is involved. According to the proposal, the convention would be the centerpiece for national and local membership drives, fund-raising efforts and publicity campaigns.

Father Peter Stravinskis, the League's East Coast director of development, was appointed chairman of a committee to formulate further plans for the League's 10th anniversary. Also named to the committee were Secretary Ann Brosnan and board members Sobran and Dr. Ada Ryan.

Biaggi keynotes League forum

Congressman Mario Biaggi was the featured speaker at an April 19 forum on "Religion and Politics" sponsored by the Catholic League. The event began at 5:30 in the auditorium of the Church of Our Savior in New York City.

Biaggi's remarks were followed by responses from a distinguished panel including publisher James McFadden, former New York State Regent Genevieve Klein, and Yorkville community activist Msgr. Harry Byrne.

Forum organizer James Crowley said that the event is the first step in the formation of a Manhattan Chapter of the Catholic League.

Stravinskis named to rights panel

Father Peter Stravinskis, the League's East Coast director of development, has been appointed to the New Jersey Commission on Civil Rights.

Father Stravinskis and eight other commissioners — representing such organizations as the New Jersey Education Association, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and the New Jersey Council of Churches, are currently engaged in drafting a curriculum on prejudice for use in New Jersey schools.

Father Stravinskis said one of his foremost concerns is to ensure that the curriculum does not overlook what Harvard historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Sr. called "the deepest bias in the history of the American people" — anti-Catholicism.

Kentucky (continued from page 1)

Amendment to the Constitution of the United States." Since "no question of material fact exists," he said, the state and the Catholic school parents "are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law."

According to Amshoff, the decision could not have been more timely. Coming as it did on the last day in which the state legislature was in session, it helped persuade legislators to double the budget authorization for the program to \$600,000 for the next biennium.

League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan commended Amshoff and Soeka for their work in the case. "The decision is very important," he said, "not only because it further establishes the right of private school parents to receive public benefits for the education of their children, but also because it discredits the widespread defamatory allegations of public school teachers' unions that private schools are racist and elitist."



Pictured at the March 20 meeting of the Catholic League's Board of Directors are three of the Board's new members: (from left) law professor John E. Coons, syndicated columnist Joseph Sobran and Cuban-American leader Frank Salas. The fourth new member, Archbishop Robert F. Sanchez of Santa Fe, was unable to attend the meeting.



The President's Desk

by Virgil C. Blum, S.J.

The NEA's campaign curriculum

A recent issue of *Newsweek* (3-29-82) carried this notice: "The Political Action Committee of the 1.8 million-member National Education Association will pour \$2 million and 200 trained campaign workers into 150 targeted House and Senate races this fall. The NEA will support or oppose candidates according to their stands on issues such as dismantling the Department of Education and tuition tax credits." Albert Shanker, leader of the American Federation of Teachers, also views the campaign for tuition tax credits as a "threat" to the public schools, so he too is leading his troops in a political campaign against the Reagan Administration's tuition tax credit bill.

Vested interests

All legislation has vested interests supporting or opposing its enactment. Albert Shanker predicts that if tuition tax credits are provided by Congress, the program "may lure thousands and thousands of parents to shift their children from public to private schools" in part because "disenchantment with the public schools has grown." So, indeed, public school teachers' unions have a vested interest in killing the Administration's tuition tax credit bill.

Another group with a vested interest in tuition tax credits consists of black and Hispanic parents. Most of these parents live in the inner city where public schools, with a few notable exceptions, are nothing more than blackboard jungles.

Raspberry comments

Black columnist William Raspberry recently wrote, "Education is the one best hope black Americans have for a decent future... [but] we are turning out yet another generation of ill-educated children, children who will grow up to be essentially useless in a technological society in which they will exist." Several years ago the Department of Health, Education and Welfare reported that 42 percent of 17-year old blacks were functionally illiterate.

The obvious answer — an answer which Raspberry rejects — is family choice in education. When parents have a choice of schools, made possible by great family

and teacher financial sacrifices and heavy church subsidies, they choose inner city quality Catholic schools. In justice, these black and Hispanic parents have a right to refundable tuition tax credits.

The Catholic League's study of 54 inner city private elementary schools in eight cities revealed that 15 percent of black and Hispanic parents with children in these schools have an annual income of less than \$5,000, and that 50 percent have an income of less than \$10,000. These families make fantastic sacrifices. Why? They want quality education (including religious and moral values), made possible by caring teachers and principals whose salaries are less than half that paid to public school teachers.

The Catholic League study included 16 randomly selected inner city Catholic schools in Chicago. Chicago Catholic schools are better integrated than Chicago public schools. In 1979, about 55.5 percent of black students in Chicago Catholic schools were non-Catholics. And

in 1980, about 42 percent of students in predominantly black schools came from low income families, according to the February issue of *The Chicago Reporter*. While minority families in Chicago pay from \$600 to \$860 in annual tuition, the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1981 subsidized inner city Catholic schools to the tune of \$2.8 million.

Albert Shanker is right. If inner city minority families were given a refundable tuition tax credit, many thousands of parents would shift their children to private schools, even at continuing sacrifices, to get a quality education for their children.

It is, therefore, in the vested interest of public school teachers' unions to kill tuition tax credits for private school parents. But if they succeed, many additional tens of thousands of low-income black and Hispanic children will, to use William Raspberry's phrase, "grow up to be essentially useless in the technological society in which they will exist."

Librarian says sex education books 'should not stress religious concepts'

The Catholic League is investigating the criteria by which the Milwaukee Public Library determines the suitability of the materials it stocks.

The League's inquiry was prompted by the library's rejection of two children's books donated by a Milwaukeean. The books are *Something Beautiful from God* by Susan Schaeffer Macaulay and *Before You Were Born* by Joan Lowery Nixon.

