



THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

(The following letter was sent as a letter to the editor of the Courier-Journal but was turned over to the Open Window.)

Two articles appealed to me in the Sept. 19 issue of the Courier. One was written by Father O'Malley and the other was by Father Greeley. They both discussed the Mass, one from the point of view of the attendance of teenagers and the other from the point of view of those that reacted to an earlier column on poor sermons.

I agreed with both writers. However, I am not a teenager and I have learned to either open or close the ears regarding sermons. I am writing to you mainly because I need to. I need to know how your readers feel about Theology. Why Theology? Because a group of us are meeting twice a month to find alternate methods of learning theology and this brings me to the point, what is theology? To me it is a personal study of God. But what does that mean? One text divided the subject into dogmatic and moral theology. Sounds like words the students at St. Bernard's would understand, but what about us? Would you print this with the hope that some of your readers would comment. I will be looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
Mary E. Statt

Dear Ms. Statt,

I really have no way of knowing how our readers feel about Theology, but I would guess that most of them are interested in more than just the chicken dinners taking place in the diocese. Your felt need is one which is surfacing more and more in today's Church — a healthy sign — but I'm not sure I know the answer to the problem. Personally, I am very impressed

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with a series of books, the titles of which all begin with "What the Modern Catholic Thinks About..." The series deals with a variety of subjects, including Peace and War, Sex, Death, Heaven and Hell, and maybe eight or nine more.

Even so, I think there is a crying need for theology which addresses itself to the layman and the relevancies of our time and place.

The divisions of theology are numerous and each division tries to focus in on a particular aspect of the relationship between God and man, man and God. Dogmatic theology concentrates on the nature of God and on his actions relative to our world. Moral theology deals with the question of man's way to God, the directional signs we have pointing to that way (commandments and precepts) as an expression of his will for us.

Theology can also be scriptural, dealing with the Bible as the word of God; ascetical, dealing with problems of human will, emotions and passions in finding the way to God; and spiritual, dealing with the modes and techniques of the spiritual life.

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Deaths

Sr. Helen Francis

Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Helen Francis DeMarie, SSJ, of the Sisters of St. Joseph was offered in the Motherhouse chapel Oct. 18, 1973. Father Joseph Reinhart was celebrant, with Father Bruce Ammering. Also present were Msgr. William Naughton and Fathers Francis Pegnam and Frederick Walz.

Sister Helen Francis died in St. Joseph's Convent, East Avenue, after a year's illness. She had taught in diocesan schools for forty-two years, her last assignment being in Nazareth Hall on Raines Park.

During the course of her religious life, Sister had been superior and principal at St. Lucy's, Rochester, and St. Alphonsus, Auburn. She had taught in St. Monica's School for a long time, as well as in St. Augustine's, St. Ambrose, and St. Thomas More in Rochester, in Holy Trinity School, Webster, and at St. Mary's, Elmira. She entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1926 from St. Anthony's, Elmira.

Surviving are two brothers in Elmira, Frank and Harvey DeMarie; two sisters in Elmira, Mrs. Mary Cicotti and Miss Helen DeMarie; a sister in Rochester, Mrs. Natalie Contino, and one in Corning, Mrs. Bertha Horan.

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J. Kaiser

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Boniface Church Tuesday, Oct. 23, for Joseph W. Kaiser, Sr., 77, who died Oct. 19.

His son, Father Joseph Kaiser, Jr., pastor of St. Peter's Church, Geneva Ill., was chief celebrant, assisted by Father Francis Taylor, pastor of St. Boniface.

Mr. Kaiser was a lifetime resident of St. Boniface parish.

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and a 50-year member of the choir. He formerly taught at Franklin and East High Schools, and owned an insurance agency.

Survivors of his immediate family are his wife, Margaret Dietter Kaiser, of Parkwood Lane, Rochester; Father Kaiser, two daughters, Mrs. James Dunham of Rocky River, Ohio, and Miss Mary Jane Kaiser of Washington, D.C.; two step-children, Jack Dietter and Miss Janet Dietter, both of Rochester.

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