

# The Catholic Mind And Distinctions

By THOMAS STORCK

"Christ is our only sign of unity!" So said to me a deacon of the Church with whom I was discussing the value of the Latin Novus Ordo Mass. I had ventured to argue that Latin was a sign of unity among Catholics, and had received the above reply. At the time I made no retort, but after I returned home I began thinking, "No, that isn't right. Such a sweeping statement is very un-Catholic." For though all our unity certainly depends upon Christ our Lord, we have many signs of unity, each of them witnessing in a different way to the wonderful unity of Christ's Mystical Body. The Pope is a sign of unity, so is our local bishop, so is the Eucharist, so also, within the Latin rite, is the Mass in the Latin tongue.

So if we admit that there are many signs of unity in the Church, we begin to make distinctions, and it seems to me that the making of distinctions is something

peculiarly natural to the Catholic mind, and something which the non-Catholic often has difficulty doing, thus making him misunderstand much of Catholic life. A Protestant sees us kneeling before an image of the Blessed Virgin; to him all kneeling denotes worship, giving divine honors; he does not see the distinction we make in our minds and intentions. Or take the image we kneel before. He does not understand, and even when it is explained will sometimes label it "jesuitical," our distinction between outwardly honoring a picture or statue, and the intent of our praise, namely Christ Himself, or our Lady, or a saint. To him it is simply idolatry. How easily we make these distinctions, how they allow the culture of Catholics to be filled with so many beautiful, edifying customs, customs which Protestantism has banished because it

(Continued on Page 6)

"TO RE-ESTABLISH  
ALL THINGS IN CHRIST"  
(Ephesians 1:10)

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## Defeat Of Hatch-Eagleton Amendment No Surprise

By PAUL A. FISHER



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Hatch-Eagleton Constitutional Amendment concerning abortion went down to defeat by a margin of 49-50-1, a voting differential that generally had been predicted for

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are seeking to make it so." He then referred to his statement on the measure which he made on the floor the previous day (see *The Wanderer*, June 30th, p. 1). He also said he agreed with Sen. Packwood's statement in which the Oregonian said those who believe abortion is murder cannot in good conscience support the amendment.

Ernest Olhoff, executive director of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, stated: "We're encouraged by all those who voted for us. I think it's basically a 50-50 vote. We've made significant progress over the years. If you tried to run this vote

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each, our Catholic life is filled with much color and variety. The purest monotheism and the greatest love for God's Mother; abhorrence of idolatry together with honor paid to images of God's saints. Protestants too are monotheists; they likewise hate idols, but because they fail to make the necessary distinctions they deprive themselves of love for our Lady and the very natural desire of honoring the imaged by reverencing the image.

But as the deacon's remark I quoted above shows, we of the Faith do not always make and act upon these distinctions as fearlessly as we should. Part of the trouble in the Church of the last 15 or 16 years stems from our having been half persuaded by secularists and Protestants that maybe we had been wrong all along in these distinctions. And so now we have fewer statues in our churches, in the name of a purified religion. Also a weaker, more insipid, more colorless one! But if we begin seriously to go about forming the Catholic mind once more, in us and in our young, then once again shall we make the glorious distinctions of the Faith, to the great glory of God and the honor of the Holy Virgin.

cannot make the necessary distinctions.

Or take marriage and monasticism. You exalt virginity, asks the non-Catholic, must not that mean that you degrade marriage? That we exalt both, with no resulting tension, is to him incomprehensible. It all depends upon making distinctions. We Catholics do it without a second thought. It is in the very structure of how we think; we learned it as children, or if we are converts, we learned it by a kind of induction from studying the Church's teachings and believing them with the gift of faith. Even as we approach God Himself we find distinctions abounding: transubstantiation with its distinction between substance and accidents, even the distinction between the Trinity of Divine Persons and the Unity of the Divine Substance. These distinctions are in large part responsible for the richness of Catholic life and culture, in contrast to Protestant starkness. Since we can allow a number of seemingly contrary or competing practices or ideas to exist side by side in perfect harmony, because we distinguish the role and place of

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Douglas Badger, legislative director of the Christian Action Council, stated:

"The numbers that really count are the ages of the Supreme Court Justices, not how many senators voted for the Hatch-Eagleto Amendment.

"With five of the six Justices voting against us in the Akron case being 74 years of age or older, we could be within one to two Justices of reversing *Roe v. Wade*.

"Abortion is not dead in the 98th Congress. The Hatch Amendment is just the first of a series of votes the House and Senate will face or abortion."

Badger cited legislation before Congress which would bar federal payments for government employees' abortions; preclude abortion coverage under health insurance programs for unemployed workers; and require everyone who purchases health insurance — including single men — to buy maternity coverage (H.R. 100, S. 372).

### SAVE ALL BABIES

Nellie Gray, president of March for Life, commented: "Although Sen. Helms seems to stand alone on the Senate floor as he courageously votes his conscience, he is, in reality, not alone. Grass-roots pro-life America is with him. We still look to him for strength and leadership because he shows proper understanding of the basic moral principles involved in the pro-life issue.

"Sen. Helms articulated and voted in favor of the inviolable right to life of preborn human beings — a right which, as he stated, cannot be a matter of choice by legislatures or anyone. "Pro-abortionists are shouting that the pro-life movement is dead.