In explaining to the donor why the books were rejected, the library's coordinator of children's services, Jane Botham, cited as a criterion used in judging the books that "the material... should not stress religious concepts."

Further explanation

Expanding upon that criterion, Botham quoted with approval from a book entitled *Library Work with Children* by Dorothy Broderick: "Many people are concerned that most of the newer sex education books do not stress religious concepts... For young children... the birth process we are trying to explain is an abstraction. To complicate that explanation with a further abstraction... is

not good pedagogic sense."

In a letter to City Librarian Henry Bates, the League acknowledged that a library is not obliged to accept and shelve any book donated by a well-intentioned person. The League said, however, that it is troubled and amazed by Botham's declaration that children's books "should not stress religious concepts."

Library policy sought

League Director of Public Affairs Michael Schwartz told Bates that he would assume for the time being that Botham's statement was unauthorized and that it does not reflect the policy of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System. "Surely," he said, "the public library system of a major American city does not have a policy of censoring books on the grounds that they allegedly 'stress religious concepts.'"

Schwartz requested the library's official policy regarding children's books which allegedly "stress religious concepts," as well as a complete summary of the criteria used in evaluating library materials.



CATHOLIC LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9, No. 11

November, 1982

inside ...

In the wake of Pope John Paul II's meeting with Yasser Arafat, the secular and Jewish press in America have leveled several vicious, irrational charges against both Pope and Church. See the article on page 2.



On the legal front, League attorneys have won a major pro-life and free speech victory in California, and they will submit a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in defense of Minnesota's tuition tax credit program. Those articles are on page 3.



This month's Docket column, on page 4, asserts that public schools in the United States violate both of the First Amendment religion clauses: they deny religious freedom to adherents of God-centered religions, and they establish the religion of Secular Humanism.



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton's formative influence on American Catholic education is described in this month's Heritage column on page 5.



Also on page 5 is the first poem ever to be published in the *Catholic League Newsletter*, a lament for the lives lost through abortion, by Paul L. Freese, president of the League's Southern California Chapter.



The League's Long Island Chapter has presented its third annual Catholic League Award to pro-life leader Ellen McCormack. See the article on page 6.



The New York Times has published an article which describes the Catholic Mass as "ritual cannibalism." As the article on page 7 relates, the remark prompted the League's Northern New Jersey Chapter to ask advertisers if they would reconsider their plans for future advertising in the paper's New Jersey edition.



In his regular column on page 8, League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., explains that sex education courses are one of the major reasons that many parents have begun challenging the teaching of Secularist values in our public schools.

Does the Constitution permit burial, prayers for dead?

The Catholic League has begun legal steps to ensure that religious-minded citizens are not denied the opportunity to express their respect for the 17,000 aborted babies whose bodies were discovered Feb. 6 in a metal shipping container that had been abandoned by the owner of a Los Angeles pathology lab.

Attorney Paul Freese, president of the League's Southern California Chapter, contends that a court order blocking the performance of religious rites or memorial services for the infants impinges upon the First Amendment rights of religious-minded citizens to express in public their sincere feelings of respect for the human remains of the dead babies.

Freese's request for permission to enter the case was granted by Judge Eli Chernow at an Oct. 14 hearing. Further hearings in the case were scheduled for later in the month.

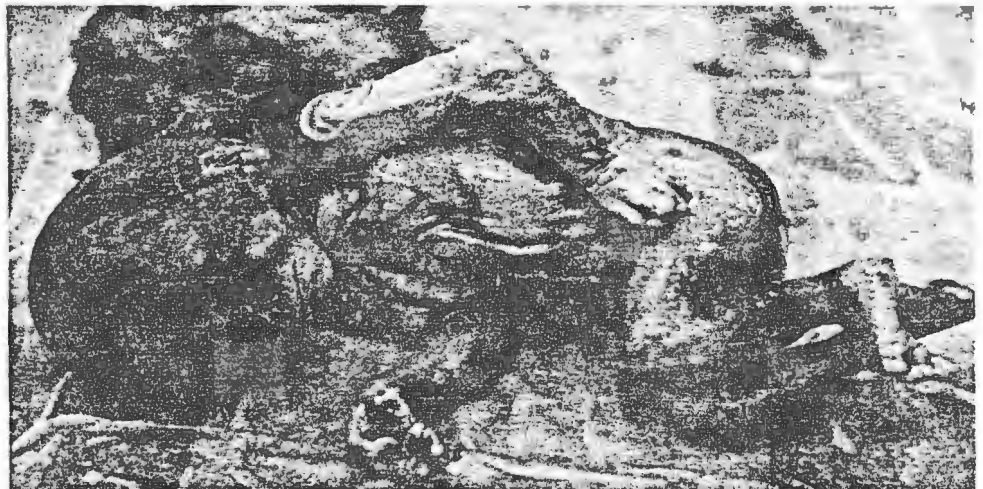
According to Freese, religious freedom rights were implicated last June when a superior court judge issued a preliminary injunction barring the Los Angeles district attorney from cooperating with individuals or groups seeking release of the bodies for religious rites or memorial services.

The injunction was issued at the request

of the Feminist Women's Health Center (an abortion clinic) and the American Civil Liberties Union. They claimed that the abortion clinic would suffer "irreparable harm" if religious-minded citizens were allowed to offer public prayer at a ceremony for the aborted babies. They also argued that cooperation by the district attorney with religious-minded individuals or groups would violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state, and would amount to treating fetuses as persons, which, according to them, has not been permitted by appellate courts.

Calling those "coercive and misdirecting arguments," Freese said the injunction threatens to prevent or impede religious-minded citizens "from lawfully performing rites or rituals, prayers or other services as their consciences may inspire according to their convictions."

