

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

## The Open Window



Q. It appears that students today have an avid interest in psychology and philosophy and are reading books that deal with the mind and spirit. Have we swept Augustine, Aquinas, Merton and others under the rug? Are their teachings passe?

A. Each generation has its own unique personality. The present generation of young people is no exception. Their thrust is toward the personal, the individual. They are caught up in a fascination with what makes them tick and how to "put it all together". Hence their avid interest in all the facets of psychology. They are consciously introspective with a view to self-understanding. Their goal is toward becoming better persons, more knowledgeable about how they think and feel and act. Most of them feel that this type of knowledge is the starting point toward knowing where they are going, what are their goals. We can see the profound influence of existential philosophy here. Somewhat oversimplified, it reads, "I know that I am, now I've got to find out what I am."

I also read here a reaction to the abstract and rather cold approach of ancient philosophers such as Aquinas and Augustine. Then too, young people identify these writers with the "establishment" which decrees all things from above and says, "Swallow."

We could get in endless argument over which approach is correct, but it seems to me both are valuable and should be wedded. If the young people start only with themselves, the probability of final confusion is very high. We cannot simply ignore the wisdom and the experience of the past. On the other hand, we cannot ignore the uniqueness of the individual and try to pigeonhole every human experience in categories.

This is another example of the pendulum theory. Eventually there will be a swing back to the wisdom of the ages, combined with the valuable insights of modern psychology. The marriage will be blissful, I hope.

# Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Does the congregation of your church sometimes look like a senior citizen meeting? Do elderly men and women sit in your public parks, or in hotel lobbies, and stare into space? Do you see older people in restaurants, stores, or libraries? Do you often feel you must take time to talk to an elderly neighbor because you know she is widowed and lonely?

Have you ever visited a home for the elderly where residents sit around "just waiting to die"?

If you can say "yes" to any of these questions — who cannot? — you will have no difficulty realizing why a senior citizen group is needed in your community.

It should not be too difficult to persuade others to join you in doing something about it.

You may be able to get additional help from your city's commission for senior citizens or from a department of your diocesan Catholic Charities.

It's a good idea, though, to begin with the reasons for senior citizens to join together in a group or club, whether it is a parish club or community group.

In our American society, our institutions generally serve the young and isolate the elderly. Forced retirement deprives older men and women of role, status, social contacts, and adequate income.

Medical progress has increased our longevity dramatically, but it has not guaranteed freedom from chronic illnesses and their limiting effects on mobility and money.

Our families move so often that children and aging parents are often unable to visit each other.

The fast-paced, crowding, impersonal and costly life-styles in our urban areas can discourage all but the most aggressive, energetic or vocal.

In the course of natural events, spouses, friends, relatives and neighbors die or move away, so that countless older people are left to a nearly meaningless and marginal existence.

Our reasons for a grouping of older people then are: To provide the bridge necessary to reinvolve them in the life of the Church and community. To build a mechanism for older people to voice their needs and concerns. To give them an opportunity to use their experiences and talents in service to other citizens, whether they are seven months or 70 years old.

(In Chicago, the Commission for Senior Citizens honors nearly 100 elderly people each year in their "Hall of Fame" for volunteer public service that they have done after 65 years of age.)

A Parish council might establish a separate committee to investigate the resources for senior citizens in your community and form a senior citizen group, or it might assign the task to the Community Life Committee.

The basic ingredients of your success will be a concern and respect for older people, a flexibility in modifying suggestions to fit special needs, and enthusiasm for the work ahead.

## St. Jerome's Gives \$2,000 For Inner-City

The parish council of St. Jerome's Church last week sent a check for \$2,000 to Bishop Kearney High School — HOP Fund.

A resolution passed by the council said this was "in answer to Bishop Hogan's challenge for aid to the Inner-City Schools, as a tangible expression of our commitment."

The resolution further stated, "we hereby pledge our willingness to cooperate in any Regional Plan to help alleviate this problem in forthcoming years."

