

FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



Q. The St. Gerard's Bulletin frequently mentioned over the years the Catholic women with heart and kidney conditions who died in childbirth or during pregnancy rather than resort to contraceptives! They are martyrs and yet it seems so senseless. A pill or a contraceptive could have so easily prevented the unwanted pregnancy! I feel my church has done immeasurable harm to many Catholic mothers who never really wanted umpteen children! Believe me, Father Charles Curran is not the only one who feels the Pope is wrong on the pill. I hope all you priests get married and produce large families and find out what it's really like!

A. Having priests get married, I'm afraid, would solve nothing for you or them in most cases. But you must not think that priests are entirely heartless about this matter. Frankly, many of us agree with Father Curran and many other theologians as well as the majority of the Papal Commission on Birth Control.

But that does not change the fact of the Papal pronouncement and the agonizing search we must engage in to determine the validity of our personal views. One in the service of the church does not lightly write off a Papal statement. But the door to possible change has not been slammed shut — which is why we continue our agonizing search. Believe me, any priest who has heard confessions must feel very deeply for the people of such good will and thoroughly Christian lives who find themselves literally trapped in an impossible situation. And it is to just such people that we must throw the door open to the judgment of conscience because God could not place any human being in a situation of "damned if you do and damned if you don't."

If you think all priests just write such people off with a simple reference to the law as promulgated in the Papal Encyclical, you are very mistaken. If I seem to be hedging, I am. Frankly, I don't know the answer. Humbly, unselfishly, in the light of faith and the depth of your love, you must find your own.



Indian Day

The North American Indian Club will provide the food and entertainment at St. Charles Borromeo school hall Saturday, Dec. 5, 1-5 p.m. Photographs taken during Indian Day preparations, show, above, (l-r) Merle Henry, Krissi Kirsch and Nancy Henry, with Keven and Eric Kirsch standing behind them; below, Mrs. Marge Henry and Mrs. Jane LeClair. Nine organizations of the Greece parish are cooperating in the project sponsored by their human development committee.



The Year of Renewal

'Aware Affair Scheduled'

St. Margaret Mary Parish Council's Community Relations Committee will conduct an "Aware Affair" to acquaint the community with the "people programs" of several civic and religious organizations in the area.

The event will be held at the parish's school cafeteria Saturday, Dec. 2, 6-7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

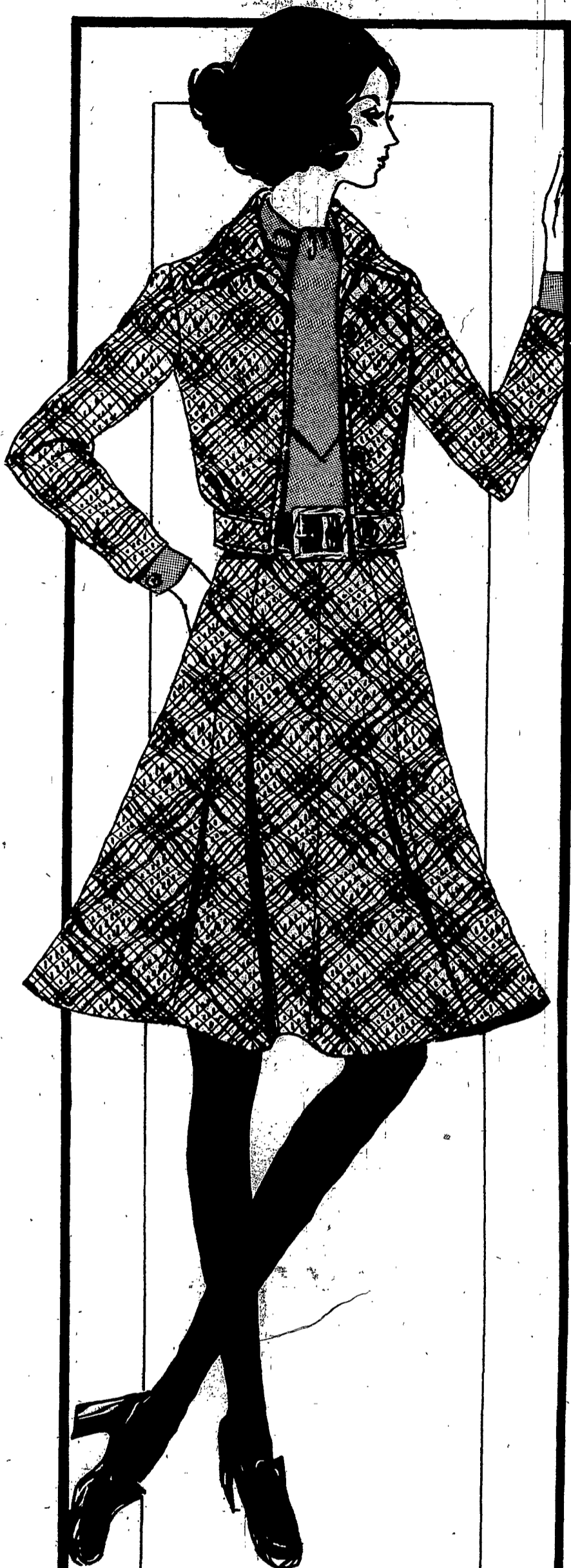
Parish Plans 1-Day Census

A "blitz" parish census for St. Stanislaus Church will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17, under the direction of Father Ernest Kurtz and John Stencilik.

Father Kurtz is associate pastor of St. Stanislaus Church and Courier-Journal

Committee chairmen, Marie E. Fuerst and James Harvey cited the Year of Renewal as a "good opportunity" for learning about the agencies which deal with personal services. These include the American Red Cross, Catholic Family Center, Catholic School Aides, Friends in Service Here (FISH), Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM), Office of Human Development, Right to Life, St. Ann's Home and Birthright.

Stencilik is chairman of the Parish Council. Members of the council, acting as a telephone committee, are soliciting the aid of members of the parish in making the survey which will take place between 2 P.M. and 4 P.M. on Dec. 17.



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