Freese said the abortion clinic has no legal interest in the fetuses and should have no legal standing in controlling or influencing the district attorney's disposition of them. It seems clear, he said, that the abortion clinic is attempting to use the court as a means of preventing religious-minded people from giving attention to what they regard as creatures
Continued on page 5...



Pictured above is one of the 17,000 aborted babies whose bodies were discovered in an abandoned shipping container. (Photo courtesy of the Center for the Documentation of the American Holocaust.)

Pope and Church smeared in press attacks

When the Vatican announced a mid-September meeting between Pope John Paul II and Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, a senior official of the Israeli government responded with a blistering attack on the moral integrity of the Pope and of the Church. Since then, these charges have been repeated and amplified in the American press.

Cartoons, editorials and columns appeared in newspapers all across the country objecting to the meeting; public statements were issued denouncing the Pope; and Catholic churches were picketed by opponents of this papal peace initiative.

Many of the protesters, unfortunately, did not confine themselves to criticizing this particular meeting, but engaged in an all-out attack on the Church, dredging up the discredited and defamatory charges of Vatican collaboration with the Nazis, accusing Catholicism of an inherent anti-Semitism, and inventing completely new anti-Catholic smears.

Perhaps the most irresponsible of these attacks was a front-page editorial in *The Jewish Press*, a Brooklyn-based weekly with a reported circulation of 240,000. In its Sept. 24 issue, *The Jewish Press* blared that "The Pope Shares The Blame For The Palestinian Massacre," referring to the atrocious murder of innocent

Palestinian civilians at a refugee camp in Lebanon. The editorial claimed that, by meeting with Arafat, the Pope had "sent a signal to all the Christians that murder for a cause is to be applauded," and concluded that "the Phalangists, as devout Christians, followed the guidelines set by the Prince of their church and as good disciples engaged in the massacre of their opponents."

In a telegram to the editor, the Catholic League expressed its "shock and outrage" at this reckless accusation and demanded a retraction. The League contended that this editorial "can serve no conceivable purpose except to enkindle religious hatred among the readers of *The Jewish Press* for the Pope and for their Catholic fellow citizens."

No retraction was forthcoming, but *The Jewish Press* did acknowledge the League's protest in its next issue and, in reply, issued another, rather half-hearted denunciation of the Pope, concluding that "It was not our intent to inflame racial (sic) hatred. Far from it... We trust that in time... Jew and Christian will treat each other with respect." The League, too, hopes that mutual respect will be forthcoming.

Reaction from the national Jewish press varied widely, from applause for the defamatory editorial by the editor of a Jewish newspaper in the Midwest to a

scornful repudiation of its extremist rhetoric by the editor of a New England Jewish magazine.

Attacks on the Pope in numerous articles and cartoons in the secular press were almost as unrestrained. One Ohio newspaper printed a letter which concluded, "Until now, I could never find a rational basis for the infamous Polish jokes. Now I understand." Dozens of papers printed a column by Harry James Cargas, a Catholic college professor from St. Louis, who depicted the Church as "guilty of silence while 6 million Jews were being slaughtered by baptized Christians," and of having a "tradition of anti-Semitism."

'Sad Irony'

To counter this disinformation and defamation, the Catholic League distributed a column to over 100 daily newspapers on papal efforts to aid Jews during World War II, and submitted numerous letters to the editor, including one from Virginia Offer of the Long Island chapter which appeared in *The New York Times* and one from James Jandrisitz of the Philadelphia Chapter which appeared in *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. The League also provided information to Nick Thimmesch, who wrote a syndicated column on the subject.

Father Virgil C. Blum expressed his sadness that the Holy Father has been subjected to such harsh attacks simply because he is seeking a just peace in the Middle East. Noting that the Pope had admonished Arafat against "recourse to arms and violence in any form and above all to terrorism and reprisals," and that he had defended the right of the State of Israel to "security," Father Blum said, "It is a sad irony that a man of peace has been blamed for acts of violence. The fact that these unjust accusations against the Pope were given such wide publicity in the secular press shows that anti-Catholic prejudice is still deeply rooted in our society and that many Americans are predisposed to believe the worst about the Catholic Church."

Relations still good

"The general state of Catholic-Jewish relations is 'remarkably good,' according to Eugene Fisher, director of the Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops," said Father Blum. "Let us hope and pray that the recent attacks on Pope John Paul will not cause them to deteriorate."

Moynihan's commitment on tax credits questioned

The presidents of three Catholic League chapters in New York State have expressed their disappointment with what they perceive as an "apparent loss of commitment" by Senator Daniel P. Moynihan on the issue of tuition tax credits.

Their disappointment was prompted by Moynihan's vote in the Senate Finance Committee in favor of Senator Bill Bradley's controversial amendments to President Reagan's tuition tax credit bill which would have deeply involved the Internal Revenue Service in monitoring private schools to eliminate all segregative practices. Many supporters of tax credits, particularly the representatives of Christian schools, had made it clear that their support for tax credits was conditional on keeping the IRS from becoming excessively entangled in the educational affairs of private schools. For this reason, the amendments, which passed by a one-vote margin, were looked upon by some tax credit supporters as "killer amendments."

In addition to their concern over Moynihan's vote on those amendments, the Catholic League activists, in their letter to the senator, stated that they were disappointed that the senator had been relatively silent in responding to the "specious and often defamatory arguments" raised against tax credits during the current year. They noted that this silence stood in marked contrast with the articulate and often courageous leadership on the issue which Moynihan had provided in previous years.

The letter to Moynihan was signed by chapter presidents William Lindner of Long Island, Dr. Thomas Reilly of Brooklyn-Queens, and Anthony Mangano of Westchester.