## Retreat House Officers Meet

Canandaigua — The semi-annual meeting of officers and parish league officers of Notre Dame retreat house was held Sunday, June 25.

Forty-two people met to discuss the business of the house during the past six months, and the coming events of the next six months.

It was noted that the house hosted 55 activities during the past 23 weeks, and that the number of people served over this period had increased from last year. After the business meeting a buffet supper was served.

## Guild Installs New Officers

Helen Connors and Delores Cervelloni will share the presidency next season of the St. Christopher Guild of St. Christopher Church in North Chili. Shirley DeWolf is vice president.

Also installed in recent ceremonies were Tanis Van Derwerken, corresponding secretary; Veronica Miller, membership secretary, and Mary Carroll, treasurer. Carol Rappa will represent the guild on the parish council.

## Nixon Committed To Tax Relief On Private Schools

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — President Nixon said at a press conference here that tax proposals to benefit non-public schools would not come before Congress this year, but that they would be presented for action after Jan. 1.

The President said it would not be wise to attempt tax reform during an election year, but that he had called for intensive study of ways to reform the tax system by the Treasury Department and that he would present recommendations to the next Congress.

"Certainly included in that decision will be relief for non-public schools," he said. "I am committed to that, and the approach of tax credits in this area will be included in that proposal."

"We will make the proposal before the first of the year, but it will not be considered by the Congress until after the first of the year," he said in response to a question about the timing.

Mr. Nixon then continued: "It would not be fair to the American people, it would not be fair to those, for example, interested in non-public school relief, to suggest that the Congress, in this sort of sputtering, start-and-stop . . . I mean, they're stopping next week and they come back for six weeks and may come back after the Republican convention and the rest — and they can enact tax reform. It is not going to happen, and I am aware of that."

## Brockport Altar Boys Given Special Honors

Brockport — The annual Altar Boy Investiture Service was held in Nativity B.V.M. Church at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 11. The following new altar boys were invested into the Knights of the Altar in a simple ceremony where they received their cassock and surplice. Joseph Rogers, Richard Rogers, Kevin Bush, Bob DiLaura, Jack Gauthreaux, Tim Cary, Jim Matsko, Louis Lustumbo, Daniel Miller, Richard Skinner, Mark Moszak, George Bilicic, Shaun Flanagan, and Dan Lista.

awards for their dependable service. Special Awards went to Ronald Golisano for Personal Improvement and Christian Achievement; to Bob Gianfagna for Faithfulness in Christian Leadership; and to Winfried Gartner a Special Award for Service. Winfried is a Foreign Exchange student and will be returning to Germany after a one year stay in Brockport. The High School Award went to Bill Gminski for the highest rating.

Four boys received a week at Camp Stella Maris for having the highest ratings of the year in the 5th and 6th grades and 7th and 8th grades. In the 5th and 6th grade division Jeff Lavell was first and Marty Schuff was second with Tim Flanagan third. Jim Gaesser fourth and Mark Delavak fifth. In the 7th and 8th grade division E.J. Stigliano was first. Bruce Lista second, with Gary DiLaura third, Tom Meyering fourth, and John Goosley fifth. First and Second in each division will be going to camp the week of July 9.

Receiving their certificates and a medal for one year of service were the following: Bob Egan, Jeff Lavele, Jim Gaesser, Ed Hemmer, Winfried Gartner, Jim Jordan, Zachary Pietryzkowski, Ronald Golisano, Dan Stentz, and Dean Pichee.

Following this ceremony and benediction, an award ceremony and refreshment by Nativity Mothers' Club was held at the school. Robert Gianfagna and Dan Martin, seniors, were given



blooming bright!

\$52

Red. The right red on white dotted swiss cotton. Crisply lined. Pert sailor collar gets it under way with summer flair. A no-sleeved princess, boldly belted and zipped up front. Bright, cool you all summer. Misses' sizes. McCurdy's Fashion Gallery, Second Floor, Midtown.

McCurdy's