

'Less Legalism'

Older Orders To Set Pace

Herman, Pa. — (NC) — A bishop advised here that "the older religious communities in the Church are in an especially advantageous position to take the lead in solving some of our present day problems."

Bishop Ernest J. Primeau of Manchester, N.H., underscored a number of reasons for his estimation to delegates at the American Franciscan Society for Vocations meeting in St. Fidelis College here.

"The older communities have the advantage of having been formed in a less juridical and, to put it positively, a more charismatic age than our own," he said. "There is thus within them and in the men and women who make them up what might be called a saving prophetic wisdom which naturally resists the processes of institutionalization and the paralysis of legalism."

"At its best, a religious community can communicate to others something of the sense of simplicity and of spontaneity which characterized the first community of Christians who lived consciously under the guidance of the Holy Spirit," he declared.

The bishop warned of a counter tendency: "Traditionally, religious communities, in common with many other human institutions, have been slow to change their methods of procedure, their orientation and the boundaries of their mental horizons. In periods of general social stability, such deliberateness has few practical disadvantages and, in fact, contributes positively to the strength of purpose which animates the community as a whole."

"In times of instability, or to give it a positive name, of great social mobility, over-deliberation or failure to grasp what the (Second Vatican) Council referred to as 'signs of the times' can prove to be a serious mistake," he continued.

Bishop Primeau sketched the role of the Religious in the American Church today.

"The role of religious orders is essentially that of a catalyst, of that added ingredient which brings about change, the melting of the many parts, the reaction which transforms the various ingredients into a new and more useful whole," he said. "The role of a religious order is to inject, on the pri-

mary of the Spirit and of the Gospel and, thus, first to live and then to point out to their fellow Christians the full implications of Christ's mission and of His revelation.

"The role of the religious order member is to offer to the Church and to the world the example of a saintly life," the bishop continued. "The role of the religious, at least of the active communities of religious, is to become involved with men and with the world and to become technically and professionally competent in the work to which they are assigned."

"Finally, the role of the religious, as the Decree on the Renewal of Religious Life has said, is to 'spread throughout the whole world the good news of Christ by the integrity of their faith, their love for God and neighbor, their devotion to the Cross and their hope of future glory.'" Bishop Primeau said.

Instruction For Parents Before Baptism

St. Jean, Que. — (NC) — Sunday baptisms are preceded by Saturday nights' special educational programs in a number of Catholic homes here.

The program to prepare the whole family for baptism through a home visit was devised three years ago by a group of priests working together as a pastoral team.

A central idea of the program is that it is good for the priest to be with his people at important times in their lives. "At these times, people are disposed to receive the message of Christ as it applies to their circumstances, the developers of the plan reported.

The visiting priest explains the ceremonies of the next day, and the symbolic meaning of various parts of the baptismal ritual. Relatives, neighbors, or said. "The role of a religious prospective godparents may be present.



Chile Mission Beckons

Two more Sisters of Mercy are on their way to their order's mission in Chile. They were ritually dispatched at a departure ceremony at the Mercy Motherhouse Chapel Saturday evening, August 20.

Monsignor George Cocuzzi, Chancellor of the Diocese, presided and spoke at the rite. The new missionary nuns are Sister Mary Janet Caulfield and Sister James Mary Kenrick.

In his talk, Monsignor Cocuzzi said the Mercy nuns were "keeping loyal to their founder's aims in their works of mercy in the Chile mission and in Rochester's inner-city. He cautioned the nuns

never to limit their apostolate "only to those who have enough to pay for it." He said their mission work abroad and at home was "not special" because such work is, he said, "simply what Jesus wants

done." Attending the rite, filling the chapel well beyond its capacity, were families and friends of the two nuns, and nuns from other religious orders.

