

August 1967

## Letters to the Editor...

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### Recommended Citation

McCue, Daniel J. (1967) "Letters to the Editor..." *The Linacre Quarterly*: Vol. 34 : No. 3 , Article 44.  
Available at: <http://epublications.marquette.edu/lnq/vol34/iss3/44>

## Letters To The Editor . . .

Brief communications are welcome and will be printed as space permits, subject to the usual editing.

### TO THE EDITOR:

I desire to acknowledge the receipt of the four issues of THE LINACRE QUARTERLY and to thank you for your consideration in sending them to me. I look forward to reading them with a great deal of interest, particularly the articles on abortion.

Fortunately, the current session of our State Legislature has not discussed the matter of abortion and our State Constitution as yet and it appears that the Legislature will adjourn within the next week.

Again thanking you and with every best wish and blessing, I am

Sincerely yours,

(MOST REV.) THOMAS A. CONNOLLY  
Archbishop of Seattle

### TO THE EDITOR:

A rather interesting coincidence occurred to me last week.

1. *Medical Economics* published companion articles that stated, a) the ten *best* hospitals (italics mine). In this survey it was noted that only one Catholic hospital was even in the picture. b) A few pages later another article discussed the achievement of children and the relationship to the family unit. In this regard, the Jewish family unit was found superior to the Protestant and they to the Catholic.

2. One short week later, a rather unique letter arrived from the presi-

dent of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds asking all to answer the survey by another periodical on abortion.

The tragedy here is this. After the first article above I wondered why? As I read the second it came through that Catholics must either be doing something wrong or possibly the criteria for judging did not really judge anything for us—in short in picking a winner of a race you have to be sure that you are not judging two different races.

I therefore wrote a rather detailed letter to you stating such things as 1. who are the *they* who make such difficult judgments as just what is the *best hospital*; 2. what are their criteria? 3. I even tended to believe that it might be a great compliment to find that in the things that the world judges the most important—namely health and educational achievements—we, Catholics, just did not rate. 4. It did seem wise, however, that since medicine was in a rather ebb position with regard to the American public and since the educational system did seem (to an outsider such as I am) to be undergoing transition, (of course no one escapes criticism at such time of movement) to consider another possibility. Thus I had in mind looking closely at the lowly Catholic, but not so much with the idea of helping the poor fellow as possibly discovering that really his position would be more acceptable. I had the idea that maybe the last deserved to be first.

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I tried this letter out on friends, patients, and almost anyone who would listen. They were very nice, but the message that came through was this: "what is your point?" "Truly those are the ten best and truly the Catholic child is an under achiever."

I threw the letter away.

Now Dr. Verdon's request. All of a sudden the point is in the open. That such a request is necessary means that we have not been at all successful in the past at presenting the total picture. Debating now over an obvious ethical point such as abortion seems extremely postmature to

me. This debate should certainly never occur. Debating over the first two subjects (namely what makes a good hospital? What makes a successful citizen?) really isn't too much better, but at least we are 20-30 years ahead. Do you think we could ever utilize our tremendous background of experience of 1967 years based on perfect teaching and really start to scream, yell, write, beg, or state with certitude that we have the answers to these problems and would like to help others to find the Truth?

Sincerely,

JOHN J. McCUE, M.D.  
Weymouth, Mass.

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AUGUST, 1967