

THE OPEN WINDOW

Dear Father Hohman,

Why do you think God put laws on this world? For people to disobey them? Why do you think the younger generation is rebelling? It's because people like you, who are "pretend priests," want to make God's laws easy on everybody. This is no answer. Jesus said that masturbation is a sin, and that you go to Hell. Why don't you just leave the laws alone? Isn't that what they mean about the rocky road to heaven?

Sincerely,
F.S.

Dear F. S.,

Jesus did not mention masturbation. Nor did he say anything about it being a sin which sends you to hell. The sinfulness of masturbation was a deduction of reason (the natural law) on the basis of it being separated from what was regarded as the indispensable purpose of sex — procreation of children. But that was not the point I was covering. Just about every theologian and student of human nature realizes that millions of people went through the torments of hell with guilt feelings about masturbation which were entirely unreal because the persons involved simply couldn't help themselves.

It is entirely within the province of theologians to study the phenomenon of masturbation to discover its real meaning and its moral value. If they come up with conclusions different from a hundred years ago, so what? They have a lot more to work with now than theologians of even 50 years ago.

Bishop Spears, Father Moore To Distribute Ashes Together

An extensive variety of ecumenical Lenten services will get under way in downtown Rochester at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St., Ash Wednesday, Feb. 27, at 12:05 noon.

Bishop Robert R. Spears of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester will be speaker at a penitential service conducted by Rev. Bruce Hanson, rector. Father Raymond F. Moore of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester will then

People before Galileo were convinced that the sun rotated around the earth. They were not in a position to know the real truth. To you and to many others I say — please don't be upset when new discoveries give us a better insight into the real nature of things. God intended that man should grow not only individually but collectively.

Dear Father Hohman,

A priest recently said something very rude to me which I won't bore you with; and this surprised me very much and made me quite angry, as it was the first time I ever heard a representative of Christ say anything like that. This has bothered me very much. I would appreciate your comments.

Dear friend,

Rather than bore you with the cliché, "priests are human," I will say this — you and all Christians are representatives of Christ because you were incorporated into Him by Baptism. A priest has a special obligation — noblesse oblige — but he carries the same burden of human nature as the rest of men.

Anyway, I'd bet that soon after he said what he said he was biting his tongue and wishing he hadn't. And it was most likely included in his examination of conscience and his expression of sorrow before God. The only things lacking are: 1. his apology; 2. your forgiveness.



Photos by Susan McKinney

St. Salome's Plans Council

About 140 parishioners, above, attended a meeting at St. Salome's Feb. 18 geared toward establishing a parish council. Father Conrad Sundholm, left, recently appointed pastor, emphasizes a point while Father Eugene Weis observes.



Vatican, Poles Hold Talks

Warsaw [RNS] — The top-level talks between the Vatican and Polish government officials here were held in an "open and cordial atmosphere," with both parties expressing "keen interest" in more talks aimed at "normalization" of church-state relations.

This was stated in a joint communique issued here Feb. 7, following a series of meetings between the Vatican delegation, headed by Archbishop Agostino Casaroli, secretary of the Council for Public Affairs of the Church,

and top representatives of the Communist government.

These representatives included Foreign Minister Stefan Olszowski (who met with Pope Paul at the Vatican last November), Henryk Jablonski, chairman of the Council of State, and Piotr Jaroszewicz, chairman of the Council of Ministers (premier).

After stating that the talks took place "in an open and cordial atmosphere and in the spirit of the visit paid to Pope Paul by Minister Olszowski," the communique said:

"Both parties have expressed their keen interest in consolidation of the process of detente... looking forward to its becoming truly universal."

Noting that the talks had touched on questions of "security and cooperation" in Europe, the communique said both sides had exchanged expressions of mutual appreciation:

"The Polish side expressed its regard for the efforts of the Holy See marked by goodwill and tending towards the strengthening of peaceful co-existence between peoples and justice in international relations.

"The Holy See's delegation expressed its appreciation of the constructive support given by the Peoples Republic of Poland to the normalization of relations in Europe and in favor of world peace."

The communique said that the "main problems" concerning the "religious situation" in Poland and the "normalization of relations" between church and state were "the object of particularly thorough discussions."

It added that the Polish government had "reaffirmed" its willingness to continue talks with the Vatican, "as well as with" leaders of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland.

For its part, "the Holy See expressed its interest in the continuation of the dialogue with the government of the Peoples Republic of Poland in the conviction of the usefulness of reciprocal contacts between church and state."

The communique closed with the assertion that both sides had agreed to continue talks in Rome "on a date to be arranged."

1973 HOLY CHILDHOOD SEAL REPORT

ROCHESTER	AMOUNT	ELMIRA	AMOUNT
Cathedral	\$ 412.40	O.L. Lourdes	290.41
Annunciation	100.00	St. Casimir	75.00
Blessed Sacrament	294.00	St. Patrick J. High	170.00
Christ the King	341.00	Ss. Peter & Paul	236.27
Holy Apostles	149.00		
Holy Cross	552.00	FAIRPORT	
Holy Family	480.00	St. John	106.50
Holy Ghost	284.00		
Holy Redeemer	204.47	GENEVA	
Holy Rosary	615.52	St. Francis	119.00
Most Precious Blood	345.00		
Nazareth Hall	352.00	HORNELL	
O.L. Good Counsel	600.76	St. Ann	450.00
O.L. Perpetual Help	182.00	HORSEHEADS	389.00
O. Mother of Sorrows	655.00	MT. MORRIS	124.00
St. Ambrose	745.00	NEWARK	125.00
St. Andrew	438.00	OWEGO	201.60
St. Anthony of Padua	311.00		
St. Augustine	445.00	PENFIELD	
St. Boniface	260.00	St. Joseph	200.00
St. Cecilia	340.00	PENN YAN	78.74
St. Charles Borromeo	1,120.20	PITTSFORD	358.00
St. John (Greece)	369.95	SENECA FALLS	405.00
St. Margaret Mary	601.00	SPENCERPORT	235.50
St. Monica	400.00	WATERLOO	136.00
St. Philip Neri	374.00	WAVERLY	241.70
St. Pius X	500.00		
St. Salome	280.00	WEBSTER	
St. Stanislaus	140.00	Holy Trinity	246.32
St. Thomas Apostle	345.00		
		SCHOOLS of RELIGION and C.C.D. UNITS	
AUBURN	\$ 327.50	CANISTEO (St. Joachim)	\$ 92.76
Blessed Trinity	220.00	CLYDE (St. John)	95.00
St. Hyacinth	230.00	REXVILLE (St. Mary)	41.60
St. Mary	144.00	WATKINS GLEN (St. Mary)	69.00
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BATH	223.00		
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