

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

## The Open Window



**Q:** Who wrote the Old Testament and when? Do we have to believe everything in it, such as Noah's Ark, etc?

**A:** The Old Testament is made up of forty six books and actually had many authors. Even some individual books have more than one author.

It should be kept in mind that all of these books were written some 1500 years before printing was invented, at least a century before the coming of Christ. They are mostly based on oral traditions passed down for centuries within the tribes of Israel before they were written down.

Moses, for example, has traditionally been regarded as the author of the first five books of the Bible (called the Pentateuch) but we know certainly that he was responsible for only parts of these books and that much of their content was particular traditions which were written down only at a much later date.

If you are interested in specific authorships of books of the Old Testament, you might read the introductions to the various books as found in the Jerusalem Bible or a book of introduction to the Old Testament (a modern one, because so much has been learned about the Bible in recent years). Your religious book store will give you a choice of several.

Do we have to believe everything in it, such as Noah's Ark? If you mean, do we have to believe everything literally (at face value) the answer is a categorical "No." Much, if not most, of the Old Testament uses what are called literary devices, poetic or story forms to convey religious truth. The stories or presentations may not be factual but the religious truth they intend to convey is real.

For example, the device of portraying God as creating the world in six days and resting on the seventh is not scientifically factual, but does convey the religious truths that God created all things, that all things are good, and that man who is "in the image and likeness of God" should work to complete creation and bring it to fuller perfection. As God is creative, man should be productive.

The story of Noah's ark probably referred to a local flood and efforts to survive it but is used to tell a much more general and deep truth relating to God's goodness, man's sinfulness, and the necessity of Man being in "tune" with God and his will. Man will be saved only if he is faithful to the covenant with God, "You will be my people and I will be your God."

Perhaps the most important thing to remember about the Old Testament is that it was never intended to be a factual history as we know it or a book of science but rather a book of religious truths and a religious history of the people of God before Christ.

A decision on your part to make a deeper study of the background and content of the Old Testament would, I am certain, lead you to a very rich and exciting new experience.

## New Book Written By Father Shamon

By LAWRENCE E. KEEFE

The first of a series of three books on the new catechetics by Father Albert J. Shamon has been published by the Paulist Press. Father Shamon is diocesan vicar for education.

His new book, "Catching Up On Catechetics," explains "the principles behind the new catechetics," says Father Shamon "Brevity and clarity were my two aims," he says, and indeed the book is short — only 73 pages — and avoids using educational jargon.

The book is written for both parents and "religion teachers who have little time." "Catching Up on Catechetics" "will give us a foundation for our teacher training programs" which prepare laymen to become CCD instructors.

Father Shamon, in addition to his positions as vicar for education and Courier-Journal columnist, has written five books and numerous articles. In fact, three of the chapters in "Catching Up" appeared in national religious education magazines as articles.

The first sequel to "Catching Up" will be titled "Discovering the Mass," and according to its author, will tell how to teach "the new Mass according to the new methods."

Following that will come "Content in Catechetics," which will cover "the old teachings with the new theological emphases."

The major thesis of "Catching Up on Catechetics" is stated in the first sentence of the preface, which says, "One of the major causes of criticism regarding new catechetical textbooks is due to ignorance of the new." Courier-Journal

catechetical method underlying them."

In addition to discussing what the new educational methods, such as audiovisuals and films are, Father Shamon tries to fit them into the catechetical process.

Religious education in the past, writes Father Shamon, "gave the child too much" doctrinal content without making "Christ visible and present in teacher and pupils."

## Deaths

### Marcia McGrain

Willard — Miss Marcia Rae McGrain, a former teacher in Geneva, died unexpectedly Oct. 9, 1972.

She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. McGrain of Route 96-A, Willard.

Mass of the Resurrection was concelebrated Oct. 13 at Holy Cross Church, Ovid, by family friends — Father James H. Murray of Denville, N.J., Father Otto Vogt of Canisteo, Father Thomas J. Florack, chaplain at Willard State Hospital, and Father Donald J. Curtiss of Seneca Falls. Father William Lammers, pastor of Holy Cross, assisted.

Miss McGrain was a 1962 graduate of Ovid Central School. She held a bachelor's degree from Mercy College, Detroit, and a Master of Education degree from the State University College at Buffalo.

Surviving besides her parents is an uncle, Roland Buckley of Auburn.

## Italian Club Sets Scholarship Dance

The Italian Women's Civic Club will celebrate the 50th year of its scholarship project Nov. 11 with a benefit dance at the Flagship.

