



OUR PARISH COUNCIL  
Bernard Lyons

Despite all the talk these days about shortages of one kind or another, there is really no shortage of resources available to parish council members looking for new ways to educate, stimulate and motivate other council members, committee leaders, and parishioners.

Here are just a few of the many items that are available at little or no charge. When you write for any of these items, it is always well to type or print your name and address, and include a first-class stamp.

Want to stimulate your parish on issues of peace and justice? You can get a list of audio-visual resources that are free or inexpensive on ecology, minorities, the elderly and peace for \$1 from The Merton Center, 1213 E. Carson St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15203.

You can get a free booklet on "How To Organize A Parish Council" from Voice Publications, P.O. Box 3455, Chicago, Ill. 60654.

If you are looking for microphones, audio consoles, professional tape recorders, and other audio needs, you can get some real bargains in used equipment by writing for a price list from Audio Distributors, Inc. 2342 S. Division Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich. 49507.

Mission Crafts is an excellent non-profit program to help craftsmen help themselves by marketing the crafts of disadvantaged persons in the U.S. and overseas. You can get a copy of their catalog by writing to Mission Crafts, Box 565, Hughsonville, New York.

The September/October issue of New Catholic World contains a number of articles of value to

council leaders, including "Planning to Create Change," "Getting to Know Your Parish" and "Evaluating Your Parish." A single copy of the magazine is 75 cents, or a year's subscription is \$4.50, from New Catholic World, 400 Sette Dr., Paramus, N.J. 07652.

Your Family Life Committee will be interested in a newsletter on marriage, "Successful Marriage," published 10 times a year by Donald J. Thorman. For a free, sample copy, write Successful Marriage, Box 1042, Kansas City, Mo. 64141.

A new newsletter on parish councils is simply called "Council." It's edited by this columnist, and is \$4.77 for 10 issues each year. A free, sample copy may be had by writing to Council Newsletter, P.O. Box 3455, Chicago, Ill. 60654.

You can get a lot of creative ideas in religious education, liturgy, audio-visuals, youth work, etc. for \$2 in "Probe Forum." Send your payment to Dept. of Communications, Christian Associates, 401 Wood St., 1800 Arrott Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.

The Archdiocesan Communications Center of San Francisco offers free consultation on your media needs and can supply radio/TV spots, 16 mm. documentaries, brochures, newsletters, ads and other needs for public service communications. Write for further details to Archdiocesan Communications Center, 50 Oak St., San Francisco Calif. 94102.

A resource materials brochure on "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — 1974" is free from Week of Prayer, Graymoor, Garrison, N.Y. 10524.



All Smiles

Photo by Susan McKinney

Mary Waver, a student at Holy Childhood School, shows Bishop Joseph Hogan the present she received at the school's recent Christmas party.

A 'Painless' Sunday School?

New York [RNS] — A new television series for children called "Marshall Efron's Illustrated, Simplified and Painless Sunday School" has been introduced by CBS News.

Launched on the first Sunday of December, the first five 30-minute segments will be shown weekly through Jan. 13. The other two parts will be shown in the Spring.

(The Rochester CBS affiliate, WHCC-TV Channel 10, began running the show Sunday, Dec. 9.)

Written by Efron, and Alfa-Betty Olsen, the series features the telling of Bible stories and various "field trips" designed to underscore spiritual and moral values in the modern world.

The first installment dealt with Creation. Efron reacted the account of Creation in Genesis I through the use of simple props: a blue sheet for the sky, cookie cutter for stars, Japanese lanterns for the sun and moon and stuffed animals.

To demonstrate the creativity of human beings, the actor takes the viewer on a field trip to the laboratory of Thomas A. Edison and other sites associated with the famed inventor.

"Remember while God created the world, He left a lot of the work for people to finish," Mr. Efron said.

In the second installment, the stories of Jonah and the whale and Jesus' temptation in the desert are told. Mr. Efron's field trip is to the Statue of Liberty where he talks about the many groups and religions that make up America.

The final scene in the second program is devoted to the story of Abraham finding a place to bury his wife Sarah. One reason for this story is that Abraham bought the burial site, according to Genesis, from Ephron, the Hittite, son of Zohar.

"The series is a means of teaching values and transmitting basic religious information to kids in a way that is entertaining, informative, sometimes comical and, we hope, occasionally inspiring," said Bill Leonard, CBS News senior vice-president for public affairs.

Ted Holms, producer of the series, added, "What we hope to convey above all is that the goodness of the world can be salvaged because it has been salvaged before."

Efron is a versatile actor who was featured in the widely-hailed movie "Bang the Drum Slowly" and appeared in the former-NET program "The Great American Dream Machine."



THE OPEN WINDOW  
Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

"The concept of Purgatory is not indicated in the New Testament of the Bible" [Courier-Journal, Dec. 5].

