



THE OPEN WINDOW
Fr. Louis Hohman

Q. My husband and I are in our middle fifties. After two years of sex only twice a year, thought maybe I should invest in a book on sex and marriage. Always have hesitated about buying just any book, want one approved by the Church. Believe there is one written by a doctor and wife team. Have you any suggestions?

Probably should cue you in — we have separate bedrooms. He never complains and seems satisfied with things the way they are. I don't know how good this is.

I wonder if there are many other couples that have problems like this and never had anyone to ask. My doctor just laughed when I started to say we didn't have much sex life. His retort was, "To each his own." Isn't that brilliant?

A. This is obviously a matter of deep concern to you and so something should be done about it. I'm not at all certain that a book is the answer. Of course this business of publishing sex manuals has been very profitable venture. A trend is beginning to develop toward doubting the usefulness of such books. I can

give you the name of a book which deals with all the aspects of marriage with sex as an important but not all important one. It is *Beginning Your Marriage* by Walter J. Imbierski and John Thomas and published by the Cana Conference of Chicago. While in one sense you are not beginning your marriage, obviously you want a new look at your existing one.

May I suggest that there might be some lack of basic communications between you and your husband? You should be able to communicate more fully on this thing which bothers you. Perhaps something more beneficial to your marriage might be something like *Marriage Encounter* in which you learn to obtain the closeness you seemingly lack. For information, call the Family Life Office — 546-3630.

I believe there are many couples with the same or a similar problem but who in many cases don't do anything about it. I am happy to hear that you care enough about the quality of your relationship that you are trying to do something. My best wishes to you.



WORD FOR SUNDAY
Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R1) 2 Kgs. 4:42-44. (R2) Eph. 4:1-6. (R3) Jn. 6:1-15.

I am sure everyone knows what a conundrum is. In a broad sense, it is a riddle. Here is a conundrum: "What is it that everyone has and nobody wants and yet when he loses it, he is sorry?" The purpose of such questions is to make a person think hard; the more one thinks, the more interested he becomes; and the more interested he grows, the more likely he is to understand and remember the answer when it comes. Generally, the one who asks the question knows the answer. But he asks it to sear the answer in another person's mind.

It was a conundrum that Jesus used when He asked Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" They were in a deserted place and so there was absolutely nowhere to buy bread. Moreover, the apostles did not have near enough money — "two hundred days' wages" would not have sufficed to give each a mouthful. Surely, a puzzling question!

Jesus put the question to Philip, because Philip needed teaching. At the beginning of His ministry, we read, "Jesus found Philip, and said to him, 'Follow me!'" Then Philip went away and found Nathaniel, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah." What a switch that was! He tells Nathaniel that he, Philip, had found the Messiah. Actually it was Jesus who had found Philip. But that was the trouble with Philip (and so often with all of us): we see ourselves, in relation to God, as always taking the initiative. The truth is, it is God who always takes the first step toward us.

Typically, in this instance, Philip still thought things must begin from man's side. So when

KINGS TO PLAY MAME

The Kings Players will present "Mame" August 2-5 on the Bishop Kearney High School stage, with Angela Passaretti in the title role. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Tickets, at \$2.50, may be reserved through 342-4000.

Jesus put the bread-question to him, Philip immediately began calculating. He began counting heads. He began estimating costs — "two hundred days' wages" would not be enough. And because he looked only to man's side, Philip was baffled; he saw no answer to the conundrum.

Strange, isn't it? Jesus had said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread?" Jesus used the word "we," not "you." — He wanted Himself included in the solution of the problem. But Philip did not take Jesus into account. He still had not learned that without Jesus he could do nothing; but, with Jesus, there was practically nothing he could not do. As a result the arithmetic of Philip just did not add up: whereas, he was to see that the arithmetic of Jesus left a surplus.

Perhaps probabilities that can be tabulated are not altogether the best foundations upon which to rest our calculations. The audacity of faith that expects great things, though there is nothing visible upon which to build, is wiser and more prudent than the creeping common sense that adheres to facts and figures and forgets the one fact that God is with us!

Only when we are aware that our own resources are inadequate — "what are these among so many?" — will His great power pour into us. We must first be emptied of self before we can be filled with God.

How foolish, too, the wisdom of the wise! Jesus' solution to the food problem was so simple that Philip could not see it. Jesus, an ordinary lad, and what was at hand (five barley loaves and two fish). In the hands of Jesus nobody is unimportant, nor is any offering, however small, too insignificant. The fact of life is that Jesus alone suffices; but, for our sakes, He needs what we can bring to Him. We may not have much to bring, but He needs what we have. Undoubtedly, the world has missed many miracles just because people would not bring to Christ what they have and what they are!

Oh, by the way, the answer to the conundrum in the opening paragraph is — your temper!

RGE consumer news

Jack's place will be cool this summer

So will Jack.



Jack is smart.

He installed 3" of batt-type insulation in the walls and 6" in the ceilings under the attic. His air conditioning bills will be lower than if he had less insulation, or none at all (so will his heating bills, when the time comes). And besides having lower operating costs for his new home, he will help conserve energy. That makes Jack feel good.

He will also feel comfortable, because proper insulation insures even cooling and heating throughout his home.

Actually, it's not the depth of the insulating material that is so important, it's the R-value. R is a number assigned to each insulation product denoting its resistance to heat flow. The higher the R-value, the more resistant a material is to heat flow.

Here's how a properly insulated home adds up.

- Ceilings: R-19
- Outside walls: R-11
- Floors over unheated areas: R-13
- Basement walls: R-11

Now, Jack's brother-in-law, who lives in Chili, is thinking about putting central air conditioning in his ten year old home. He is a little worried, though, because he doesn't have the insulation Jack has. Besides costing him more money to operate the air conditioner, the lack of

proper insulation will also cost him more when he buys the air conditioning unit.

You see, a home insulated less effectively will need a unit with more cooling capacity. Usually a unit with a greater capacity will cost more.

What Jack's brother-in-law in Chili should know is he can re-insulate his home. The savings he would realize from adding more ceiling insulation would pay for the cost of re-insulating in just a few years.

If you are thinking about air conditioning, think about insulation, too. Besides keeping you cool about your air conditioning bill this summer, proper insulation will make you comfortably warm during the heating season.

We don't sell or install insulation, but, if you would like to know more about it, visit our Consumer Information Center, located on the main floor at 89 East Avenue. Or call our Residential Department at 546-2700, extension 2751.

If you properly insulate your home, you help us conserve energy.

And we think that's cool.

Keep it cool. Insulate.

RGE ROCHESTER GAS AND ELECTRIC
89 EAST AVENUE, ROCHESTER, N. Y. 14649 • 546-2700