Senator Moynihan's office responded quickly to the concerns raised in the letter, saying that the senator is as committed as ever to parental rights in education and that, in his view, the Bradley amendments would have strengthened rather than weakened the bill's chance of passage.



Catholic League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan (right) and Fresno attorney Michael Margosian are pictured outside the California Superior Court in Fresno.

Pro-life victory in California

A California court has denied a request for an injunction which would have restricted the manner in which pro-life activists could conduct sidewalk counseling outside abortion clinics.

The injunction had been sought by Fresno abortionist Michael Weiner, who sued Catholics United for Life, a pro-life group based in Coarsegold, California, following their efforts to counsel his prospective clients in June of this year. The CUL members were represented in court by Patrick Monaghan, general counsel of the Catholic League, and local attorney Michael Margosian.

In his complaint, Weiner alleged that CUL members had physically prevented his clients from entering his clinic. The pro-lifers' actions had so distressed his clients, Weiner alleged, that some of them went home without keeping their appointments. The injunction sought by Weiner would have limited the total number of CUL counselors to eight and would have restricted their activities to a narrow sidewalk which borders Weiner's abortion clinic on one side.

At a Sept. 23 hearing before the Superior Court of California, County of Fresno, the attorneys for CUL argued that Weiner's allegations were without foundation and that the constitutional right to free speech protected the activities of the CUL members.

League will apprise Supreme Court of private school study findings

The Catholic League will submit a legal brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in defense of a Minnesota law which allows public and private school parents to take a deduction on their state income tax for educational costs such as tuition, textbooks and transportation.

The 27-year-old program has been challenged by the Minnesota Civil Liberties Union, which contends that the program unconstitutionally benefits religion because 71 percent of the parents taking the deduction send their children to church-affiliated schools.

A federal appeals court rejected the MCLU's challenge last April, noting that the program is open to all parents, not just those who send their children to private schools. Any benefit to religion which might accrue because of the program is "remote and incidental," the court said.

Conflicting decisions

The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case in order to reconcile that appellate court decision with a different one which in 1980 struck down a similar tax deduction program in Rhode Island.

The League will submit what is known in legal parlance as a "Brandeis brief," which addresses sociological rather than strictly legal issues. (The first such brief was submitted by Louis Brandeis, who was later to become a Supreme Court justice.)

The League is in a unique position to submit such a brief because of its recently completed education research project which compiled, in the words of UCLA Prof. Donald Erickson, "an unprecedented body of data," on inner city

private schools. According to League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan, the brief will apprise the Court of numerous study findings which provide sociological justification for public policy initiatives designed to ease the financial burden on parents who send their children to private schools—initiatives such as the Minnesota tuition tax deduction program.

Spurious arguments

Monaghan noted that aid to private school parents has often been obstructed by spurious arguments which are thoroughly refuted by the findings of the Catholic League study. For example, he said, the charge that parents are motivated by sectarian concerns in choosing private schools is often cited as evidence that any aid to private school families would violate the First Amendment. However, he noted, in the League sample of 4,000 families, almost a third of the students are Protestant, even though the schools themselves are overwhelmingly Catholic.

Another sociological misconception to be addressed in the League brief is that parents whose children attend inner city private schools constitute the educational and economic elite of the inner city.

On the contrary, said Monaghan, the League study found that 30 percent of the parents surveyed had not completed high school and that half the families surveyed had annual incomes of less than \$10,000. "Even so," he noted, "those families pay a median tuition of \$400, and many have more than one child in private schools."

No injunction

After hearing the evidence, Superior Court Judge Hollis Best refused to issue the injunction, saying: "The issuance of a preliminary injunction is a matter which should be used with caution, especially where free speech is involved."

Monaghan hailed the decision as a victory for free speech and for life. He noted that CUL members have gathered at many abortion clinics over the years, engaging in such direct pro-life activities as prayer, personal counseling and offers to help pregnant women.

"Through their exercise of the right to free speech," said Monaghan, "CUL members have saved the lives of many unborn babies, and the court's decision will enable them and the growing ranks of other sidewalk counselors to save the lives of many more."

Harvard Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger, Sr.: "I regard prejudice against (the Catholic) Church as the deepest bias in the history of the American people."

In *Brandon v. Board of Education*, Judge Irving Kaufman of the Second Circuit Court of Appeals stated, "To many Americans, the state's noblest function is the education of our nation's youth." The court went on to note that this responsibility is entrusted largely "to the public schools" with the desire that children be made into responsible citizens by "learning the enduring values of Western civilization we all share—an appreciation of critical reasoning, a commitment to democratic institutions and a dedication to the principles of fairness."

But in rejecting the right of public high school students to meet voluntarily for prayer in an unused classroom during off-school hours, Judge Kaufman apparently concluded that religious liberty is not an "enduring value."

State Imprimatur

For in denying those students their right to free religious expression, the court stated, "Our nation's elementary and secondary schools play a unique role in transmitting basic and fundamental values to our youth. To an impressionable student, even the mere appearance of secular involvement in religious activities might indicate that the state has placed its imprimatur on a particular religious creed."

But what about the state imprimatur that is now being placed on irreligion or non-religion? Is not the impressionable student still subject to the "mere appearance of secular involvement" by an

Noteworthy Quotes

"He who makes the race the ultimate norm of all values, perverts and falsifies the order of things created and commanded by God...As God's sun shines on all human beings, so does His law know no privileges or exceptions...Human beings as persons possess God-given rights which must be preserved from all attacks aimed at denying, suppressing or disregarding them..."—From *Mit Brennender Sorge*, the 1937 encyclical in which Pope Pius XI condemned the theory and practice of Nazism.

