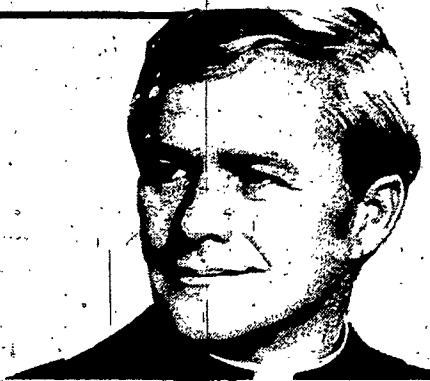


FR. LOUIS HOHMAN

The Open Window



Q. Please comment on this subject: Before Vatican II we were clearly taught that to miss Mass on Sunday without a sufficient excuse was, for a Catholic, a mortal sin, and one who did would go right to hell if he died without repentance. In the light of this it can be extremely shocking to hear, especially from priests, that we don't have the right to accuse a person of mortal sin because he habitually misses Sunday Mass.

I'm asking this because I recently watched someone being very much horrified by this modification.

A. It appears that your question is really two questions. One has to do with the obligation of Sunday Mass. The other has to do with the determination of a particular person's guilt. First, the obligation of Sunday Mass:

- The Church can make laws and determine the seriousness of the obligation for each. (not arbitrarily but reasonably).

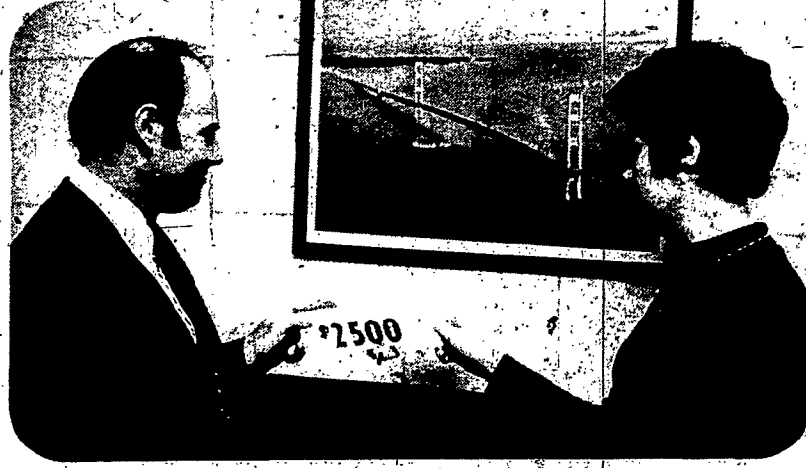
- We are bound to obey serious Church laws and have a serious obligation to do so.

- The obligation to Sunday Mass is one such law. It should be noted that such laws do not oblige under serious inconvenience.

In regard to the second part, even though we observe someone continually missing Mass we may NOT judge his guilt (or innocence). The most we can say is that he is not in fact attending Mass. His internal guilt or innocence depends on many facts and situations which we simply are not able to know. We are strictly forbidden by Jesus Christ to make a judgment, even internally, about the guilt or innocence of a particular person in any matter.

The only matter of concern to each of us is how we ourselves stand in reference to the laws of God and the Church — guilty or innocent before God. How the other guy stands is none of our business.

Our brother is our concern insofar as we may be able to help him grow in God, become a better person. We may be concerned about the danger of his damnation just as we are for ourselves, but we must not draw the conclusion that he is on the way to hell.



U. S. Steel Helps Hospital

A belated Christmas gift, in the form of a \$2,500 contribution was given to St. Joseph's Hospital Elmira by the United States Steel Foundation. The contribution will go toward rebuilding expenses not covered by funding from government sources. It was presented to Sister Martha Gersbach, associate administrator of St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center by Richard H. Smith, manager of the Elmira Heights plant of the American Bridge division of United States Steel.

Parish Council Workshop Scheduled Next Month

Horseheads — A parish council workshop will be held Feb. 4 from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. Mary Our Mother Church here. The workshop session is open to all persons interested in parish councils and their committees.

In addition to discussing the roles of parish councils with re-

gard to liturgy, education and social concerns a general subject will be the Year of Renewal.

The program is sponsored by the Religious Education Service of the Chemung-Schuyler Region under the direction of Sister Jean Redman, and staffed by members of the diocesan Pastoral Center.

Horseheads Slates Communion Breakfast

Horseheads — The annual Communion Breakfast for women of St. Mary Our Mother Church here will be held Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. Mass.

