



Photos by Susan McKinney

### Focus Fifty

Francesca Guli, poet-in-residence at Nazareth College, photo at left, prepares her part in the Focus 50 program, an evening of poetry and song to be held Oct. 21 at 8:30 p.m. Rosemary Dixon adjusts Marge DiBenedetto's head set as they test equipment which will be used to give hearing tests Oct. 21, from 1-3 p.m., Thursday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Friday 10-12 noon in the Speech and Hearing Clinic of the Arts Center. Karen McPoland, photo at right, comforts a moody Mary Lincoln, played by Janet Fanale, in the original one-act play, From the Journal of Mary Lincoln. The play which was written and produced by Arlene Brent Fanale will highlight the program which begins at 8 p.m. Oct. 23.

## Nazareth College Grads Set Week

Women graduated from Nazareth College during its first half century will have their own anniversary celebration on campus all next week.

Achievements in the arts and professions will be represented in an exhibit in the Arts Center gallery, open to the public Oct. 21-27.

### CHORAL FESTIVAL

A Gustav Holst (1874-1934) Choral Festival will be presented by the choir of Christ Church Cathedral augmented by the choir of St. Luke's Church, Rochester, on Sunday, Oct. 20, at 4 p.m. in the Cathedral, East Avenue and Broadway.

The women of St. Luke's will hold a reception in the guild rooms of the Cathedral following the concert.

An accompanying, 15-minute video tape will feature thoughts and reflections on the changing Nazareth scene. Heard and seen will be Marcella Ennis of the class of 1924, and Judy Proseus, of the class of 1974; Mildred Boylan, writer, and St. John Fisher College professor; Sister Rose Ellen, director of Mariner House; Jean Gramkee, chemist; Barbara Flanigan of Al Sigl Center and Bonnie Meath Long of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf.

A piano recital by Natalia Da Roza, a preview of exhibits and a reception for special guests are scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 20. Concerts, poetry readings and theatricals will take place throughout the week.

The program that begins at 9:30 Tuesday morning will describe the many career op-

portunities that the field of education holds. The evening program, at 8, will present young musicians from various schools.

Special programs for children are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday and 10-11 a.m. Thursday.

### CDA CELEBRATION

Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, CDA, will celebrate National Catholic Daughters Day Sunday, Oct. 20, at a 9 a.m. mass in St. Jude's Chapel, Rochester State Hospital. Concelebrants of the mass will be Father James Callan, hospital chaplain, and Father Paul Cuddy, chaplain to the court. Breakfast will follow at the Saratoga restaurant, Colony East Inn, with Mrs. Edward Kelly and Miss Margaret Sirianni in charge.

## THE OPEN WINDOW

### Father Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I read with disbelief the recent news item from Marlboro, Mass. of a baby being denied official administration of the Sacrament of Baptism because of its mother's active support of abortion.

The Catholic Church insists on the right of an unborn baby to physical life. How can that Church justify denying a newborn baby the right for the acts of its mother by refusing to administer God's sacramental grace in Baptism?

I would appreciate any light you might shed on this puzzling and disturbing incident.

Sincerely,  
N. K.

Dear N. K.,

For many people this was a disturbing and puzzling incident. It seems to me that much of the puzzle is unraveled by a "re-think" of what you referred to as "God's sacramental grace in Baptism." As background to all this we must realize that from earliest centuries, adult Baptism was the norm — the person baptized was expected to respond to the grace of Baptism by personal commitment to Christ. Infant Baptism had the purpose of not excluding children of Christians from the Christian community until such time as they could make that personal commitment.

But in lieu of that personal commitment, a "vicarious" one was required — namely — that the parents commit themselves to bringing the child to that state of spiritual development whereby the child would be most likely to make the commitment for himself.

Hence there has to be a decision on the part of those responsible for administering Baptism as to whether the parents

will be able and willing to accomplish that task. If serious judgment is made that the parents are not willing or able, Baptism should not be administered.

I guess many of us are hung up on the idea that "God's sacramental grace" is some kind of commodity which enters the child as a container or "washes the soul." But God's grace demands a response and is inactive, so to speak, until such time as that response is forthcoming.

Take the case of an infant who is baptized and then is brought up an atheist: what does "sacramental grace" mean in a case like this? In terms of effectiveness, nothing. And the idea that children who are not baptized will forever be separated from God and live in Limbo is nothing but a contrivance, in no positive way based on Revelation, to fit in with the teaching that we must be born again to enter the presence of God. Rather than contrive Limbo, most modern theologians would rather leave that problem up to a loving God.

In the case you mention we might also ask the question, did Church authorities have sufficient reason to believe that the child would not be brought up to be able to make a commitment to Christ? If the mother was merely taking the position that abortion is wrong but should not be involved with civil law in this country, I think there is room for doubt. But the authorities did make their decision and it was their's to make.

### OPEN HOUSE

Nazareth Academy at 1001 Lake Ave. will hold an Open House Oct. 20, from 2-5 p.m. Tours of the school plus demonstrations of school activities by Nazareth students will take place. Refreshments will be served at the end of the program.

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