I quote your words because I so heartily disagree with them. From my own reading of the writings of the great mystics like St. Theresa of Avila, St. John of the Cross, St. Paul et al., I can only judge that they went through a long-suffering purgation on earth.

I also believe that the tremendous Sermon on the Mount is a treatise on Purgatory. None of us can live by that ideal — only the Christ within us can. And in order that He may do so, through His gift to us of free will, we give ourselves to Him to be mortified and cleansed, thereby gaining Heaven on earth.

I prefer to trust the dogma of those who have been inspired to write of their experiences rather than dogmatic statements by some of our present-day confused priests who seem unable to take a stand on cherished truth.

E.C.

Dear E.C.,

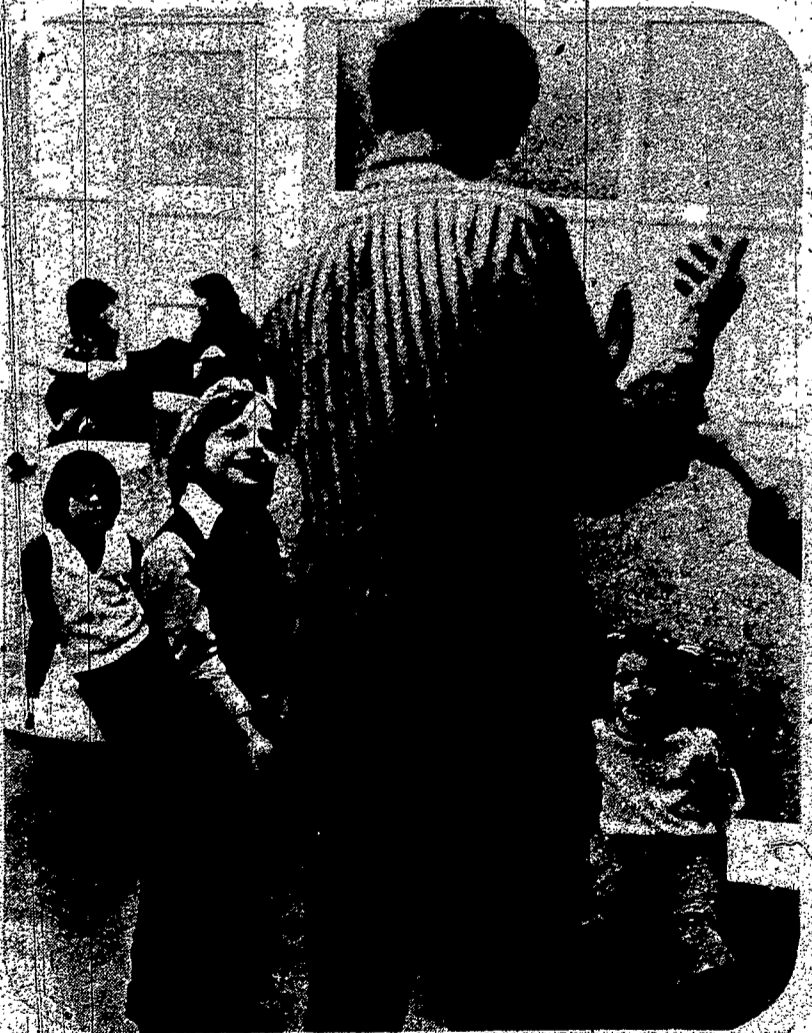
Your letter causes me some

distress, not because you disagree with me (actually there is very little disagreement), but rather because you and many other people apparently think that priests like myself are bound and determined to undermine every "cherished truth" under the sun.

The concept of Purgatory (as a state of purgation or process of purgation after death) is not found in the New Testament. I challenge you to find it. Incidentally, the New Testament is made up of the four Gospels, Acts of Apostles, Epistles of Paul, James, Jude, John and Peter, and the Book of Revelation.

The saints you mentioned did go through a process of purgation on earth and the Sermon on the Mount does declare that Christians must die to sin and to selfishness (mortification). But that is not the same as purgation after death. It almost seems that you want to pick a fight with liberal priests, not with what they say.

Please re-read the article of Dec. 5 and you will discover that no "cherished truth" is even touched. If present day theologians try to clarify interpretations and explanations of the past, we should be grateful rather than belligerent.



Helping Pinocchio

Brian Jakubowski, 6, and his younger sister, Stacey, 4, of 211 Morton St., encourage Pinocchio, played by Bruce Jordan of GeVa, to take a few steps during rehearsals for GeVa's "Pinocchio Party" for children. Looking on at left is Kate Selden, 10, of Avon. Brian is a first-grader at St. Philip Neri School on Clifford Avenue. The Pinocchio Party is a special children's holiday entertainment designed to let the youngsters join in the fun, helping teach Pinocchio how to walk, do his lessons, dress himself and become a real little boy.

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