



Photo by Susan McKinney

### Visiting Day

Children who attend Blessed Sacrament School entertained their parents at a fondue lunch prepared to celebrate Parents Visiting Day. Parents had the opportunity to stop in and visit their children's classes Monday, May 13.

## Porno Critic Carries On

Even one of his five children asked him, "Dad, why do you keep doing this? It looks like a losing battle."

At times Robert Dornan almost believes it is a hopeless fight as obscene movies and literature continue to fill the theaters and newsstands and even trickle into grammar schools. But Dornan, a Los Angeles TV and radio talk-show host and national spokesman for Citizens for Decency through Law (CDL), continues to struggle against pornography.

He believes society has returned to the Dark Ages and wonders who will be the "monks" who will keep the culture alive. What surprises Dornan is the "miracle of decent kids" who don't have cultural guidance in the outside world yet can resist the onslaught of pornography. Part of this miracle is due to

"people who are praying so hard to keep society together."

"When I was a kid, the world backed up what my parents taught me at home," he said.

Dornan was interviewed at the home of Michael Macaluso, chairman of the Citizens for a Decent Community, the local branch of the CDL. On sabbatical leave from his broadcasting commitments, Dornan spoke to the Buffalo anti-pornography group, Morality Media, and visited Cardinal Cooke in New York City last week.

There is no characteristic liberal or conservative position on pornography, Dornan said. He quoted from author Alastair Cooke, a "classic liberal," that what is "most disturbing of all is the developing moral numbness to vulgarity, violence and assault on the simplest of human decencies."

Although the CDL has no religious affiliations, Dornan credits Catholics for providing resistance against abortion, divorce, pornography and soft drugs. "If it wasn't for the Catholic Church holding the line, we'd all go down the drain," he said.

Dornan is a believer in movements and likes direct involvement. He has registered black voters in Mississippi and Alabama, has flown 12 Red Cross supply missions into Biafra and has visited Northern Ireland. He is perhaps best known as a champion of the prisoners-of-war and "missing-in-action" families. The wearing of silver or copper bracelets as a remembrance of POWs and MIAs allegedly began with Dornan, who lost four close friends in Vietnam.

He likens his present crusade, against pornography, to garbage collecting. To those who think pornography is good because it provides necessary fantasy, Dornan answers that the Marquis de Sade also thought fantasy was "healthy for the mind."

Pornography has no protection under the First Amendment, Dornan declared. Referring to a Supreme Court observation that a "man's home is his castle," Dornan said, this concept could not include theaters because "they create shock waves to the detriment of the environment. They offend with marquees and ads; it doesn't stay inside the theater."

To join the battle against pornography, Dornan suggests a "secret weapon" — the carbon copy. He admits the advice "write a letter" has become a cliché, but urged citizens to send copies of letters to television sponsors, general managers and editors of newspapers. Letters should be sent in protest and also to thank the stations or newspapers for allowing people to speak against pornography and on moral theology, he said.

The greatest problem facing the country today, according to Dornan, is despair, generally expressed in apathy. The number of people attending pornographic movies has increased. "Deep Throat is playing in more theaters around the country than ever before. The worst part is that people have now accepted it," he said. Dornan believes three phases are involved when society is heading for moral decay: indignation, resignation and degradation. "We are well into the second stage," he concluded.

## Gala Celebration to Crown Region's Teaching Course

With the theme "putting it all together," the Southwest Region teacher training course will culminate in a special liturgy and sharing supper at 7:30 p.m. Monday, June 3, at St. Jude's. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will lead the celebration, assisted by ten priests from the region.

During the Offertory teachers from the 11 parishes that participated in the course will be presented to the Bishop and will make a formal commitment to teach the "Good News," according to Rosemary Stuart, chairman of the southwest region board of education and director of religious education at St. Jude's. Each teacher will be given a copy of "To Teach as Jesus Did."

The gala evening will end a five-week training course entitled "Christian Living," held at St. John's in Spencerport for teachers and coordinators of religious education. Father Daniel McCarthy, pastor of St. Peter and Paul, lectured on his "specialty," the doctrine of the sacraments, and proved to be a "real drawing card," said Mrs. Stuart.

