

SARAH CHILD
**All In
The Family**



At my daughter's request I visited her first grade music class the other day. I came home chuckling to myself and only somewhat amazed at the transformation that has taken place in schools since I was a first grader 30 years ago.

The first difference was that my daughter's class went to a different room for music just as they do for math, science and some reading groups. We seldom went anywhere. Our music teacher was someone other than our regular teacher but she came to our room rather than our going to her. Aside from music, one teacher taught everything.

It was, I concede a nice change for children moving from room to room at that level with several different teachers to offer them varied teaching methods to say nothing of different personalities and social attitudes. How well I remember the terrible feeling of being a prisoner to one teacher, intensified when that teacher was either dull, or tyrannical or both.

The biggest difference between Johanna's school and mine was not in the changing of rooms or having one or many teachers. Rather it was that the authoritarianism I remember all too well seems to have vanished. And when I think of my third grade superannuated teacher (she'd also taught my father) who filled rubber hoses with chalk to hit errant boys I can only be immensely grateful for the change.

In the music room I watched two boys punch each other sev-

eral times and get only a mild reprimand. Other children seemed to be in a constant state of flux and my daughter, perhaps more decorous because I was there, had her feet in her desk. I caught myself telling her to put them on the floor where they belong. In her home room, the floor was littered with crayons, and paper and desks were moved helter skelter wherever the children liked. Obviously the room would be tidied up before the day was out but no one seemed uptight by a little disorder.

The teacher announced a period of "free time" and one child asked permission to straighten up the clothes closet and Johanna and a friend got an okay to go to the library to "write a book." Another child headed for the kindergarten room to read to them. I started there also to pick up my four-year-old who had been visiting. "The door is always open", I had been assured over and over again by this marvel of a kindergarten teacher. "Let John come often," she said noting that it was the best way to prepare him for his own entrance next year.

In the hallway I dodged a couple of laughing youngsters and a woman from the office whom I didn't know called me by name.

Academically our daughter is doing well and we are pleased. But that is not our principal reason for rejoicing over this school. Her sense of well being and her delight in learning, her teachers, and her surroundings outweigh everything else. It's a good feeling — for her and us.

Mental Health Commentary

By THE DE PAUL CLINIC

Q. My 4-year-old son still sucks his thumb. Will this spoil his teeth and how can I stop it?

A. Sucking behavior is, of course, normal during infancy. Besides being necessary for ordinary feeding, it has a pleasurable component. Shortly after birth, babies will suck their fists when hungry or otherwise tense. Gradually, this changes to finger or thumb sucking. This, too, is normal behavior during the first few years. Babies vary with their sucking needs from very little to very much. Because it is pleasurable, some infants will use it especially at bedtime or when they are "bored" or to relax when they are hungry or tense. Usually in the second and third years, as they busy themselves the sucking tendency diminishes. Busy hands aren't available for thumbsucking. By three to five years of age, thumbsucking should have been given up. Sometimes the intense thumbsucker will cause malalignment of the front teeth. If the habit is given up before five years of age, before the secondary or permanent teeth erupt, the malalignment automatically tends to correct itself.

When a child has a persistent thumbsucking problem and is four or five years of age, his need

PARTY RESCHEDULED

Scipio Center—The card party that St. Bernard's Rosary Society canceled on the stormy night of Feb. 19 has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 8, at 3 p.m. in the cafeteria of Southern Cayuga Central School.

Abortion and Poverty

We are told that restrictive abortion laws are unfair to the poor. Of course, it is safer for the rich to break almost any law. The solution is not to repeal all laws, but to enforce them fairly. Laws restricting abortion can be and have been enforced.

The poor cannot afford heroin or LSD; they cannot afford cocktail parties, gambling casinos, or "Oh! Calcutta". No one claims discrimination, because we recognize that not everything

money can buy is necessarily good. As a great social evil, abortion is bad for rich and poor alike.