If "the pope and Jerry Falwell could get pregnant, opposition to the right to have an abortion would quickly disappear."—Edd Doerr, former staff writer for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, in a letter published Oct. 12, 1982, by the *Washington Times*.

arbitrary and deliberate involvement of the state in excising and censoring all God-centered religious expression in public schools? Is it not clear that continued state legal recognition and enforcement of the Secularist dogma concerning the prohibition of any expression of religious sentiment in the public schools amounts to the placing of the state's imprimatur on a particular religious creed—the Secularist creed?

'Enclaves of Totalitarianism'

The Supreme Court, in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, said that "state-operated schools may not be enclaves of totalitarianism" and that "students may not be regarded as closed-circuit recipients of only that which the state chooses to communicate." Yet, in point of fact, the tax-supported government schools have become precisely that.

There was a time when religious-minded citizens might worry that prayers in public places were a danger in our relationship with God in that the prayers

might become vain and empty repetitions. But the religious zeal of Secularists, coupled with the official state support of their taboo against any recognition of God in public places, indicates that our state education system violates the First Amendment to the Constitution.

Secularist establishment

Not only does the "closed-circuit" state education system abridge the rights of citizens to freely express their religious beliefs, values and knowledge; it also violates the Establishment Clause by maintaining Secularism as the official, accepted religion.

If a student body consists of Catholics, Jews, Protestants, Moslems, Mormons and Secularists, the exclusive recognition five days a week of one faith would certainly not constitute a fair division of public access. Yet that is precisely what Secularism is achieving!

The Secular religion has achieved this by denying its own religious nature while working diligently to establish a public disavowal of God.

Rehearing in abortion fee case

California's Fourth District Court of Appeal has ordered a rehearing of the *Erzinger* case, in which the Catholic League is representing 57 students who object, on religious and conscientious grounds, to the University of California's mandatory abortion funding policy.

The Court of Appeal granted the League's motion for a rehearing shortly after it ruled in September that the university did not violate the First Amendment rights of students who oppose abortion by using fees collected from them to provide abortions as part of the student health service program.

Presiding Justice Gerald Brown, writing for a unanimous appellate panel, said the university had not "unreasonably interfered with the students' practice of religion," since the students were not forced "to use the student health service programs, receive pregnancy counseling, have abortions, perform abortions, or endorse abortions."

Court insensitive

Burton Shamsky, local attorney for the students, said the decision exemplified the "insensitivity of the university and the court" to the way his clients feel about abortion. "We're not talking about football here," he said, "but about something central to the Judeo-Christian ethic

that human life is sacred and no person has the right to decide whether another should live or die."

Shamsky said the case should have been decided in accordance with the U.S. Supreme Court's 1977 *Aboud* decision, in which the Court held that union members could withhold the part of their union dues used to promote political causes they did not support. He also cited a federal law which prohibits an entity receiving public health funds from denying admission to anyone for his "reluctance to in any way participate in the performance of abortions," if to do so is contrary to his religious or moral beliefs.

'Clear Winner'

League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan commended Shamsky and Robert Destro, Monaghan's predecessor as general counsel, for their excellent work in a case that, "on its face, should be a clear winner."

Unfortunately, said Monaghan, the courts thus far have seemed unwilling or unable to grapple with the serious constitutional issues at stake in the case. "Now that there will be a rehearing," he said, "perhaps the claims of the students will at last get the consideration they deserve."

When Elizabeth Ann Seton organized the Sisters of Charity shortly after her conversion to Catholicism, one of the community's first apostolates was that of education. Early in 1810, at St. Joseph's Parish in Emmitsburg, Md., Mother Seton opened a free parochial school, open to both boys and girls, and staffed by her Sisters. On its first day, St. Joseph's School had 20 students, who were given not only free instruction but also free textbooks and a free meal.

The Sisters of Charity entered many other apostolates, including the establishment of the first Catholic orphanage in the country and staffing of the first Catholic hospital, but education remained their primary enterprise.

By 1840, the Sisters were operating 35 educational institutions in nine states. Their educational mission was marked by standards of educational quality that were far ahead of most other schools of that era.

Those early Catholic schools, of course,

were not founded as alternatives to the public schools, since there were no public schools at the time. In Baltimore, for instance, the first "common school" offering tuition-free instruction to children of all faiths was established at St. Patrick's Parish in 1815. The same situation obtained everywhere in the country, where the operation of schools was almost exclusively a concern of churches, both Catholic and Protestant.

In those days, before anti-Catholicism became a dominant political passion, the Catholic schools were often voted financial subsidies by local governments in recognition of the public service they were rendering by providing education for the young.

Mother Seton is rightly credited as being a pioneer in Catholic education, but it is important to note that her school at Emmitsburg was far from the first Catholic school in America. Indeed, Catholic schools flourished in Florida and New Mexico in the 16th century,

before any English-speaking settlers had even arrived in North America.

In the English colonies along the Atlantic seaboard, Catholic schools existed wherever the practice of Catholicism was tolerated—that is, sporadically in Maryland, for a brief period in New York (1685 to 1690), and in Pennsylvania. By 1788, there was a parish school at Holy Trinity Church in Philadelphia, staffed by lay teachers. In 1799, a free school conducted by a community of women religious was founded at Georgetown. And in 1801, at St. Peter's Parish in New York City, a free parochial school was opened.

But it was Mother Seton, at Emmitsburg, who combined these elements: a parish-based, tuition-free school for boys and girls staffed by nuns. And this was to be the basic model for Catholic schools well into the 20th century.

The parochial school has been inseparable from the growth of the Catholic community in America, and in no other nation has Catholicism been so intimately connected with the educational mission. Through her leadership and her formative influence on Catholic education in America, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton earned a place as one of the makers of American Catholicism.

