

St. Agnes Mission Day Planned

"A Touch of Magic" is the title for this year's mission day at Saint Agnes High School. On Friday, May 26th, the Mission Unit of St Agnes hopes to work wonders with games, booths and a Spook House, to turn fun into funds for missions in South America and Selma, Alabama. Shown planning for the day are Mission Unit officers, from left, Diane Coe, Betty Bader, Kathy Wallace and Kathy Nowaski. It will begin with a Shareholders' Day for the students, a liturgy, class games and the chance to realize that each student and teacher owns a "piece of the school." Booths will open at 2:30 p.m. for students, families and friends, and will operate until 9.

Brother Carpenter Named To New Retreat Position

Geneva, III. — Brother Ralph J. Carpenter, -- missionary of the Sacred Heart at Sacred Mission Seminary, Geneva, III., has been appointed to the new office of state retreat chairman for the Illinois State Council of the Knights of Columbus by Edmund J. Swain, state deputy.

Brother Carpenter, 56, has been a promoter of spiritual retreats since 1955, when he became retreat coordinator and director of public relations at Sacred Heart House, Youngstown, conducted by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart.

In 1965 he joined the Knights of Columbus, received the three degrees in February, March, and May, and was exemplified on June 5 as a member of the Father Gallagher Fourth Degree General Assembly. He also was named retreat chairman for the local Knights.

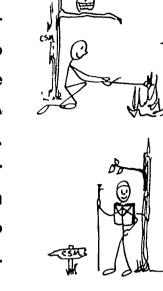


BROTHER CARPENTER

The first black member to join the American province of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart, he was also the first of his race to enter the religious life from the diocese of Rochester, N.Y.



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Q = I was very much disturbed recently when my teen-age son came home and told me a priest at school had told him (and the class) that if he didn't really want to be at Sunday Mass that he shouldn't go. Since then he has refused to go to Sunday Mass. Is he confused or the priest or only me?

This problem has been coming up more and more lately. It is quite possible that your son misinterpreted what the priest said or, as kids will do, heard only what he wanted to hear. On the other hand, there are many religion teachers today who are taking this approach.

It is true that one should realize what Mass is and want to attend. This is the kind of motivation we should be working toward. We want to get away from the idea that many people come to Mass captive to the fear that they will go to Hell or have something bad happen to them during the week if they don't attend.

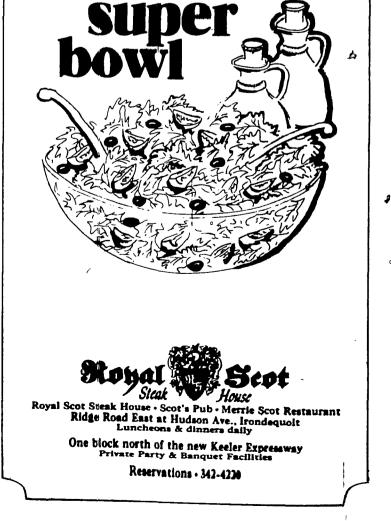
But I think that it is highly unrealistic to suppose that all people can and should be motivated only by the highest motives. We insist that our children brush their teeth, sometimes under threat of punishment, simply because we know that they cannot understand the remote consequences of not doing so-dentures, cavities, pyorrhea etc. It is also a mistake to think that just because a person has reached a certain chronological age that he will be receptive to the highest motivation.

The fact is that regular attendance at Mass is a serious obligation not in terms of going to Hell as a consequence of missing but in terms of the value and importance of the Mass for each person individually and for the Christian community. We need the Mass as the best and surest way of staying in contact with Christ and the community in love. To neglect it without good reason is to neglect the most important of all aids to our Christian commitment. If someone is not mature enough to see this, we must train him at a power level of motivation. Make it a matter of obedience to someone more mature to you, the parent.

Questions for Father Hohman should be addressed to him care of "The Open Window", the Courier-Journal, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

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