We do not try to eliminate starvation and disease by killing the hungry and sick. We will not eliminate poverty by killing those who would inherit it. The problem of the poor is their destitution, not their children — and they know it. Welfare funds are limited to begin with. Permissive abortion would divert these

funds and deprive legitimate welfare recipients of allotted benefits.

Poverty can be worse than just a shortage of material goods. In fact, this physical lack is more easily remedied than the spiritual and cultural poverty which often accompanies it. Isolation and emptiness lead to despair, apathy, and helplessness. Deprived of many of the world's goods and lacking confidence in the possibility of improvement, the poor often find their only joy in their children.

The humane solution is to attempt to raise their standard of living and to incorporate them into the middle class. A relief system which barely keeps people alive—and which encourages or subtly compels them to kill their unborn children — perpetuates both the basic poverty and the despair. It is this consideration which causes minority leaders to label permissive abortion as attempted genocide.

Furnished by the Rochester Right to Life Committee.

Sisters Hold Regular Communal Penance Rites

The Sisters of the diocese have been holding monthly Communal Penance Services since last June in six centers.

Sister Mary Florian of St. Ambrose explained that the services were instituted after Rome decreed that priests would no longer be assigned to convents, and because the sisters felt they wanted to experience a communal rite giving them a greater sense of community.

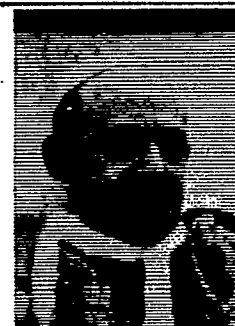
"The communal rite, which includes scripture reading, a homily and auricular confession, emphasizes the social implications of our common sinfulness," Sister Florian said.

"Sinfulness is not an act to be recounted so many times, but a common reality, and in this communal service we are more conscious of our need for forgiveness and reconciliation with God, with the Church and with one another."

The three centers in the Rochester area are at St. Charles Borromeo, St. Ambrose and St.

Thomas More. Dansville, Seneca Falls and Elmira also have communal penance centers.

Lay people were invited recently to a penance service at St. Ambrose to prepare them for their own communal services.



HAPPY EASTER? HERE'S HOW!

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

When are you happiest? Happiness lies in giving. You're happiest when you give yourself to the people who need you most. . . . A mother, for instance, hums with happiness when she bathes and dresses her baby. A good nurse always has time for a smile. Good fathers whistle at their work. . . . The best sort of giving involves more than writing checks—still, how better can you help the children now who need you overseas? Boys and girls who are blind, lepers, deaf-mutes, orphans—your money gifts, large and small, will feed them, teach them, cure them, give them a chance in life. . . . Want to be happier this Easter? Give some happiness to a child. You'll be happy, too!

GIVE SOME HAPPINESS TO A CHILD

HAPPINESS IS A SISTER OF YOUR OWN

HAPPINESS IS A HOME OF THEIR OWN

HAPPINESS IS CLOTHING

HAPPINESS IS TO BE EDUCATED

In Erumathala, south India, a young Indian girl in training to be a Sister of the Destitute will learn, among other things, how to care for orphans. Her training costs \$300 all told (\$12.50 a month, \$150.00 a year), a small investment for a Sister's lifetime of service. Like to be her sponsor? We'll send you her name and she will write to you.

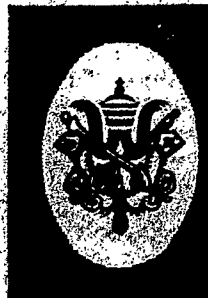
For only \$200 in Ernakulam you can build a decent house for a family that now sleeps on the sidewalks. Simply send your check to us. Cardinal Parecattil will write to thank you also.

Brighten the heart of a blind boy in the Gaza Strip (where Samson lived). \$2 gives him shoes, \$5 clothes, \$10 a set of Braille readers!

Where there is none in south India, you can build a six-room permanent school for only \$3,200. Archbishop Mar Gregorios will select the village, supervise construction and write to thank you. The children will pray for you, and you may name the school for your favorite saint, in your loved ones' memory!

Dear Monsignor Nolan: ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND \$ _____ FOR _____ NAME _____ STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

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