



THE OPEN WINDOW Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father,

I'm only a 12th grade graduate as you can undoubtedly tell from this letter. I really love my religion and I wonder how many young people today will end up feeling that way. God has been very good to me and blessed me with a lovely family and I feel a great responsibility for their souls as well as my own. I also feel the Church is responsible for each of our souls as individuals, not as a package, and I think this comes ahead of social injustices and ecology. I'm sure God is very happy that we are concerned with these things, as well we should be, but even in Christ's day there were the poor and the persecuted but he always seemed

to put the emphasis on the spiritual.

I want my children to be aware of all the suffering in the world and if it is within their capabilities to alleviate any of it as Christians, I would expect them to do so. However, rather than giving our youth the humanly impossible task of trying to love the whole world, and this is impossible as evidenced by the discord in families, neighborhoods and even our rectories and convents, I would suggest that they try to be good God-fearing moral people who would try to love and care for their own families and neighbors. In this way we might possibly end up with harmony in our nation and everlasting peace in the world.

Surely if we clean up the moral decay in our country, which is within our capability, God may be pleased enough to take care of our environmental problems which certainly are more in his realm.

Dear Friend,

I agree with just about everything you wrote wholeheartedly, with a few exceptions. You speak of your education in a derogatory manner. Who said that education is equivalent to schooling? And especially in matters of the spirit. Does sanctity depend on whether one has a degree? You know as well as I that innumerable great saints had little schooling.

You are on the right track when you say that changing the world begins with individual people. All the social action in the world will make no difference whatever unless it is rooted in men of good will, loving persons.

Without doubt your first obligation as a parent is to bring your children up as Christ-like and therefore loving persons. If they are they will try to meet the needs of others wherever they find them to the extent that they are capable of doing something about it. But when you speak of individual spirituality coming ahead of social injustices, you indulge in a contradiction.

Social injustices do not happen to abstract groups of people but to individual flesh and blood people. These injustices demean and destroy human beings in a way far worse than the plight of the man in the parable of the Good Samaritan.

Who is your neighbor? He is the person in need here and now? Your responsibility to him is measured by your capability of doing anything about his plight. So you are not really teaching your children to simply be involved in every problem everywhere. You must teach them not to close their eyes to suffering as the priest and Levite did but to be open to concern and help insofar as they can.

Finally the thing about God taking care of the environmental problem — do you really think he will scoop up discarded beer cans and purify streams polluted with chemicals? Or will he send his Spirit to those willing to receive it and they will clean up the mess because it mars the artistry of God's beautiful world and degrades people?

It is true that some people have neglected their own spiritual growth and have put all the emphasis on social action. Such people have little of personal spiritual resource and no doubt will fail, but I don't believe there are very many such people.

One more thing. You speak as though Pope and bishops (and maybe priests) are the Church. Try to get used to the idea that **You are the Church.**

Pentecostal

Prayer Groups

The following is a list of Masses and prayer meetings held by Catholic Pentecostal groups in the Rochester Area.

Masses are said at St. Lawrence, at 8 p.m. on the First Friday of the month; St. Augustine, 7 p.m. on June 17 and 24; St. Charles Borromeo, 7:30 p.m. on the last Thursday of the month.

Weekly prayer meetings are held at St. Peter and Paul at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays and at St. Theodore at 8 p.m. on Mondays.

Prayer groups also hold meetings at the following private homes: Mr. and Mrs. William Buechel, 3681 Lake Ave.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dunning, 159 Chestnut Ridge Road, Chili Center; Mr. and Mrs. John Donnelly, 9 Ellicott St.; Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hauser, 1570 Culver Road; Mr. and Mrs. James Reid, Amity St., Spencerport; and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wollschleger, 350 Winton Road North.

For inclusion in this list call June Borreggine at (716) 458-5365.

Business In The Diocese



Lewis Vallone, a special assistant district attorney, has been selected as one of the panel speakers at a seminar to be held June 25 in Grossingers, N.Y., "The Civil Criminal Side of Welfare Fraud."

Vallone has been an assistant district attorney for seven-and-a-half years, and has conducted several Grand Jury investigations into welfare frauds in Monroe County.

He, his wife and family reside at 28 Lakeview Park, Rochester, and belong to St. Mary's Church.

WED 57 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene H. Wolf of Ridge Road East will celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary June 28.



Scout Renewal

Finger Lakes Council scout chaplain Father John L. Coonan, right, discusses "How do you know Jesus loves you?" at a recent council renewal which drew 38 scouts to the Warren Cutler Reservation in Naples. Besides spiritual activities, the scouts also enjoyed camping, swimming and fishing.



SHE WONDERS WHAT SHE'LL BE -- IF SHE GROWS UP!

So far all she's known is poverty, fear, and oppression... she has yet to learn of drugs, Communism, prostitution, rebellion, and suicide.

Of she can learn of God's love for her, a meaningful life, and that "peace which the world cannot give."

Missionaries DO make a difference, but they need YOUR HELP!

PLEASE

IT

Enclosed is my contribution of \$_____ to help today's missionaries serving the deepest needs of the world's poor. CJ 6/78

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