



Photos by Susan McKinney

Balloon Styles

There are three ways to fly balloons, sitting on a park bench, standing up, or over your daddy's shoulder. Demonstrating these techniques at the recent Folk Festival

at the Rochester Museum and Science Center were Charlene and Arlene Scott, upper left; George Huang, center; and Lisa Chen, coziest balloonist of all.

Are Catholics Turning to Secular Values?

Continued from Page 1

attendance has begun to decline of the tendency toward assimilation of the values and attitudes dominant in the general society appears in data indicating that many Catholics are tolerant of abortion in at least some circumstances, reject official Church teaching on means of family limitation, have a divorce rate not markedly different from that of other Americans, and regard most social issues very much as their non-Catholic countrymen do.

"It would be an exaggeration at the present time to say that such Catholics have rejected the Church" but Catholic beliefs and values no longer occupy the same central place in their lives that they did in the lives of their parents and grandparents — and may have done in their own lives in years gone by," the paper states.

On the other hand, the segment of the Catholic community for whom religious beliefs and attitudes do continue to have major importance find themselves "at odds with dominant trends and values in the society in which they live."

Many such Catholics, according to the document,

viewed the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions legalizing abortion on demand as a "flat contradiction of traditional Catholic attitudes concerning the right to life of the unborn child, as well as traditional Catholic beliefs concerning the role of law and public policy." Similarly, the same court's decisions last year on educational aid "were perceived by many Catholics as a callous repudiation with some anti-Catholic overtones, of their claim to equitable treatment and full, unhindered participation in the American educational enterprise."

"It would be a mistake, however," the NCCB paper states, "to conclude that the current condition of the Church in the United States can be adequately summarized by cataloging problems. Many observers feel that a profound spiritual renewal is now taking place among many American Catholics."

In this connection, the paper cites a growing interest in prayer and charismatic groups, the development of centers and movements for the study and practice of spirituality among priests, religious and lay, spiritually-oriented movements for married couples,

liturgical reform and diocesan councils involving more people in the exercise of shared responsibility.

The paper also notes a healthy and renewed interest in the future of religious education, successful programs for the continuing education of clergy and religious, and the manifestation by dioceses and organizations of a heightened awareness of the social dimensions of the Church's mission to minority and ethnic groups.

It says that efforts to involve parents directly in the religious and moral education of their children, already under way in many programs, should be fostered and new means and media should be explored for reaching both parents and children.

"Ethical and moral abuses, such as legally sanctioned permissiveness concerning abortion, have helped create a renewed sense of unity among concerned Catholics and have awakened them to their responsibility to be a positive force for good in the nation's life," the paper says.

Pope Calls on Christians To Sharpen Moral Judgment

Vatican City (RNS) — Christians, living in a climate of increased "public freedom and personal responsibility," have a greater duty to exercise "critical moral judgment" with vigilance and self-discipline, Pope Paul declared last week.

He said that one of the recurring themes of the times is the relationship between the Church and the world — with the Church growing ever more aware of its role in the world and "man's life in the world constantly evolving toward self-sufficiency and secularization."

At his weekly general audience July 3, the Pope also said the "state of tension" which results from worldly and spiritual pressures "can only be resolved when religious freedom is recognized as a basic right."

Observing that the situation of Church versus world is very complex, Pope Paul asked: "What is the Christian to do? Keep his distance from the world or adapt himself to it? Renounce his ideals, abdicate the consistency of his principles and immerse himself in the world?"

"No," the pontiff asserted. "Christians must not betray their

baptismal commitment. They must not be unfaithful to the cross of Christ."

He went on to say that "they can, however, have an optimistic view of the modern world and of its values and conquests, and it is precisely to this point that the conciliar constitution, *Gaudium et Spes* — Vatican II Constitution on the Church in the Modern World — invites Christians to look."

"We can well look with love and sympathy on humanity, its study, its work and its sufferings," Pope Paul said. "But, this attitude demands two conditions. The

first is to maintain a line of demarcation between Christian and secular living; the second is to perfect our Christian moral judgment."

"Living as we do in a climate of public freedom and personal responsibility, we have an increased duty of exercising our own Christian moral judgment with watchful diligence, conditioned by self-discipline," he added. "We shall be able to live in our world, rejecting evil and adhering to good."

"Our position will be one of fidelity to Christ crucified, living wisely in its fullness."

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ADULT CLASSES

Naples — The first Adult Instruction Class was held at St. Januarius, July 6. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the parish community is welcome to contact Father Robert Smith at the rectory (374-2414) for further information.