17,000 aborted babies (continued from page 1)

of God having eternal destinies.

If the injunction is allowed to stand, he said, it would threaten to create prior restraints on the exercise of constitutional rights by religious-minded citizens—the rights to freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of religion.

"It is obvious that the abortion providers regard the dead babies as garbage."

said Catholic League General Counsel Patrick Monaghan, "but that does not give them the right to insist that everyone else share their view.

"No one is asking them to acknowledge the humanity of those babies, or that they were divinely created. Yet in their insistence that the babies are but blobs of 'tissue' whose humanity must be denied at every opportunity, they appear to be committed to wringing from each of us an agreement that human life has no intrinsic worth."

Love's Loss

By Paul L. Freese

Let the little ones come to me
 (Thousands of infants who will not be)
 Let them assemble at my feet
 (Thousands of hearts that will not beat)
 I will teach them to love one another
 (Thousands interred without caring mother)
 And look for the path to the eternal day
 (Thousands who might have led the way)
 They will spread my word of cheer
 (Thousands whose ears will never hear)
 That this vale of tears is a path to joy
 (Thousands unknown as girl or boy)
 That it is only sin that we should grieve
 (Thousands of lungs that will not breathe)
 That true love was born in Galilee
 (Thousands of eyes that will not see)
 And will survive each setting sun
 (Thousands of hopes too soon undone)
 They will know why I was crucified
 (Thousands whose birthright was denied)
 And their innocence will magnify my love
 (May their souls repose in His Arms above.)



Paul L. Freese, President Southern California Chapter

Chapter hosts media forum

The League's Washington Chapter is sponsoring a panel discussion, "Media Coverage of Catholic Subjects and Issues," at its semiannual general meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, in the auditorium at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, 4920 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, Md.

Panelists include Russell Shaw, director of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Office of Public Affairs; James J. Whelan, executive editor of the *Washington Times*; Marjorie Hyer, religion editor of the *Washington Post*; Kelly Burke, a television journalist at Washington's NBC affiliate; Rich Adams, representing the local CBS affiliate; and Jim Clarke of the local ABC affiliate.

Moderating the discussion will be chapter activist William Gavin, who is special assistant to the minority leader of the U.S. House of Representatives.

"This symposium will serve as an excellent opportunity for members to come face to face with representatives of the two Washington papers and of the three major TV networks," said Dr. Anthon Czajkowski, chapter president. "All members are invited to voice their comments concerning news coverage editorial policy and programming."

Chapter honors Ellen McCormack



Michael Schwartz presented the Catholic League Award to pro-life leader Ellen McCormack at a recent meeting of the Long Island Chapter.

Ellen McCormack, the pro-life candidate for the 1976 Democratic presidential nomination and one of the founders of the New York State Right to Life Party, was the recipient of the Long Island Chapter's third annual Catholic League Award. A capacity crowd of more than 400 attended the dinner and the award presentation at Chaminade High School in Mineola on Saturday evening, Oct. 2.

Michael Schwartz, the League's director of public affairs, was on hand to present the award to Mrs. McCormack. In introducing her, Schwartz said, "When the history of the pro-life movement is written, it will be possible to say of only a small number of individuals that this person really made a difference. One of these individuals, unquestionably, is Ellen McCormack." He praised her for giving political expression to the pro-life cause

and for showing that large numbers of Americans would vote on the basis of their commitment to human life.

In her address, Mrs. McCormack stated that the political struggle for the right to life was a "Catholic problem." In a meticulous analysis of the political dimension of the pro-life effort, she noted that Catholics constitute a substantial portion of the electorate in 13 large industrial states; but of the 26 U.S. Senators from those 13 states, only two had voted pro-life in the last Congress.

Mrs. McCormack called upon Catholics to vote on the basis of their moral convictions, rather than on the basis of party affiliation or ethnic identity. Until Catholics stop giving their votes to candidates who take positions opposed to Catholic principles and values, she said, they will remain impotent in shaping a just political order.

Mangano argues for tax credits

Gannett Westchester Newspapers devoted a third of the "Viewpoints" page in its Sunday, Oct. 3 edition, to an article on tuition tax credits by Anthony D. Mangano, president of the League's Westchester Chapter.

Tuition tax credits would serve the public interest, Mangano wrote, because they would expand parental freedom of choice in education, foster competition among school systems, resulting in improved educational quality; and inject much-needed measures of justice and equity into the government's current policy of education finance.

Refutes objections

Mangano marshalled an impressive array of facts to refute the most common objections to tuition tax credits—that they would encourage racial segregation, aid only wealthy families, and violate the constitutional principle of separation of church and state.

He concluded his article with four points which he said form a legal and logical basis for the demands of private school parents: 1) Government mandates the education of all children as being in the best interest of a democratic society. 2) Government imposes on all taxpayers the obligation to pay for this universal education. 3) Government guarantees all parents the right to choose the kind of education they want for their children. 4) Government then imposes a financial penalty on parents who choose other than public education for their children."

Public opinion polls demonstrate lack of consensus on abortion

During the recent debate on Senator Jesse Helms's proposed anti-abortion legislation, the press and other abortion proponents frequently alluded to the alleged overwhelming popular support for the unlimited abortion liberty created by the Supreme Court in 1973. That alleged support was often cited as a primary reason for the defeat of the Helms bill.

But as reporter Dexter Duggan explained in a 1981 Catholic League supplement, "Abortion and the Opinion Polls," such alleged popular support for the current legal status of abortion—it is legal for any reason throughout the full nine months of pregnancy—has been confirmed only by less-than-reputable public opinion polls. (Copies of that supplement are available from the League at 25¢ each or 10 for a \$1.)

