



Getting to Know You

The Parents Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School is holding a Freshman Family Day on Sept. 15 from 3 to 6 p.m. at the school grounds on Blossom Rd. From left to right is Susan Vergo, freshman, Kathleen M. Wisner, public relations director, Katy Gefell, sophomore and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Vergo, chairmen of the event. The special day will give students and their families the opportunity to tour the school and meet other students and the faculty. There will be various athletic events during the day and a picnic supper will also be served in the cafeteria.

THE SLOT MAN

Columnist

Do you get bored with columnists because they are not only opinionated on everything in existence but always are so positive that they are 100 per cent, sanforized, correct? If so, then you might enjoy this piece because I am about to admit there is at least one area that has had be befuddled.

Amnesty

First off, let me say I do not disagree with President Ford that some kind of forgiveness must be provided. Also let me make it known that I am pleased by those who feel that draft resisters or draft dodgers, or deserters, depending on your point of view, should be given unconditional amnesty. It speaks well for their sense of charity and mercy and in cases where it applies, their Christianity. Think how many times a week we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us."

Having grown up in a beleaguered atmosphere when brothers and uncles and eventually little Carmen went off to wars, it is not easy for me, and many others, to reach a clear judgment on the matter. It is difficult for me to realize that they also serve who go to Canada.

And I do not have the excuse that there is a lack of leadership on this issue. The President himself, no gung ho liberal, has called for reconciliation. The Bishops of the United States long ago called for amnesty, the Conference of Major Superiors of

Men said on May 28, 1973: "We believe that a universal and unconditional amnesty will do the most at this time to promote reconciliation."

The president of the American Bar Association, Chesterfield Smith, has cited the need for "unconditional amnesty, earned immunity, conditional amnesty, alternate service, or any other plan which resolves our dilemma."

So then, what's the difficulty?

There is the fact that many other young men literally gave up their lives to protect the rights of others not to serve, if amnesty is granted. If one wants to say that the Vietnam War was not so justified, it still matters little to those who died there. Nor to those in earlier wars to protect freedom.

Complicating matters, from left field came Watergate. If we are to "forgive and forget" as a matter of policy in the case of those who dodged the law over the war, what are we to do in the case of a president who, it seems, broke the law?

And then general, unconditional amnesty means that it would be applied to the chaff as well as the wheat — to those who might shirk any uncomfortable duty as well as those who truly suffered and agonized and gave up a portion of their lives for their beliefs.

The essence of true forgiveness is to practice it when it is most difficult. That is the lesson to be learned and it will do us all good. Especially me.

CYO REPORTS

The eight week CYO day camp served more than 800 youngsters this year. With 88 staff members and volunteers, the day camp offered swimming, arts and craft, recreational activities and special events.

The CYO Learn to Swim program drew a record number of participants. Private donors made available 27 pools for the 500 youngsters in the program. The CYO staff included 13 instructors and a director.

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ANOINTING MASS

A special Mass of Anointing for the elderly and house-bound of Holy Family parish will be celebrated at 3 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15. Friends and families are invited.

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