FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window

Q—It seems that so many people lately are saying, in effect, "We don't need the Church. We can be religious in our own way." How does one answer such a position?

A—One could take several approaches to solving that problem. The apologetical approach (the traditional one) would try to prove from Scripture, tradition and history that God founded the Church in Jesus Christ, that he called everyone to membership, and that we are therefore obliged to be members. But that wouldn't necessarily or even probably persuade anyone of their need for the Church.

How do people come to think they don't need the Church? There are many reasons. I think one of the most predominant today is the hang-up so many people have on authority, institution, establishment. Being independent, doing one's own thing, "going my way" are big things in our society. What I guess many are saying is they don't want to be trapped in a big organization or bureaucracy, hemmed in by rules, regulations, laws, by-laws.

While it is true that large organizations can tend to submerge the individual and also tend to become highly legalistic if not corrupt, we must be careful to separate the real meaning and purpose of the organization from its weaknesses. In the case of the Church, I think it is a very bad mistake to declare one's independence of it on the basis of its weaknesses. It is after all, a pilgrim Church, on the way but not yet arrived at its final destination. Inherent in the rejection of the Church is a misunderstanding of what it really is. Church — ecclesia — is fundamentally assembly of the people of God, a community, not a structure. To get hung up on the structure with its faults and failings is to miss the point. We need the Church because we need Christ in community, an external sign of our oneness in Him and with each other. We share the gifts of God. We share the message, the Good News. We share the witness and the mission of the Word.

Can we ignore the impassioned prayer of Christ, "That they may be one, Father"? (Jn. 17: 21 ff.) Can this become a reality without visible community? Shall we again forget, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I". (Matt. 18: 20). How else can we become one voice in the proclamation of God's will, the ideals and moral standards of Jesus Christ unless in a Church? How can the Kingdom of God become manifest unless in visible community? We guarantee the presence of Jesus Christ in our midst when we are gathered in his name, and that's the Church. Work to better the community bot don't walk away from it.

Pontiff-NATO Meeting

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI called on leaders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to be "witnesses and builders of peace and solidarity." The pontiff made his appeal in a private audience with top-ranking officials of NATO, who came here from the agency's Brussels headquarters for the first Congress of the Association of Officers of the Supreme Headquarters of Allied Forces in Rome.

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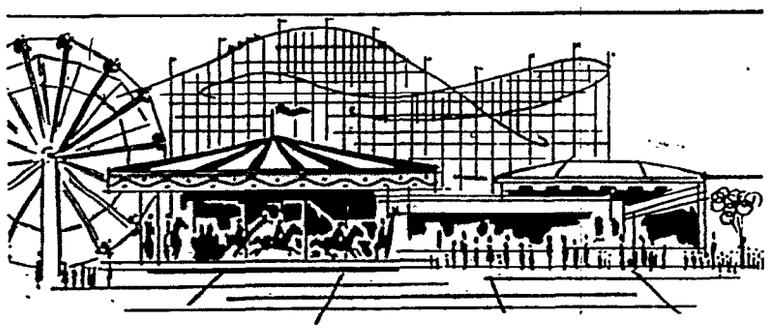

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Honorable Hyman T. Maas
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- Found qualified for both County Court and Supreme Court Judgeships by a poll of the Monroe County Bar Association
- Practice of law for 36 years
- Admitted to practice in all courts including United States Supreme Court
- Experienced in all phases of Criminal and Civil Law
- Extensive trial and appellate experience
- Professional Memberships:
  Monroe County Bar Association
  American Bar Association
  American Trial Lawyers Association

The Judge as a Public Servant

- Past attorney for the Town of Irondequoit 1966-1967
- Past Monroe County Legislator
- Life long member of the Republican Party
- Deputy Executive Committeeman for the Town of Irondequoit

The Judge in Service of His Country

- Entered U.S. Army during World War II as a Private in 1942
- Honorably discharged in 1945 as a Captain
- Legal Advisor in Prisoner of War affairs

The Judge as Civic Leader

- Member of the American Legion
- Active in civic, fraternal and Veteran's groups and organizations

Committee for Judge Maas — Lewis Cristo, Chairman

Vote for Judge Hyman T. Maas in the
Republican Primary June 20, 1972

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