Slanted questions

One type of question successful in eliciting large majorities apparently in favor of permissive abortion asks respondents if abortion should be a matter decided by "a woman and her doctor"—as if most abortions were performed after searching consultation with a deeply concerned family physician, rather than by high-volume clinics whose *raison d'être* is financial profit.

Many other similarly successful polls phrase the question as if abortion were legal only during the first three months

of pregnancy, rather than during the entire term, as is the actual case.

But whenever poll questions on abortion are stated objectively, taking into consideration the reason for the abortion and the stage of the pregnancy, support for the current legal status for abortion is far from overwhelming.

Majority in the middle

Typical of the objective abortion polls (few though they are) was a 1980 *Gallup Opinion Index* which asked respondents if they think "abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal under only certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances."

A majority of the respondents (53 percent) approved of abortion "only under certain circumstances," 18 percent thought abortion should be "illegal under all circumstances," and 25 percent shared the Supreme Court's belief that abortion should be legal "under any circumstances." Most other reputable polls have shown a similar split.

Catholic League Newsletter is published by the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, 1100 W. Wells St., Mil., Wis. 53233.

James Hitchcock Chairman
Virgil C. Blum, S.J. President
John Hansen Treasurer
Ann Brosnan Secretary
Orlan Love Director of Publications

Annual membership dues: \$10
Contributions are tax deductible.

Mass called 'ritual cannibalism' in *Times*

The Catholic League has protested *The New York Times*'s recent publication of an opinion article which called the Mass an act of "ritual cannibalism."

The offensive article appeared Sept. 19 on the opinion page of the paper's New Jersey edition, prompting the League's North Jersey Chapter to ask advertisers in that section to "reconsider your subsidy of anti-Catholicism through your advertising dollar."

The article was primarily a polemic against school prayer in which author Betty McCollister of Haddonfield, N.J., maligned proponents of school prayer as "cheapjack politicians and ignorant fundamentalists" with anti-Semitic tendencies. Even more deplorable than her

ad hominem attack on school prayer proponents, however, was her assessment of the Eucharist.

"Religion, clearly, is an essential element of human nature," she wrote. "It goes back a long time...possibly to our fore-runners, who 500,000 years ago cracked human bones, as some tribes do today, to ingest manna from their dead owners. (What, after all, is the Catholic Mass but a kind of ritual cannibalism in which worshippers ingest the body and blood of their god?)"

Father Peter Stravinskias, the League's East Coast director of development, in a letter published Oct. 10 by the *Times*, called the statement "a blatant example of anti-Catholic bigotry" totally irrelevant

to the article's main theme.

"The remark is totally gratuitous, having absolutely nothing to do with the school prayer controversy," he said. "Obviously, Catholic schools will not even be affected by the proposed legislation, and a bigoted four-line appraisal of Catholic practices of worship sheds no light on the subject."

Noting that the newspaper's banner states that the *Times* contains "all the news that's fit to print," Father Stravinskias said the words, "and then some," ought to be added.

In a letter to the advertisers in the *Times* New Jersey edition, the League's North Jersey Chapter explained that it represents the area's 1.7 million Catholics by countering defamation of the Church and defending religious freedom rights. Apprising the advertisers of the offensive passage in the McCollister column, the chapter asked advertisers for their cooperation in ridding society of religious bigotry.

Specifically, the chapter asked advertisers if they approved of McCollister's defamation of the Mass and, if not, whether they would reconsider their plans to advertise in the *Times* New Jersey edition. The chapter said the advertisers' responses would serve as the basis for a report to League members.

Special events to mark League's tenth anniversary

In conjunction with the Catholic League's 10th anniversary next May 23, members will soon be receiving invitations to participate in several activities and events.

Masses and testimonial dinners in Los Angeles, New York City and Washington, D.C., will highlight the commemoration activities. Information on attending those events will be released as soon as all arrangements have been completed.

Later this month, through a special mailing, each member will be invited to participate in the Tenth Anniversary Christmas Sweepstakes. The grand prize, to be awarded at a Dec. 15 drawing, is a beautiful, four-piece porcelain nativity scene. "The First Christmas," created by the artists at America's oldest existing art porcelain studio, Cybis, of Trenton, N.J. (See accompanying photo.)

Since the grand prize (valued at \$800) has been donated by Cybis, entries need not be accompanied by a contribution to the League. But, of course, all proceeds from the sweepstakes will be used to defend the Church and religious freedom rights. Be sure to watch for the special mailing later this month.

Pilgrimage to Europe

In your December *Newsletter* mailing you will find a brochure inviting you to accompany League President Rev. Virgil C. Blum, S.J., and Father Peter Stravinskias, the League's East Coast director of development, on a 20-day pilgrimage to Europe.

Besides defending the rights of Catholics in secular society, the League also endeavors to foster Catholic pride by

helping Catholics become aware of their heritage. Accordingly, Fathers Blum and Stravinskias are asking League members to join them as they visit the sites in which the faith took root in Europe and eventually became the source of our faith here in America.

"An anniversary," said Father Blum, "is a time to celebrate the past so that we can move into the future with confidence and conviction. We think our heritage tour of Europe will deepen our appreciation of the past, thus making us more confident to face what in God's Providence will be yet a more glorious future."

For further details on the pilgrimage, be sure to check your December *Newsletter* mailing.



This porcelain nativity scene is the grand prize in the League's Tenth Anniversary Christmas Sweepstakes.

TV Station suspends anti-Catholic ads

The Catholic League has persuaded New York City's WNEW-TV to halt advertisements for an anti-Catholic book entitled *Who Is the Beast?*

Author Herbert W. Armstrong's interpretation of the biblical book of Revelation concludes "that the 'harlot woman,' Babylon the Great, is the Roman Catholic Church," to which he imputes lying, deception, wickedness, evil and sin.