The second half of each class, on methodology, was conducted by other educators from the diocese. Focusing on the grade levels of K-5 and 6-12, the course covered "Nuts and Bolts," basic classroom techniques, "How Do I Know I'm Doing Right?" assessment, evaluation and observation of students and teachers; "Hands On" project planning; "Parish Dilemma," directions for young adults and "Celebrations 1 and 2," liturgical

### LITERATEUR

Daniel Izzo, editor of the Aquinas Institute literary magazine, did a nice thing for his parents last week. He took them to New York, on a trip he earned by the sweat of his brow.

Dan is one of the five winners in an essay contest sponsored by the New York State Department of Law. The prize included a visit to the New York office of Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz. Dan's parents are Mr. and Mrs. John Izzo of 46 Villa St.

celebrations for children. The last session dealt with multi-media techniques and value clarification.

Father McCarthy termed the response to the course "the best I've ever seen in an adult education class." A total of 111 people completed the course. "Normally only 40 to 50 people show up," Mrs. Stuart said. She believes proper timing, the continuity maintained having only one teacher and a shorter, more compact course helped contribute to its success.

## CDA Courts Win Awards

At the recent State Convention of the Catholic Daughters of America at the Stevensville Country Club, Swan Lake, three courts in the Rochester diocese won special awards as follows:

**Vestments** — Second place winner was Court St. Anne 194 of Hornell.

**Mission Display** — First place award went to Court Our Lady of the Cenacle 1139 of Rochester.

**Scrap Book** category for courts with 1 to 100 members, Court Our Lady of the Cenacle 1139 was again first place winner.

Mrs. Frank T. Donahue of Brockport was re-elected state regent for a second term of two years.

Father L. John Hedges, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Rochester, is state chaplain of the order, and was a concelebrant at the opening Mass at the hotel on May 14, with the principal celebrant being Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn.

## THE OPEN WINDOW

### Father Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I was very disappointed by your facile answer to D.G.'s letter concerning the problem of evil [Courier-Journal, 5/8/74]. This person has at least taken the problem seriously enough to see that unless we somehow explain the tremendous amount of evil in creation, it wouldn't make sense to call the Creator an "all-loving Father." The case is similar to that of watching a neighbor hurting or even torturing his children. Unless we explain how he could be doing this for morally good reasons, it would be absurd for us to call this man a good father. One of the things we mean by "good father" is that such a person would not cause his children unnecessary suffering.

If D.G.'s attempt to grapple with the problem of evil is inadequate, your virtual dismissal of the problem by saying simply that it is the will of an all-loving Father is foolish and ultimately self-defeating. If I were to continue to say that my neighbor was a good father as he mercilessly tortured his child for the third week in a row, it would be obvious that I was either insane or using the term "good father" in a wholly new sense.

If a human being had been able to stop the Managua earthquake but didn't, if a human being had made the decision to include leukemia in the scheme of things, it would be absurd for us, without further explanation, to call him all-loving. And unless we are going to completely change the meaning of our word loving when we apply it to God, these comments apply to him too.

Sincerely,  
J.M.

Dear J.M.,

Let me define loving as being for the "other" for his total and final best welfare, for his perfection and happiness, for his achieving his real destiny. Now let me cite an example of this situation: A very small child is taken to a surgeon, a dentist and the doctor hurts the child terribly but necessarily for the child's life or welfare. The child hates the surgeon and cringes from him. The child can in no way see the value or meaning of this pain, simply because he is a child.

Your example of your observing the father beat his child is not a legitimate one in this case because both of you are operating in the same frame of reference — on the same level of intelligence. But in the case of your looking at what God permits and does, you are on the role of the child only on an infinite scale.

The fact that you don't understand what God is doing does not impress me. Compared with Him, you are a tiny child being hurt and not knowing why. I admit it is a matter of faith, but I believe in an all-loving Father in heaven, and if I can't understand his actions it is only because I am such a little child in reference to him. Honestly, do you think human intelligence operates at the same level as God's?

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