

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

Quite some time ago you were dealing in your column with the problem of young people not going to Mass and you said something about not being negative by concentrating on the sinfulness of not going to Mass but rather being positive in that parents should explain why they should go to Mass and be enthusiastic about going themselves. Would you tell me why adults should go to Mass on Sundays? Some of us are still lost and confused as ever.

Sincerely,
M.R.

Dear M. R.,

The language of the Mass may have changed; the rites may be different and the overall atmosphere may be a bit strange after so many years. But the reasons for attending Mass and participating in it have not changed one bit. Maybe the emphasis has been shifted somewhat from one reason to another, but the theology and basic belief are stable.

Here are some of the reasons I would give:

1. God, our loving Father gave us Jesus, and Jesus gave himself to us and for us; He told us at the Last Supper that he would continue to do so, that He would really be present to us under the forms of bread and wine; that His sacrifice could heal and save us (make us whole and holy) if we said "Yes" to Him. It is in the Mass that He gives himself here and now and it is in the Mass that we respond.

2. In the Mass I enter into communion with Jesus and know that His spirit will be present to me as I go about my daily life.

3. In the Mass I show my oneness with all other believers, indeed, with all human beings because Jesus died for all. I manifest publicly my intention of being one with them in care and concern. I join with them in carrying out Jesus' mission to save the world. (This can be done only by human beings in community, or as Paul said, as members of one another in the Mystical Body of Christ.)

4. In the Mass I become conscious, in community, of how short I fall of being what I should be and humbly ask the Lord to make up what is lacking.

5. In the Mass I share with others the hearing of God's Good News and join with them in proposing to share it with others and witness it to others in my life.

In summary, the Mass is my first and foremost contact with the living Lord Jesus and the renewal of my response to his everlasting covenant of love. As it must, it includes all my fellow human beings.

Perhaps this sounds hopelessly abstract and theoretical, maybe I should have just said, "He loves us; we need to respond. Yes together."

give them time to breed even more needy people. Pope John in his encyclical "Mater et Magistra" and Pope Paul in his "Populorum Progressio" admitted that long ago too.

The chief achievement of the World Food Conference is that it halted — or at least slowed — the drift towards catastrophe. The conference proposed that a World Food Council be established by the United Nations to keep watch on the situation and stimulate projects for greater food production.

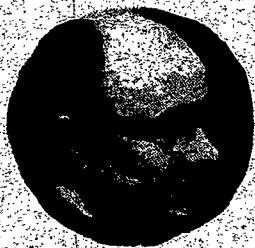
Mr. Henry Kissinger, in a meeting with editors of the New York Times, recently said the world is "delicately poised" on the verge of a new historic era and that the next decade will be either "one of the great periods of human creativity" or the beginning of extraordinary dissarray. He said unless there is "a visible and dramatic downturn in the arms race" we may indeed end in such political, economic and social chaos that civilization would be "almost bound to disintegrate."

Against such a background as that, Pope Paul told the food conference delegates that nothing less than new orientations are needed: a reorientation of first priorities away from war and hedonistic industries back to the natural life of strengthened families and agriculture. The delegates who listened to him, rather than to the cocktail hour jokes, hopefully will be the agents in their countries of just such a transformation of attitudes and priorities.

AQUINAS SETS CONCERT

The Aquinas Band will give a Christmas concert at 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15, under the direction of John Lyon. A program of classical, modern and seasonal music will spotlight various sections of the band. Included will be a selection of Christmas music arranged by John Krance, a former Eastman School student. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

TOWARD TOMORROW



Fr. Henry Atwell

Pope Paul's statement to the delegates of the recent World Food Conference in Rome is much too significant to be trivialized by a cheap and long obsolete joke.

Whether or not some woman in Rome really said that if the Pope "no playa da game, he no maka da rules" is to miss the whole point of what he did say about the urgent question of population control and increasing numbers of starving people. It is, therefore, a very great pity that officials of either Church or State waste their concern on a sad joke but let the Pope's far-reaching message go ignored.

Pope Paul said much more than that he's opposed to birth control. On that subject, he quite simply said that's not the solution to the widening gap between more people and less food. General Draper of Eisenhower era fame admitted that years ago.

The great conflict facing the world for the next 100 years will not be between east and west, between the Communist and Capitalist nations, but, as the late U. Thant frequently warned, between north and south, between the stuffed and the starved, between the have and the have-not nations.

Shipping surplus grain and second-hand clothes is also not a solution, necessary though such action may be in crisis conditions. If that is all that is done then we only worsen the situation by prolonging their agony and



Choral Belles

The Choral Belles of Nazareth Academy will entertain Rochester Products personnel with old and new Christmas favorites, Thursday, Dec. 19. The group consists of (left to right, front to back) Barbara Culhane, Margaret Camelio, Sue Keller, Mary Carbone, Kathy Nowak, Mary Rossi, Jean Foote, Chris Okun, Vicki Brasser, Ann Damelio and Therese Mancuso. Absent from the photo is Sue Keon. Miss Camelio will emcee the program and Sarah Hemings will serve as pianist. That day the group will also perform on television's Eddie Meath Show, a morning program on WHEC.

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FOUR rooms — Stove and refrigerator. Call after 3. 735-3731.

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