



### Plane Geome-Tree!

A plane tree gets the final shovel of dirt from St. Ann's residents Ambrose Armstrong, left, and John Rogan, who are assisted in their efforts by Sister Marie Michelle, head of the Home. The tree planting took place on the grounds of St. Ann's Home Wednesday, May 23 in observation of Senior Citizen's month. In the background can be seen the Heritage, a new senior citizens' residence scheduled to open in June. The London plane tree, noted for its resistance to the effects of pollution, is being widely planted to replace elms.



### ALL IN THE FAMILY Sarah Child

Judy called me shortly after the column I wrote on psychotherapy was printed.

"Am I," she wanted to know, "one of those 20 friends you mentioned that should see a psychiatrist but won't?"

"I countered quickly: 'Let's say you're one of the several thousand acquaintances that could benefit from a session or two.'"

"I wasn't kidding. It's not that I think Judy is out of step with the world. It is just that I've come to believe that the vast majority of our population could benefit from some psychiatric counseling."

"So, too, did the internist who 12 years ago recommended I see a psychiatrist to ease some of my anxieties."

"Some day" the internist predicted, "psychiatric checkups will be so common that everybody will go once a year just as we do not or are supposed to for physical check-ups."

Frankly, that day can't come fast enough. Twelve years later the situation is not much better than it was then. The stigma attached to getting psychiatric help is still overwhelming. The myths and confusions attached to psychiatry still abound. The cost is even more exorbitant than it was then, although major medical

insurance plans frequently cover treatment.

Perhaps the biggest detriment to people getting mental help is that in this area of medicine very little can be accomplished without strong rapport between doctor and patient.

It may be possible for a doctor to cure a case of gout even if the patient doesn't believe the doctor can or doesn't like the doctor's personality, or doesn't want to get well.

But in psychiatry if the doctor does not have the patient's trust, the patient's belief in his ability to help him or the patient's desire to get better, nothing good can come of it.

The problem of a patient and doctor not hitting it off occurs often enough to discourage too many of those who had a hard struggle bringing themselves to seek help in the first place.

Thinking that it is psychiatry itself that has failed they abandon the effort.

From my own experience, and those of friends, I would say it is imperative to settle on a psychiatrist at least as carefully as one chooses a hairdresser or barber. Two or three visits to a psychiatrist should provide you with enough gut feelings to make an intelligent evaluation. If the vibrations aren't good, look for another psychiatrist.

### Pope Assails Milan Bombing

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul has expressed his "great sorrow" at the "senseless" hand grenade bombing in Milan on May 17 which killed a young woman and injured 47 other persons.

A man identified by police as Gianfranco Bertoli, 40, hurled a hand grenade into a crowd outside police headquarters following a ceremony commemorating a slain law enforcement officer. Police said the suspect, who was arrested, was an anarchist with a long criminal record.

In a telegram sent on his behalf by Cardinal Jean Villot, Vatican Secretary of State, to Cardinal Giovanni Colombo of Milan, the Pope voiced "great sorrow at this new act of criminal violence, unjustifiably striking innocent, hardworking citizens."

The pontiff said he strongly condemned "this senseless and wicked gesture which offends all human and Christian dignity."

In his customary Sunday noon appearance at the window of his private apartment overlooking St. Peter's Square, Pope Paul indicated his preoccupation with the surge of violence in Italy and elsewhere.

Speaking to the crowds gathered below in the Square, he said, "We are all breathing in an atmosphere in which violent, cruel, and bloody events — though isolated and sporadic — pose bitter threats to peaceful coexistence among peoples."

## Juvenile Offenders Justice Forum Topic

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A one-to-one relationship with an adult is the proven most effective way to help young people in trouble, a youth counsellor said at last week's Forum on Justice.

The Forum is sponsored by the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries' Judicial Process Commission.

Peter Militello, a counsellor with the Rochester Monroe County Youth Board, a counselling, referral and coordinating agency for juvenile offenders, feels Rochester has enough programs aimed to help young people in trouble.

What is needed, he says, is an evaluation of staff and programs of existing agencies and a reordering of priorities.

Militello's top priorities include intervening with a juvenile the first or second time his name crops up in the police department's contact sheets, before he has done anything that gets him into the criminal justice system, and a close, constant, one-to-one

relationship between the youth counsellor and the youth.

"From experience we are intervening at the right time," Militello reported.

The young counsellor said most existing programs, as well as school administrators' handling of problem youths, are outdated. He called them "traditional, started many years ago and not even geared for youthful offenders."

Besides personal contact with troublesome youth, Militello stresses quick contact. "If it takes too long for a social worker to contact the kid, he re-enters the criminal system," he observed.

Joseph Dwyer of the United Community Chest also spoke on the question of the day, "Can we effectively intervene to help young people in trouble?"

Dwyer stressed the importance of an evaluation process being built into any program, something Community Chest programs have lacked in the past, he said.



### THE OPEN WINDOW Fr. Louis Hohman

Q. Barring disaster or war, and assuming sufficiently serious matter to warrant the need for absolution, contrition for all serious sin, resolution not to sin again, and acceptance of penance given by the priest, may sacramental absolution be validly given for serious sins in a general penance ceremony without individual auricular confession of these sins?

A. I shall simply quote from the Pastoral Norms Concerning the Administration of General Sacramental Absolution (Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, July 1972): "The faithful are carefully to be taught that liturgical celebrations and community rites of penance are of great usefulness for the preparation of a more fruitful confession of sins and amendment of life. Care must however be taken that such celebrations or rites are not confused with sacramental confession and absolution. If in the course of such celebrations the penitents make an individual confession, each is to receive absolution singly from the confessor to whom he goes."

In another paragraph: "Priests are to teach the faithful that those who are aware of being in mortal sin are forbidden to refuse

deliberately or by neglect to satisfy the obligation of individual confession, when it is possible to have a confessor, while they wait for an occasion for collective absolution."

The document does make provision for cases other than danger of death, such as places where the priest can come only at rare intervals during the year because of the remoteness of those places. But I see nothing there which would embrace such a case as you suggest.

It would be interesting to find out just how the pastor reasons to his modus operandi in view of the foregoing statements. We used to kid about the fact that before big holidays we wished we could come out of the confessional and tell everybody who had no mortal sins to make an act of contrition and go home. But even they can obtain real and important benefits from individual sacramental confession.

### CAPUCHINS ELECT

Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM Cap., of the Capuchin Friary in Geneva, is one of four councillors elected recently to assist in the administration of the order's New Jersey Province. Father Jude Duffy, the provincial superior, was re-elected.

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