




Photos by Susan McKinney

Northeast Regional Assembly

Richard Weider, northeast regional youth director, photo at right, a delegate to the first regional assembly for the Northeast area presents his Committee's report on youth. The group's first meeting was held Monday, November 11 at Holy Spirit Church in Penfield. The photo above shows some of the regional members who attended.



THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. **Louis Hohman**

Dear Father Hohman,
 My heart went out to H.C. whose letter was in your column [10/2/74]. I am glad that you didn't use the "pie in the sky bye and bye" theme in answering her need, but — why not the "pie right here and now" type of answer? [Lk. 12:32]

Your advice not to surrender to despair and give up faith in all-loving Father was great, but this person cannot visualize God as "all-loving." Don't you see, Father, she feels that she has done all she could by automation. Automatically being baptized; automatically being confirmed; automatically keeping the commandments; i.e., not practicing birth control. This is a common fallacy by which many Catholics have deluded themselves into a false sense of security. They don't realize that at some point in their lives they have to make a personal decision to accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour.

Please tell her [or I will if you'll allow me] that God has allowed her life to be just what it is so that at this point she can reach out and ask God to take over. [Mark 2:17] Tell her to praise Almighty God for everything in her life, to turn to Jesus [Rom 10:8-13] and He will come into her life and take over. [Matt 11:28] It isn't the end of a terrible life for her, but the beginning of a beautiful new life! [John 3:5]

Praise God the Father, for teaching us, through His Son and our Brother, Jesus, how to gain salvation and receive this peace and joy that he imparts to us when we finally quit struggling and turn to Him and know He is Lord!

Sincerely, M.G.

Dear M. G.,
 Thank you for a very beautiful letter. I sincerely hope that H.C. reads it and takes it to heart. I would just like to make a couple of comments. The first has to do with your use of the word automation in connection with the Sacraments. It points up how

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much over-emphasis we placed in times past on what we called "ex opere operato" and how little emphasis we placed on the "ex opere operantis" — the action of the person receiving the Sacrament. People like you are making everyone more aware of the importance of our "Yes" to Jesus, placing ourselves in His hands. I know many people are still somewhat turned back by the expression "accepting Jesus as our personal Saviour" but that was only because "the Protestants were using it." It has a most important place in our spiritual (total) life when used in the way you expressed it.

My other comment is that your letter shows the wonderful possibilities of a cross section of the People of God sharing in the teaching function of the Church. May the Holy Spirit inspire us to expand that sharing in the years to come. It's not only bishops and priests who can exercise the teaching function, but all to whom the Spirit gives the gift. Thank you again.

Knights Set Memorial Mass

Members of Our Lady of the Cenacle Council, Knights of Columbus, will attend a special Mass Sunday, Nov. 24, in memory of their 21 departed colleagues.

The Mass will be celebrated at 9:45 a.m. in St. Jude's Church by Father John Steger, pastor and council chaplain. The Fourth Degree Color Corps will lead the procession. Breakfast will be served afterward by the women of St. Jude's. All Knights and their families are invited. Donald Doll is chairman.

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HOLY TRINITY SALE
 Advent wreaths and candles will be offered at Holy Trinity, Webster, in a sale of religious articles and books scheduled for the next two weekends. The Spiritual Action Committee of the parish council will conduct the sale after all Masses Nov. 23 and 24 and Nov. 30, Dec. 1.

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