To mark the anniversary, the club has provided a full scholarship for a student completing a master's degree at Rochester Institute of Technology. Thirty-nine young people of Italian extraction have received the club's help throughout their undergraduate years in local colleges.

Miss Madeline Pezzullo, Mrs. Andrew Celli and Mrs. Louis Gallo head the committee for the dance.

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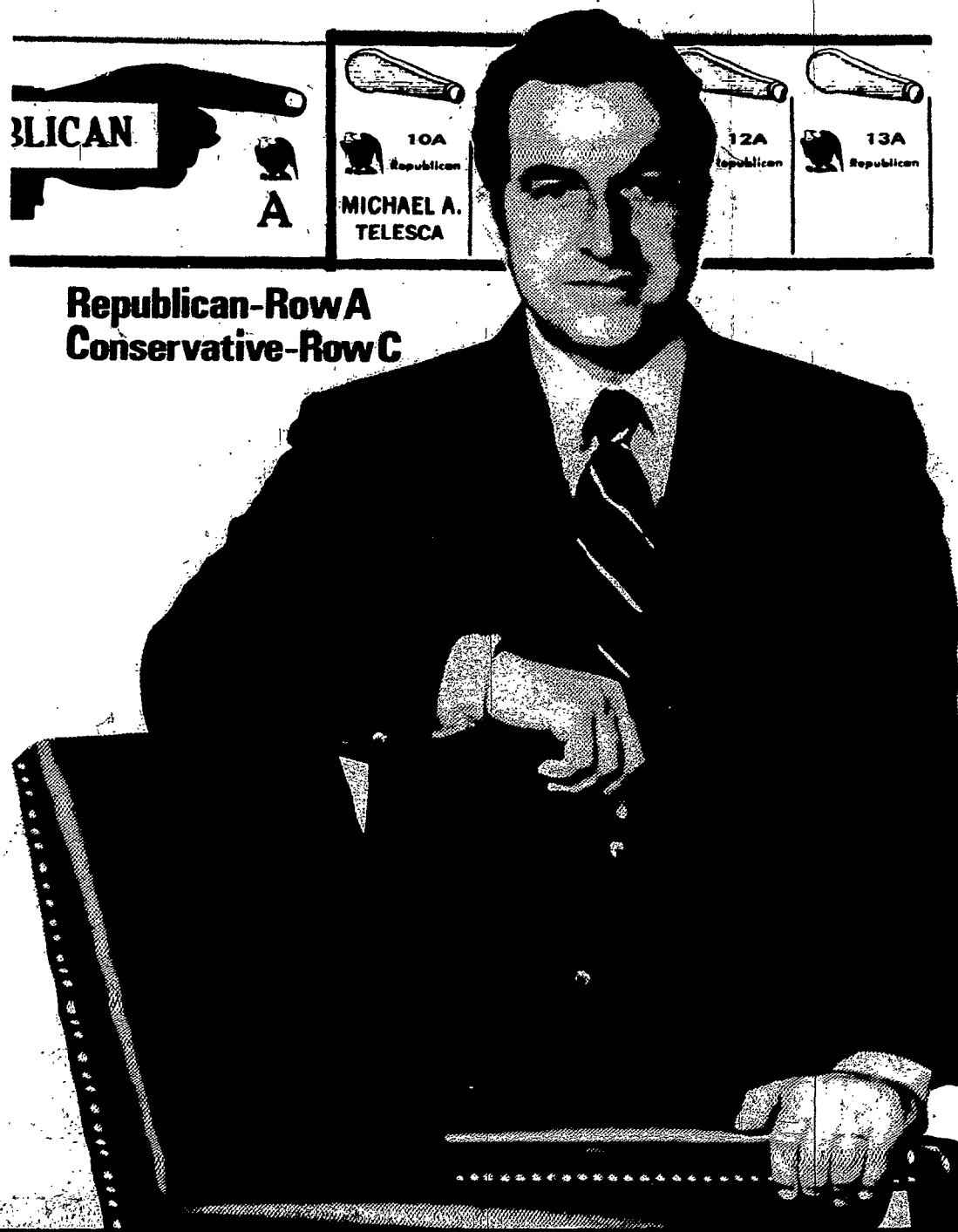
# Telesca

## Judge of the Surrogate Court

Surrogate Court needs a judge with strength and integrity, with a sensitivity to people's problems. Michael A. Telesca has extensive experience having practiced law for 17 years. The Monroe County Bar Association has found him qualified by vote, and he has received the endorsement of Monroe County's Women's Political Caucus as well as various unions. It is important to each of us to have such a man in this vital judicial position. Elect Michael A. Telesca Judge of the Surrogate Court.



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