

of these United States. Whoever opposes that law, however high in nominal authority, is a usurper who must be expelled from office on elementary grounds of perjured oath to uphold the intent of our Constitution.

If the agencies of government do not awaken to the principles of natural law at issue in AIDS policy, and if they persist so in obliging our innocent citizens and their children to march like sheep into the slaughter-house of the AIDS infection, then our institutions of law nullify themselves, and popular anarchy and its consequences are fomented by those who have so violated the moral responsibilities of their office.

We are rapidly approaching the point, that if government fails to lawfully isolate the carriers of this lethal infection, the populace will feel compelled to take matters into its own hands, and to kill the suspected carriers, as a matter of simple self-defense. If this should occur, government has no one to blame but itself.

AIDS carriers have no right to spread their lethal infection to others. Their right is to be isolated, as is necessary, by such humane means as strike a balance between the rights of the noninfected and every person's right to be treated humanely.

Moreover, if it is determined, that homosexuality and the drug-culture are the principal channels through which a reservoir of AIDS carriers is being built up, then homosexual acts, prostitution, and the use of drugs for so-called "recreational" purposes, are major crimes in and of themselves. The time has come, when we must rid our nation, our law, of the myth of the right of the individual to engage in so-called "victimless crimes" of this sort.

It is almost wishful thinking, to imagine that a cure or vaccine for AIDS will be available as soon as five years ahead. If a serious effort is made, funding fundamental and related biological research on the scale of the Apollo space program, we might hope for, but could not reasonably promise, a cure earlier than 10 years. The only means of defense of the general public, until a vaccine or cure are generally available, is regular mass screening of the total population, and provision of suitable forms of isolation and adequate health care for those infected.

At the present doubling-rate in numbers of infected carriers, in 10 years, most of the U.S. population would be either infected or threatened by a high probability of becoming infected; that would be the situation without mass-screening and adequate measures of isolation. We do not know whether the present doubling-rate of the number of infected persons will be lower or higher over the coming years; we know only that that present estimate is the best guess available. We must act accordingly.

Let those who have attempted to intimidate parents, teachers, children, and others with fascist-like tyranny lately seen in Pilsen, examine their consciences accordingly. We would hope that they would recognize the awesome enormity of their crimes against humanity, and that they would repent, and join our side in the battle against this terrible infection.

## Pilsen parent calls on Pope for help

*The following letter was sent on March 12 to His Holiness John Paul II in the Vatican, and was released to the media by the author.*

Dear Holy Father:

I am a mother from the Pilsen District in the City of Chicago, U.S.A. I am writing this letter to you, Dear Holy Father, to appeal on behalf of our children, because the Chicago Board of Health and the Chicago School Board have ruled that a child with AIDS will be admitted to the Pilsen Academy elementary school.

Pilsen is a very poor Hispanic community. Our streets are overrun with drugs, gangs, and poverty. Much sickness and poverty are in our streets and homes. The hearts and minds of the parents of Pilsen are sick with pain, as we think somehow that we are a "forgotten people" in this land of so much potential wealth and goodness.

Many of our parents and grandparents have come to Chicago from places like Colombia, Argentina, Mexico, Peru, and Brazil in search for a better future for their future generations. We, too, wish the same for our children.

As Catholics, we have been taught that the sanctity of life is the guiding light in protecting our most precious gift from God . . . our children. For us, even though we are poor, we are very right, because of our children. It is for this belief, that our hearts are sick with worry over the ruling to place a child with this most deadly disease called AIDS in our school without our voices even being heard in the decision. Even now, the Chicago School Board has ruled that no parent can transfer their children from this school, if they should desire.

I ask, Dear Holy Father, is it right that mothers and fathers should be dragged through streets and handcuffed by Chicago policemen, because we dared to question the authorities? I ask, Dear Holy Father, is it right that a father should be severely beaten because he sought to defend the sanctity of life of the children of our city from this killing disease? I ask, Dear Holy Father, if parents do not have the right to defend the sanctity of life of their children, then what has happened to the institution of the family and the role of the parent?

It is for this reason, Dear Holy Father, that I appeal with my outstretched hands to you, across the Atlantic Ocean, in earnest prayer and hope that you will give us the strength to continue our fight for the progress and future of, not only our children, but all the children of this great world of ours.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs. Aurelia Garza  
Concerned Parent of the Pilsen Community  
Chicago, Illinois