In response to complaints from Father Peter Stravinskias, the League's East Coast director of development, station management agreed to put the offensive ads "on hold" while WNEW's legal department studied the matter further. Upon completion of the legal analysis, the station announced it would permanently discontinue the ads.

In a letter to Muriel Reese of the station's legal department, Father Stravinskias expressed the League's gratitude for ensuring that "the Armstrong broadcasts no longer serve as purveyors of anti-Catholic literature." Your assistance has "made this victory for tolerance, pluralism and fair play possible."



The President's Desk

by Virgil C. Blum, S.J.

Public schools push secularism

ity and prohibits as well the establishment of a secular religion."

It is the teaching of Secularism in public schools, more so than other "isms," to which parents are vigorously objecting today. And it is these protests, says Lee Boothby, general counsel for Americans United for Separation of Church and State, that will soon spark "wholly new litigation".

Its principles...

That is not surprising. Although more than 80 percent of public school parents want traditional religious values reinforced by public education, the schools, for all practical purposes, are teaching Secularism. Secularism teaches that there is no God, that man can create for himself a paradise on earth, that there are no values beyond secular or this-worldly values, and that man's highest achievements are found in sex, money and power.

Parents are particularly angered by the religious orientation of sex education courses. Although most parents approve of sex education, they protest its being taught with Secularist rather than Christian values.

A brief look at a sex education textbook currently being used in public schools reveals why sex education, as now taught, arouses a storm of opposition and leads to attacks on the teaching of Secularism in our public schools.

The book, writes Diane Ravitch (*American Educator*, Fall 1982), relies on poll

data to persuade students that the new sexual morality has been widely accepted among teenagers. Noting that the authors of the book regard sex among teenagers as an important means of facilitating communications, Ravitch writes: "An anonymous 15-year-old boy is quoted as saying that sex is a way to get to know a girl better, and a 16-year-old girl is quoted as saying, 'Maybe you should ball first, then ball again. Because I find that I've got a whole new basis for having sex with somebody, you know, after balling gets us talking together.'...The practice of 'swinging'...is described benignly as 'a means of satisfying sexual needs for diversity.'"

...And its consequences

With America's youth being systematically taught such Secularist sexual ethics in our public schools, it is no wonder that herpes is epidemic, that a million teenage girls become pregnant each year in the U.S., that out of wedlock births have tripled in the past 20 years, and that abortion has become the nation's most common surgical procedure.

Nor is it any wonder parents are now challenging with new vigor and determination the teaching of such Secularist values in our public schools. And, because of those mounting parental challenges, the courts may finally be compelled to decide whether the rejection of Christian values and the teaching of Secularism in public schools violate the First Amendment.

A federal judge in Alabama recently blocked two laws that permitted teachers to lead "willing" public school students in prayer. But he also said that courts must face the fact that public schools teach Secularism.

District Judge W. Brevard Hand said that he was duty-bound by U.S. Supreme Court precedents to block the Alabama laws. However, taking note of the religious freedom rights of all public school students, he said that courts are going to have to consider religions other than Christianity when they prohibit religious activities in schools under the First Amendment.

Tearing away the scales of judicial blindness, Judge Hand said in *Jaffree v. James*: "It is common knowledge that miscellaneous doctrines such as evolution, socialism, communism, secularism, humanism, and other concepts are advanced in the public schools."

And referring to the Supreme Court's declaration that "Secularism" is a religion under the First Amendment, Judge Hand continued: "It is time to recognize that the constitutional definition of religion encompasses more than Christian-

Supplement compares Holocaust and abortion

Members of the Catholic League staff regard this month's supplement article as perhaps the most important of the more than 100 supplements published by the League since 1973.

In "The Holocaust and Abortion," Rev. James T. Burtchaell, C.S.C., explores seven characteristics common to both the Nazi Holocaust and the current epidemic of abortions in the United States. Once exposed to his meticulous, insightful and scholarly analysis, few readers will be able to escape the horrifying similarities between abortion and the Holocaust.

The article, twice the length of a normal supplement, was excerpted from a longer essay on the same topic, published this year in *Rachel Weeping and Other Essays on Abortion*. The 383-page hard-bound edition of Father Burtchaell's book is available at \$20 from Andrews and McMeel, Inc., 4400 Johnson Drive, Fairway, Kansas 66205.

Brochure documents abortion holocaust

The photo on the front page of the *Newsletter* and two of the photos in this month's supplement were provided by the Center for Documentation of the American Holocaust, which has recently published a brochure detailing the horrors of the "Weisberg incident" in which the bodies of more than 16,000 aborted babies were found in a shipping container in Southern California (see the article on page 1).

Unfolded, the brochure is a 19 by 25 inch sheet with seven color and six black-and-white photos of victims of the American Holocaust. The photos provide graphic documentation of the humanity of the victims and the inhumanity of the so-called abortion liberty which has taken their lives.

Many public opinion leaders and decision makers either approve of legalized

abortion or are ambivalent toward it. The American Holocaust Brochure is designed as a tool to help pro-life people persuade them that action must be taken to stop abortion now. Because of the brochure's powerful appeal to the conscience, pro-life people say it enables them to call confidently upon public officials, medical personnel and members of the mass media, urging them to use their influence to end the prenatal killing of children in America.

The brochure is available from the Center for the Documentation of the American Holocaust, P.O. Box 99C, Palm Springs, CA 92263, at the following rates: 1 copy for \$1 or 10 copies for \$5 post-paid via first-class mail; and, in bulk orders, 100 copies for \$25 or 1,000 copies for \$220, plus shipping.