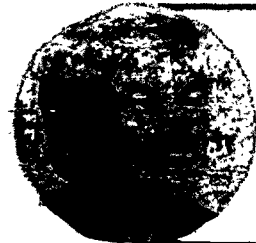
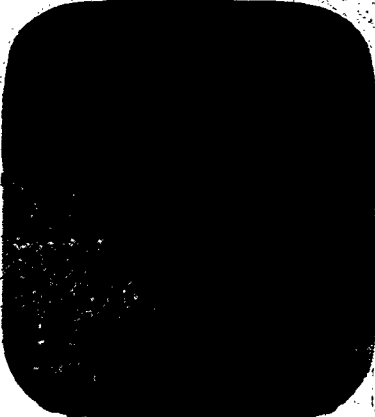


### Science Fair

Ted Kuppinger, above, displayed a rocketry exhibit at the recent Science Fair held at St. Thomas the Apostle School. Mrs. Joann May and Miss Ann Murphy, right, coordinated the school-wide program.



### THE OPEN WINDOW Fr. Louis Hohman

Q. I am 16 years old, in a dispute with my theology teacher. He argues that suicide is wrong, and that is the Church's position. The Church also opposes drunkenness since it leads to diseases from which you can die. It also opposes drugs for this reason. I was taught you should have respect for your body and not mistreat it.

Shouldn't the Church also oppose smoking since it has been proven that this causes or hastens death? What is the difference between taking an overdose of sleeping pills and smoking two packs a day for 10 years? Aren't taking drugs, drinking and smoking really suicide in slow motion? Please give me a real answer and not a cop-out?

A. Your theology is remarkable and refreshing. What you say is correct in every instance as long as you see there is quite a difference between direct and immediate suicide and suicide in slow motion, as you so aptly call it. The fact is, both are suicide and I don't really know why the Church has not come out against smoking. Of course as a heavy smoker or 30 years who quit entirely only recently I am perhaps in a precarious position to defend your thesis.

STICK TO YOUR GUNS, but be careful to see the difference between killing yourself NOW and hastening your death. It is

obvious that it is not as serious a wrong to shorten life by 10 years as it is to shorten your life by 50 years. But I think they both really are serious.

Also I must modify your position on drunkenness. The Church is opposed to drunkenness primarily because it "turns off" one's humanness, at least for a time, making it impossible to act as an intelligent free person. But it does disapprove drinking insofar as it shortens life and harms health.

It is important to remember that drink taken in moderation does no appreciable harm to health. When taken consistently in overdose it wreaks havoc on body and mind and is seriously wrong. The same thing could be said about excessive eating which almost always leads to heart disease.

One point I must make in conclusion. Don't too easily judge people who are hung up on smoking. I know from experience that it is terribly difficult to quit and make the proper physical and psychological adjustments. I never know from day to day when I might succumb and get hooked again. The best advice I could give to the young is don't start. It is a dirty habit, it annoys many people, it diminishes self-respect because the hooked smoker is not free, and as you said, it is suicide in slow motion. Thank you for your letter. I'm with you.

### Bishop Hickey To Attend Scout Dinner

The annual Bishop's Report Dinner of the Catholic Committee on Scouting will be held in Kearney Hall at St. John Fisher College on Sunday, April 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Scouters, with their wives and friends, from all the councils of the diocese will attend.

The host council this year is from Finger Lakes and an especially large turnout from that section of the diocese is anticipated.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the honored guest.

A highlight will be the awarding of the St. George Emblem to lay members of the diocese for their contributions to Scouting. Bronze Pelican awards will be presented to members of the clergy who have demonstrated their interest and concern.

### Bishop to Honor Church Society

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will celebrate Mass at 5:30 p.m., Saturday, May 12, at Saint Stanislaus Church, in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Holy Name of Mary Society.

Past presidents of the organization will take part in the offertory.

The anniversary dinner will be held at 7 p.m. following the Mass, and guest speakers at this event will be Bishop Hickey and Mayor Stephen May.

Toastmaster will be Mrs. Thaddeus Czyzewski. Chairman of the affair is Mrs. Eugene Mrzywka and honorary chairman, is Mrs. Raymond Budnik, president of the Holy Name of Mary Society.

### Business In The Diocese

Robert J. DuPlessis, CPA, professor and chairman of the Division of Business Administration at St. John Fisher College, will be honored at the annual banquet of the Fisher accounting club, on Tuesday, April 17, at the 111 East Avenue Hotel.

Father Russell A. Pendergast, CSB, former accounting professor at Fisher from 1951-63, and presently a professor at the University of Alberta, Canada, will be the featured speaker at the banquet.

DuPlessis resides at 11 Brook Hill Lane, Pehfield, New York.

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