

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



Q. As a steady Mass attendant I can't help but notice people who come in late for Mass and some who leave immediately after the priest gives "Holy Eucharist". My question is: In order to say we have attended Mass we must be in Church before the priest begins what part of the Mass and must remain in church until the priest completes what part of the Mass? I was always told we must be in church before the priest uncovers the chalice and remain until he covers it. Is this correct?

A. - The reason you haven't heard much lately about the precise moments before or after which to leave or arrive at Mass is that most of us are engaged in a continual struggle to get away from legalistic approaches to our religious obligations and practices. We feel it is nit-picking to define a precise physical moment which would make the difference between fulfilling an obligation or not fulfilling it. The important thing is the attitude of the person involved. We as priests see many people come into church in various stages of lateness. Some we recognize as people who will be late for their own funeral. Others we realize may have had enormous trouble getting the little-kids ready. We could go on indefinitely giving reasonable causes for being late.

Then there are those who don't really care enough. Maybe they are trying to make the whole thing as short as possible. Maybe they are very weakly motivated to attend Mass. Perhaps they are only avoiding an argument at home if they don't go.

What I am trying to say is that each person has his own personal quality of relationship with God and the Christian community and that is the real crucial point. Let's put it this way: if you or I were invited to dine at the White House and we came quite late or left quite early, the important thing would not be the precise amount of time we were late but rather our attitude toward the invitation in the first place. The real question to ask is not exactly how late I am but rather why I am late. Is it indifference, lack of faith or something I can't help?

Adolescent Behavior Subject of Workshops

A series of Saturday morning workshops on adolescent behavior has been arranged by the guidance department of Bishop Kearney High School and the DePaul Clinic.

It is intended to help teachers of grades 6 through 8 who have no guidance department to turn to. Principals and other interested staff members also are invited.

Meetings are scheduled for 9 a.m. until noon Nov. 4, Dec. 2 and Jan. 13, at Kearney, Room A-16. Speakers will include Dr. Albert Sullivan, psychiatrist and director of the DePaul Clinic; Gerald Pashby, director of the clinic's social work department, and a panel of persons involved in elementary education.

Something Cooking at MCC

Some Monroe Community College students are learning to cook in 15 different languages and they'll demonstrate their skills at the annual United Nations Day Dinner here on Sunday, Oct. 22.

The students, from the college Food Service Administration, are co-sponsoring the dinner with the Rochester Association for the United Nations. It will be the opening event of United Nations Week in Rochester.

Under the direction of Joseph Bellanca, MCC food service instructor and adviser to the Junior Branch of the Food Service Executives Association at MCC, the students will create Spanish and French soups; Lebanese, Russian and German salads; entrees from China, Africa, Sicily, Sweden, America and France; vegetables from Turkey, Cuba and Africa; and desserts from

Africa, Barbados, Estonia and Israel.

The fete will be held in the main dining room at Monroe Community College from 3:30 to 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 22. Reservations must be in by Oct. 18.

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Whelans Plan New Clinic In Mexico

An East Avon couple will return soon to their mission clinic near Guadalajara, Mexico, where they plan to expand their program to a third outpost in a poverty-stricken area.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Whalen will operate their newest clinic in an abandoned Augustinian monastery to provide food and medical services, including prenatal instruction for expectant mothers. They will continue supervision and assistance at two existing clinics also in the Guadalajara area.

Contributions for their mission may be sent to them at 1549 Rochester Rd., Avon, N.Y. 14414.

NEW BOOK FAIR

The Mother's Club of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish will hold a new book fair, Oct. 28-29, after all Masses, in the school library. Proceeds from the fair will go to enlarging the library's stock.

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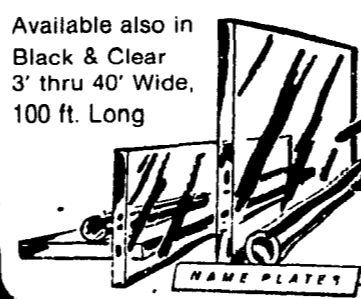
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