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BALLINEASPAIG BULLETIN

5th Sunday in Lent



CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
DENEMYS CROSS, CORK



FROM OUR PARISH TEAM

The Dean writes

HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED!

Pope John Paul has just issued a new Encyclical entitled "The Gospel of Life". In it the Pope condemns Abortion and Euthanasia. Is this news? Perhaps not - he has done so many times already. But it should jolt us - each of us - to an honest commitment as to where we stand in all this. Is the ground on which we stand firm and safe?

Why do I write like this? Everybody, or nearly everybody, declares out loudly, "Of course we are against abortion." But then, some add: "We are full of compassion for hard cases - like the X case." So the Suffering of one is to be ended by the Death of another. This is the plain unvarnished truth.

The killing of sick people in euthanasia is supposedly done with the consent of the patient. Now the American Hemlock Society is making it easier for the patient to give this consent - natural death is referred to as "dying in the old fashioned way."!! The expectation is that the lethal injection is the decent thing to do rather than be

a burden to relatives and carers.

The awful truth is we are slowly becoming a society prepared to kill life at both ends of the spectrum - the most vulnerable and defenceless. The rest of the truth is - Human life is sacred. Nobody but God alone has authority to give it, or take it away - no ifs and buts.

Genie W. Wanner P.P.



Growing in Christ:

Prayer Orientations (10)

*Friend, hope for the Guest while you are alive.
Jump into experience while you are alive!
Think... and think... while you are alive.
What you call "salvation" belongs to the time
before death.*

*If you don't break your ropes while you are alive,
do you think
ghosts will do it after?*

*The idea that the soul will join with the ecstatic
just because the body is rotten -
that is all fantasy.
What is found now is found then.
If you find nothing now,
you will simply end up with an apartment in the
City of Death.
If you make love with the divine now, in the next
life you will have the face of satisfied desire.*

LITTLE FRIENDS OF JESUS

Dear children - isn't there a lot of sadness and suffering in the world? Many people turn away from Jesus. They don't talk to Him. They don't listen to Him. He is always there, always loving us all.

Little Friends of Jesus is a group of children who come to St. Joseph's Convent on the Model Farm Road (Drishane Sisters). On a rota basis they stay 15 minutes with Jesus in the Blessed Eucharist. Some parents come along too. They make up to Jesus in this loving way for all the pain and hurt that He suffers. Would you like to join them as a special friend of Jesus? If you would, please put your name and telephone number or address in the notebook at the end of the church during the coming week, or get in touch with Sr. Catherine in St. Joseph's Convent, tel. 542257, and we will contact you soon.



We offer our sincere sympathy to ADRIENNE McDONNELL, Kenley Drive, and BERNADINE O'KEEFPE, Robinhill Avenue, on the death of their mother.

To SISTER ANNE MARIE, St. Columbas's Convent, on the death of her brother Fr. Paddy Brosnan. To LIAM LYNCH, Woodleigh Park, on the death of his brother.

The New Catechism

2494 The information provided by the media is at the service of the common good. Society has a right to information based on truth, freedom, justice, and solidarity.

Comment: The phenomenon of mass communication is less than fifty years old. In that short time, the topic has been studied, researched, written and spoken about. The last two Popes have frequently addressed the issue, and there even exists a 'Pontifical Council for Social Communications'. What we find in the Catechism is little more than quotations from a document published in 1962. One might have expected better.

If the purpose of the Catechism is to teach on the practical level, one might have expected this section to be more directive in addressing what needs to be done and to offer some suggestions about how to begin doing it. This may have been the place to introduce the topic of Catholic Christian educational goals, programmes, and institutions; the vocation of teachers at every level; perhaps even some guidelines on how to interpret, criticize, use and even counteract what is taking place through the communications media. Unfortunately, one finds nothing of the sort.

THE ESSENTIAL ADJECTIVE/ADVERB

Being a poor struggling mediocre Catholic myself, and having many friends who are likewise, it amazes me that the media knows so many DEVOUT Catholics. Similarly, all dead journalists become DISTINGUISHED journalists and anyone who reads a book is an AVID reader. It is ABUNDANTLY clear that we all have to deny things CATEGORICALLY. And, by the way, have you ever seen a recipe in recent years where the pepper isn't FRESHLY GROUND BLACK? Isn't it all a bit "over the top", BASICALLY? I mean, AT THIS POINT IN TIME....



COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

ALL GOD'S PEOPLE?

Lay people make up about 98% of the Catholic Church in Ireland. Women comprise approximately half of that number. Some of them wish to become deacons and priests. They are unhappy at the institutional church's attitude to them.

BASIC (Brothers and Sisters in Christ) has gathered 10,000 signatures in a petition urging the Catholic Church to reconsider its position. Cardinal Cahal Daly has been reported as refusing to accept BASIC's petition on the grounds that "the matter is not regarded as an open question by Catholics."

Professor Mary McAleese, Vice-Chancellor of Queen's University Belfast, spoke recently at a seminar entitled "Women - Sharing fully in the Ministry of Christ." She claimed that the Catholic Church's reasons for not

ordaining women were "based on a bogus tradition".

So, where does it all leave us? We have a Pope who claims the Church has no authority in the matter. We have a Cardinal who insists that the subject is not open for discussion. We have an eminent professor who says the Catholic Church's argument is spurious. We have a great number of that 98% mentioned above (one survey puts it at 47%) who claim that it is very much on their agenda.

Perhaps we ALL need to indulge in meaningful dialogue with one another? After all, our Church IS the church of ALL God's people. It is, isn't it?

ON THE BEAT WITH OUR GARDAI

Keep your car safe from theft or damage. Over quite a period of time there has been an increase in stealing or damaging cars. Your car is an attractive target for thieves from its stereo cassette right down to the hubcaps. Of course, for many criminals the "joy" of driving it will be sufficient reason for taking it.

Most people who take cars are young opportunistic criminals who are looking for a 'soft target' and an 'easy ride'. Given the number of cars available and the CARELESSNESS of SOME owners, they normally don't have long to wait.

THE FIRST STEP in preventing this crime of car theft is ALWAYS TO EMPLOY EXISTING SECURITY.

- * Lock ALL doors.
- * Close ALL windows
- * Engage the steering lock, even if you are only leaving the car for a short period.



A Chemist, when carrying out an experiment in his laboratory, found that it took 80 minutes when he wore his jacket. But when he was not wearing the jacket and carrying out the same experiment it always took one hour and twenty minutes. Can you explain?



Visitation

Fr. Finbarr Crowley will visit the College Road area this week.

First Friday

Next Friday is the First Friday of the month. Calls to the sick and housebound on the usual days.

St. Joseph's Young Priests Soc.

Monthly meeting next Thursday at 8 p.m. in C.P. Centre.

Irish Kidney Association

Donor Forget-Me-Not Week, 1-5th April. Flowers will be on sale during the week at £1 each. Please support.

Flash the Fash

The transition year students at Bishopstown Community School present A FASHION SHOW on Wednesday 5th April at 8 p.m. Jurys Hotel in conjunction with Profile Model Agency. Tickets £3.50 students, £5 adults. Raffle for wonderful prizes. Tickets available from Transition Years Students or School Reception.

Bishopstown Community Association

The April meeting of the BCA will take place at Wilton Park House on Tuesday 4th April at 4 p.m. All are welcome.

At the recent AGM the following officers were elected:
Chairperson: P.J. Hourican
Vice Chairperson: Gerard O'Brien
Secretary: Jerry Buttimer
Treasurer: Sheila Murray
P.R.O. Frank Mulvihill
Recording Sec: Anna O'Leary

Light out of Darkness

An information evening will be held on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30 p.m. at St. Dominic's Retreat House, Ennismore. tel. 502520. All welcome.

New Gaelscoil

From September next Scoil Therese, Bishopstown Park, will be a Gaelscoil. The incoming junior infants class will be taught through the medium of Irish. For further information/registration - phone Scoil Therese 544098.



C21st Craic: Inter-Church Youth

Next Meeting, Friday, 7th April, 8.30pm Ardfallen Centre, Douglas, Road. The topic for discussion is "Human Sexuality". Speakers Seán & Anna Mullin.



Daily Readers

The new Rota of Daily Readers is now ready. Please collect your copy from the Sanctuary Rail on Sunday or from the Sacristy during the Week.

School Play

Fourth and Fifth Year Students in Colaiste an Spioraid Naoimh present two plays, *Almost Macbeth* and *A Whistle In The Dark* in the school hall, Sun, Mon, Tues 2nd, 3rd, 4th April at 8.00pm nightly. Admission Adults £3; students £2.

PRIEST ON DUTY: 088-519940