



## THE OPEN WINDOW Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I was watching the Joyce Brothers Show the other day and her guests included a couple of divorced, remarried people, a priest and a Monsignor. The couple explained that they felt no guilt in receiving the Sacraments. Neither the priest nor the Monsignor expressed disagreement with them, but kept silent in condonation. I was very dismayed with this, and I think many others were too. My son married a divorced woman, and he doesn't receive the Sacraments. Father, just what constitutes a sacrilege, and were these priests right in assenting to the couple's actions?

Sincerely,  
K. M.

Dear K. M.,

Was the name of the Monsignor Stephen J. Kelleher? The reason I ask is that he just wrote a book, Divorce and Remarriage for Catholics, and was removed from his job as chief judge of the marriage tribunal of the Archdiocese of New York to be placed in another.

The point of all this is that there has been a great deal of investigation lately about the possibility of some Catholic marriages (many more than in the past) being declared not true and permanent commitments because of emotional or other incapacity of one or more of the parties to make such a commitment. Almost all of these theories insist that the injunction of our Lord, "What God has joined together, let no man tear apart" is still in force, but that in many cases one or both of the parties are simply incapable of making such a contract (what God has joined).

You perhaps remember that last year there was a move on the

part of some dioceses to seek readmission to the Sacraments for people who had divorced and remarried, on the basis of their "good faith" and the probability that their first marriages were indeed invalid in the eyes of God. This movement was terminated by a directive of the Holy See which declared that no such programs should be set up. That ended that.

Still there are many among the clergy who sincerely believe that many of the people involved in these situations should be welcomed back to the Sacraments for the reasons cited. Some say so publicly, some privately. As I said, officialdom frowns on this, at least until the matter has been studied more thoroughly. So we may be (and I emphasize may be) in a state of transition which eventually might see certain people in these situations admitted to the Sacraments.

Some will say it is simply scandalous to even investigate this because the Church could never change its stand on divorce. Maybe so, but there are legitimate and important questions at hand. Was Jesus in fact referring to an ideal, or a kind of marriage in which the maturity, balance and freedom from psychological problems made such a permanent commitment possible? Since marriage is a contract, shouldn't we give a lot more attention to the contracting parties and their relative capabilities?

These things must be left to the experts who are working hard to solve the problem. In the meantime, in all honesty, I guess if such a couple told me they felt no guilt in receiving the Sacraments, I might point out what Rome has had to say on that but I'm certain I wouldn't tell them they were guilty. I wouldn't know, would you?



## ALL IN THE FAMILY Sarah Child

The last time the film "The Sound of Music" was in town our oldest was six months old.

When it returned this summer I could hardly wait to get our three children to the theater where it was playing.

My supposition: I had loved it. They would love it. Right? Wrong!

In the first disappointing turn of events the six-year-old refused to go at all. The three-year-old and the eight-year-old did go but came away with all kinds of reservations. It was too long, the intermission was a pain, there was too much talking, etc., etc., etc.

I should have known better. I have been this route before.

The things I liked and still like and the things my children like are quite distinctly different things.

Ever since our third grader began to read I have tried to get her interested in a story I had loved as a child. Kate Seredy's book, "The Good Master," about a willful little Hungarian girl named Kate, had been one of my very favorites.

First I presented it in con-

### RUMMAGE SALE

Bath — St. Mary's Home-School Association will sponsor a rummage sale Nov. 30 and Dec. 1.

densed version in a treasury of children's classics I found among our books. That didn't work, but I thought the pictures would help, so we made a trip to the library to get the original version, replete with colorful illustrations. Still no dice.

Ditto for Kipling's "The Jungle Book" whose Mowgli, the boy raised by wolves, I had dearly enjoyed.

Ditto for "Treasure Island," "Tom Sawyer," "Little Women" and a host of others I still enjoy reading.

Our children, I am given to understand, have their own favorites and prefer to stick with them.

At least part of the problem I have realized is that I have tried to rush them so they could share some of the pleasures I found.

Another part of the problem — too much steering on my part. Let a child discover something himself and it is his discovery, its value to him, that makes it much more intense.

Perhaps most significant of all is the realization that the world has expanded greatly since I was a child. There are times even now when I suspect our kids are more sophisticated and cosmopolitan than I shall ever be.

Sometimes a headstart, even one of 30 years, doesn't mean much.

## Keeping Tabs

A Christmas bazaar, topped by a spaghetti dinner, will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, in the St. Lawrence parish hall, 1000 N. Greece Rd. Hours are 10 to 7:30 p.m. Mrs. Peter Grant is bazaar chairman for the Rosary Society.

The Southwest Golden Age Group will get together Friday, Nov. 30, at 34 Monica St. for a social afternoon beginning at 1:30. Newcomers are invited.

Church Women United will hold a reception for Alberta Holden Sunday, Dec. 2, 3-5 p.m., at the home of Mrs. Harper Sibley, 400 East Ave. Mrs. Holden is retiring from the post of executive director. CWU representatives are invited to bring other members of their churches.

The "first annual Unique Boutique" announced by St. Margaret Mary parish will offer the work of local artists, the wares of local shops and gifts and decorations made by people of the parish. The sale will take place Sunday, Dec. 2, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Julie Desiderio is chairman.

The annual Christmas party of the St. James Rosary Society will be held Monday, Dec. 3, at 8:15 p.m. A White Elephant sale will be held in lieu of a 50 cent donation per person to charity. Singing will be lead by Mrs. Lorretta Perrotta.

The women of the Arch-confraternity of the Holy Family of St. Joseph Church will attend Mass at 9 o'clock Sunday, Dec. 2. The annual Christmas party will take place after Mass.

The Bishop Kearney Parents Association will hold a tureen supper Thursday, Dec. 6, in the

school auditorium. All parents of BK students are invited to bring a dish to pass. There will be a charge of \$1 to cover the cost of the ham and turkey to be served.

Members of the 80th Seton Branch will hold their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. William Taylor on Wednesday Nov. 28, at 8:30 p.m. Newly designated officers are Mrs. William Ciluffo, president; Mrs. Raymond Mura, secretary; Mrs. James Kraft, treasurer; Mrs. Frank Beecher, projects chairman and Mrs. John Eber, publicity.

Instead of having a gift grab-bag at their Christmas party, St.

Philip Neri women will contribute one dollar each toward gifts for Craig School residents. Reservations for the Womens Club party Dec. 12 should be made by Dec. 3 with Mary Montana, 482-0080, or Angie Santirocco, 671-7195. The club will give a children's party Dec. 15, from noon until 2 p.m. Carol Scofero, 288-4142, is taking reservations for this one through-Dec. 8.

The annual Christmas concert and tea given by Church Women United will be held at 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 7, in Westminster Presbyterian Church, Wellington Avenue at Arnett. Nursery care will be provided.

(Save for future reference)

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