

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sarah Child

I was watching a national news show the other night on which several couples explained why they preferred to remain childless.

Some of them cited ecological reasons, others mentioned nomadic life styles and some pointed out that their personal goals and children simply could not mesh.

One couple was more to the point and possibly more honest than the others. Raising children was something they did not want to be bothered with. Yes, they said, you could call it pure selfishness.

Those couples I think have things turned around. The label I would give them is immature — not selfish.

I, the mother of three, am the selfish one, greedy for all the extra dimensions that raising children adds to one's life.

First there was the anticipation as we waited for each of ours to arrive. Then there was the sublime moments as we caught sight of them for the very first times.

I think of the softness, the warmth, the feel of them in my arms, body against body.

I think of that first moment when they recognized me as not just another pair of arms to rescue them from the crib, to hold the bottle.

I think of the first step walking between the outstretched arms of

their father and me. I think of the moist kisses, swift hugs and soft voices learning to say "I love you."

The messy times, and there are plenty, are somehow diminished by time and our growth and accomplishments as a family.

A couple of years ago in despair over the serious illness of a relative I remember reaching blindly for a child and holding him quietly in my arms. Such comfort radiated from that small body that I can feel it still.

Yesterday the four-year-old learned to jump rope. Today she learned to tie her shoes. I cannot even for a second try to explain her joy or what I felt watching her self-pride.

When the six-year-old comes in wonderfully dirty from sliding down a mud mountain and tells me he doesn't need a bath because he had one the night before I gurgle inside over his gorgeous logic.

And when our nine-year-old from time to time reveals brief moments of perception into the adult world I am agog with the wonder of this new person emerging from the child.

Some days the burdens of parenthood are overwhelming. I know of no mother or father who would deny this. There are times when I think I'm managing a circus instead of rearing three kids. They embarrass us, anger us, frustrate us and even while they are encouraging our candidacies for a mental institution, the splendor of their light never dims.

Drug Council Sets Workshops

The Drug and Alcohol Council of Rochester has announced its Spring-Summer schedule of counselor workshops. For the convenience of residents of various parts of Monroe County, workshops are planned at several locations and starting dates.

The counselor workshop is designed to increase individual effectiveness in community social service by developing a better understanding of the effects of drugs and alcohol and of the human problems that may lead to or result from their abuse. In the process, the workshop participants gain a better understanding of their own values and those of the community, according to Father Enrique T. Rueda, executive director of Drug and Alcohol Council.

Workshops started Monday, May 20 at Asbury Methodist Church, 1040 East Ave.; and continue Monday, June 3 at the Heritage House, 602 Ridge Rd. E. Webster; Tuesday, June 4 at Good Shepherd Church, 3264 E. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta; Wednesday, June 5 at the Newman Oratory, 101 Kenyon St., Brockport; and Monday and Tuesday, June 10 at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 3000 Dewey Ave., Greece, the only daytime workshop to be held near downtown Rochester. The evening workshops meet weekly at 7:30 p.m. for 12 consecutive weeks.

To register for any summer workshop or for information about DAC services and Fall workshops, write to: Drug and Alcohol Council, 9 Lawrence St., Rochester 14607, or call Mrs. Eugenia Fore, assistant director, or Armand Tanguay, workshop coordinator, at 454-2535.



Condemns Abortion and Euthanasia

In a Mother's Day homily at New York's St. Patrick's Cathedral, Cardinal Joseph Mindszenty lashes out against abortion and euthanasia. The exiled Hungarian prelate spoke at a special afternoon Mass before a capacity congregation. "Life — be it difficult, seemingly unbearable or considered worthless and frustrated, is God's gift; His greatest gift," he said. "Every human life in God's eyes is good and redemptive, created by the most intimate partnership with God. There is no cursed life, only life accursed by man himself." [RNS]

The workshops are designed for individuals 17 years old and up and the number of registrants is limited to 15 per workshop.

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