**What's
"POP"ing?**
The big game
starts October 1st.

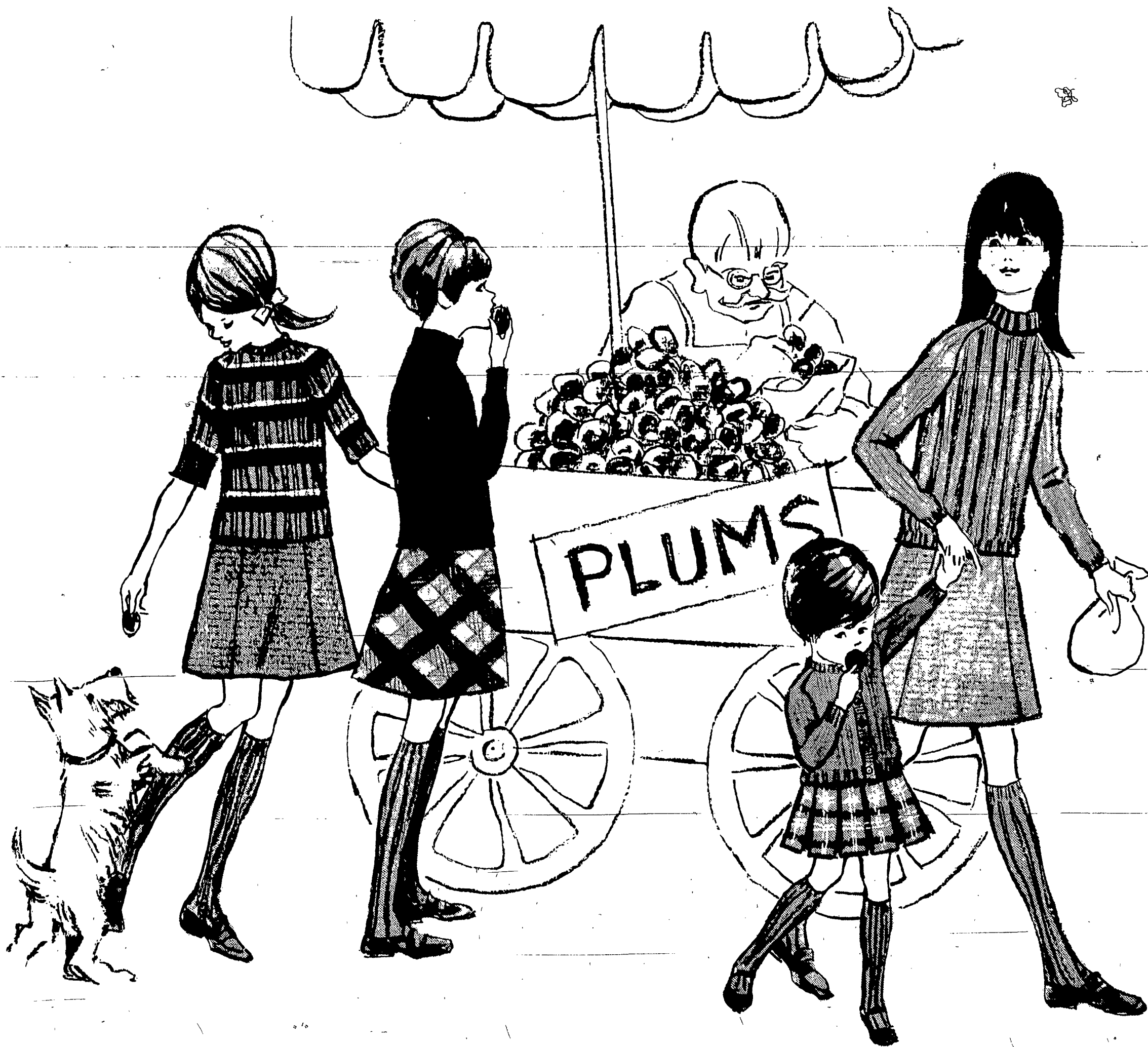
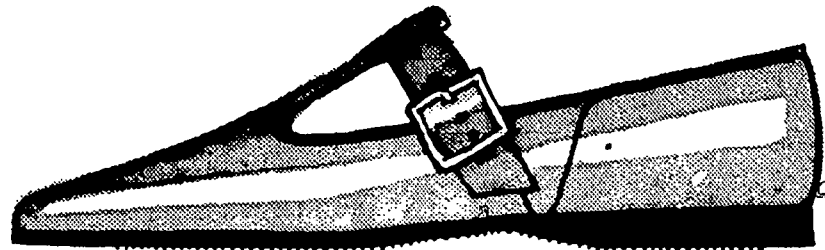


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