Sponsored by the parish's Altar and Rosary Society, the breakfast's guest speaker will be Sister

Karen who will discuss the operation of St. Joseph's Hospital during and after the June 23 flood which severely damaged the institution.

Reservations should be made by calling either 739-9058 or 739-2432.

Faithful to her gifts

A Nun Explains Her Life Style

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

"Each individual is unique and creative and should be faithful to gifts, abilities and calling," is the way one very active Sister of Mercy explains her life style.

By profession, Sister Mary Sullivan is a teacher, but her time outside a Rochester Institute of Technology classroom is not devoted to correcting papers.

She is vice chairman of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries' Judicial Process Commission and chairman of its corrections committee. In addition, she teaches a high school equivalency English course to about 25 Monroe County jail inmates ranging in age from 16 to 40, one morning a week.

Her past is filled with preparation for her present teaching and social involvement.

From 1963-67 she taught at Catherine McAuley College here and was its president when it closed in 1968. Then she joined the English department at Marymount College, Tarrytown.

She spent summers teaching in Malcolm-King, Harlem Community College, and tutoring at a rehabilitative center for women drug addicts with prison convictions at the Village Haven, New York City.

In 1969 she joined the College of General Studies at RIT. She teaches two language and thought courses and another

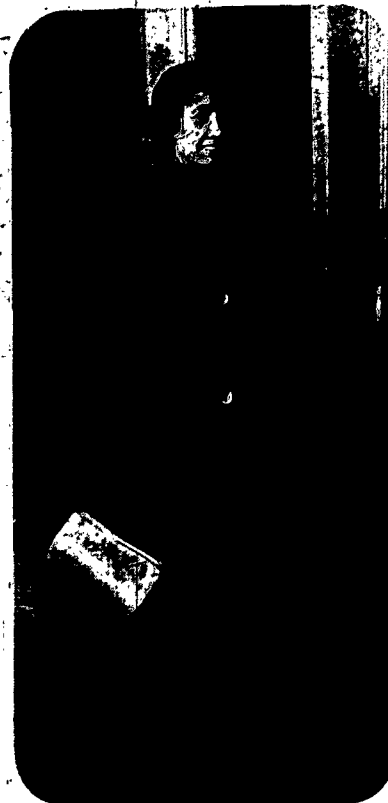
N. Y. DINOSAURS FOUND

The discovery of the first dinosaur remains to be found within the Empire State was, recently announced by State Paleontologist Donald W. Fisher, of the Geological Survey, New York State Museum and Science Service. The discovery site is near Nyack above the cliff of Palisades Diabase in the Brunswick Formation, a late Tertiary flood plain deposit of sands, silts, and clays formed about 200 million years ago. Three types of prints are evident — two reptilian and one probable amphibian. The dinosaurian three-toed footprints are tentatively assigned to the genera Archisauripus and Grallator. Both were small, meat-eating dinosaurs which ran on their hind legs with their long, slender tails used for balancing. They are among the earliest of a bizarre group of reptiles which dominated the Earth for about 130 million years, Fisher said.

DEADLINE

The Courier-Journal welcomes news of your club or organization. A deadline of Thursday noon preceding publication must be observed.

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priests, she sees no reason can't be priests, but it's no big deal to her. "I believe in the priesthood of all people," says Sister Mary.

To this active woman, who is strongly devoted to the Church and Christ's teachings, criticism of the Church is important.

"We must constantly love and criticize the Church. Not to criticize it is to demean it, as if the Church were a child," she explained.

She seemed troubled about the significant percentage of college students she meets that feel alienated from institutionalized forms of religion.

Her students think of themselves as religious people in a very deep sense, she said, but "they need to recover from stereotypes about communal worship."

Their stereotypes are not made out of thin air," she observed.

Sister Mary doesn't see youth's alienation from organized religion as unique. She feels there is a "fundamental religion crisis in the United States, and she cited its beginning with the emergence of modern science.

"Modern science and religion do not understand one another's goals very well," she said, therefore they don't co-exist without the former negating the latter in the rational 20th Century mind.

called Literature and Man's Religious Experience, which she will also teach at St. Bernard's Seminary in the Spring.

To this sister there is no stereotype of nuns. There are as many ways to live life as a nun as there are individuals, she maintains. "Sisters today have to create a life they feel is the mission of Jesus in the Church."

As for women being ordained.

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