

Letters

to the

Editor

Lee Road

Dear Editor,

One question just how politically clued-in Luke is if he can conclude that the lack of debate on the issue of abortion during the recent Cork bye-election denotes electorate weariness. One would hardly expect first-time candidates to take on an issue which invariably sees politicians running for cover. While abortion may not have been an issue, An Taoiseach could confirm that it was an issue of thousands of voters who lobbied him as to his government's intentions in the promised Green Paper on Abortion.

Luke poses the question: "...that Irish people have tired of the efforts of so many dedicated people to turn back the clock...?" This suggests that Luke is not entirely au fait with the present legal position. But in response to his query I would quote the result of an IMS public poll which showed 71% of the Irish people opposed to the legislation of abortion in any circumstances.

The deliberate taking of any life is totally abhorrent. The recent murder of the abortion doctor Barnett Slepian has been roundly condemned and repudiated by Pro-Life Groups in the U.S.A. and in Ireland.

I most heartily endorse Luke's call for constant prayer to ensure that the Irish people are not brain-washed into embracing what Pope John Paul II has diagnosed as the "culture of

death" and will be conceded their democratic and constitutional right to determine by way of Referendum the most fundamental of all human rights, the Right to Life of the Pre-born.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Delma Bourke

The Editor would like to point out that due to pressure of space, letters must be short; editing is therefore necessary.

Dear Editor,

With reference to Media Comment by Luke, there must be better ways of educating the youth of the parish, e.g. by teaching catechism, etc. in the schools, the commandments included, than paying a pseudo intellectual (Luke) to pick up all sorts of anti-religious material and produce it as gospel in the Ballineaspig Bulletin. With little or no religious education or leadership from the Church, this material by Luke is manna for the young people. The leaders of the Irish Church at present remind me of Peter at the Crucifixion. They are silent or nearly so on abortion, divorce, etc., instead of being on radio and TV and providing an education for the youth of the country. Is it any wonder that there are little or no vocations??

Since Luke does not sign his/her name, why should I?

- Name and address with Editor





COMMENT

MEDIA COMMENT by "LUKE"

GOOD OUT OF EVIL?

Fr. Patrick Keegan had just taken up his appointment in Lockerbie in Scotland when the dreadful air disaster happened. A recovering alcoholic, depressed and suicidal, he hoped he could do better in his new parish. He could have had no idea of the challenge ahead.

The Everyman programme on BBC 1 TV dealt with the tragedy, ten years on, through the eyes of Michelle Ciulla, whose father Frank died in the crash. His body was found, still strapped in his seat, three miles from the main crash site by the Connells, hill-farmers who were stunned by their discovery. The programme brought out the great love and concern that total strangers can show in such circumstances.

We met Joe Horgan who flew in from the USA to search unceasingly for his brother-in-law Mike. We met, too, Angus Kennedy, press officer at the time of the crash and now retired on the island of Coll. We met the people who were the 'official' face of Lockerbie - police, fire department, social services, mountain rescue service. And we met, too, the ordinary folk of the town and surrounding areas who, by their compassion and kindness, restored Michelle's faith in people. All of them carried out their often gruesome duties with great sensitivity, supporting one another and those who were grieving at their loss.

And Fr. Keegan? He rose to the challenge, finding in the people of Lockerbie and those who were touched by the disaster the bravery that he could share in responding to his own personal challenge. Reacting to the oft-quoted suggestion that good can come out of evil, he doubted it. A balancing of the books? He didn't think so. Even though he helped like all the others, the bottom line, he claimed, was that he was no substitute to Michelle and her mother for the loss of Frank Ciulla. And he wouldn't want to be!

Luke replies:

May I make a few short comments on the two letters in Bulletin No.571.

1) In 180 words (my limit, often breached), it is impossible to fully cover any given subject in the media - my brief.

2) I stated quite clearly that I was pro-life by stating that "Life is sacred, all life". I am a member of the pro-life movement since its inception.

3) I reiterate that "it is a time for calm and reasoned dialogue. Above all, it is a time for prayer."



We offer our sincere sympathy to NELLIE FENTON, Fernhurst Terrace, College Road, on the death of her brother.



Feast of Immaculate Conception

Next Tuesday 8th December and is a Holyday of Obligation. Vigil Mass on Monday at 7.30 pm. and Masses on Tuesday at 9.00, 10.30, 12.15 and 7.30 pm.

St. Vincent de Paul

The monthly collection will take place at all Masses next weekend.



Think Jewellery...

...And stand up for justice and peace.

Because he loved him dearly, God one day revealed to Moses the place where the great treasures are stored which will at the end of time be given as rewards to the pious and the just. He explained each treasure and who would receive it, in great detail. One gift was reserved for those who in their earthly life had given alms to the poor; another for those who had supported widows and orphans. In this way He continued to show to Moses the gifts of heaven, and who would receive them.

At length He came to one treasure of enormous size and value. "For whom is this treasure reserved?" Moses asked. God answered: "Out of the treasures I have already shown you, I give rewards to those who have deserved them by their deeds; but out of this treasure I give to the undeserving, for I am gracious to those who are not deserving, generous to those who can lay no claim to my generosity, and bountiful to those who do not deserve my bounty."

- Old Jewish Parable

SCHOOL DAYS

Tralee Science Roadshow visited Mount Mercy College on Thursday 22nd October. All First Year pupils participated in the Planetarium and Planet demonstrations. These were really enjoyed by the girls. The finale was a "Rocket Launch" in the school yard which caused great excitement. An informative and entertaining afternoon was had by all.

In the start of November Mr. Finbarr Long, Chief Engineer of the Lee Tunnel project visited the school. He spoke to the Transition Year students about the project and its relevance in helping to reduce traffic congestion in the city centre. This lecture was made all the more interesting as some of the students had visited the site as part of their Third Year science course.

Rosary Procession

In honour of the Immaculate Conception will take place on Tuesday 8th, commencing at 8.30 pm. at Grand Parade Hotel and will proceed via South Mall, Parnell Place, Merchants Quay, Patrick St. concluding with Benediction in St. Peter & Paul's Church. Bring candle/torch and all your friends.

Readings for Sunday 13 December

Is. 35:1-6,10. Ps.145. Jm.5:7-10. Mt.11:2-11.

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