

Life, Liberty and Law



Nancy Murphy

May I make a Lenten suggestion please? I suggest you do yourself a favor. Try a bit of rather unusual spiritual reading. There's still time before Easter to fit this into your schedule. And if, like many things of a spiritual-positive nature, it becomes a chore, or if reading seems like a pain in the neck, remind yourself that it's the Lenten season and chores are definitely in.

I'm going to recommend three little paperbacks. Two of them are available in at a spiritual-book store, and the third is easily attainable elsewhere.

And they're all about sex - human reproduction as it is, always has been and (hopefully) always will be.

The first is written by a young couple, Donald and Helen Kanabay, entitled Sex, Fertility and the Catholic (144 pages). The second is Natural Family Planning (38 pages) by Dr. John Billings. And the third one is a small and understandable technical explanation Fertile and Infertile Days in Marriage by Paul Thyma (64 pages). All are concerned with the Sympto-Thermic Method, a natural approach to family-controlled fertility. Please notice that I didn't say conception control I said family-controlled fertility.

Not one of the books favors the Rhythm System, which was fine in its day but none too consistent, and not always successful. No, the Sympto-Thermic Method is not akin to the Rhythm System. Anyone with the Population Council or with Planned Parenthood will tell you that Rhythm rates 'low effectiveness' and 'difficult' on the Conception Effectiveness chart published HEW. Whereas the Sympto-Thermic Method is so effective that Dr. Christopher Tietze, Senior Consultant with the Population Council (and who directs their abortion research activities) announced to the American Association of Planned Parenthood Physicians in 1970 that Sympto-Thermic ranks as "one of the three most effective

methods of conception control in the world". The other two? The pill (which prevents ovulation) and sterilization (tubal ligation and vasectomy).

From what I have read of the pill and sterilization, both are questionable. Both can have unexpected and unhealthy results. The pill can cause blood clots, nervous disorders, vaginal bleeding and the uncertainty of long term generational effects. And the trouble with sterilization, in my judgement, is its very permanence. It's so dreadfully final.

But the sympto-Thermic method's major drawback today is, I believe, a lack of favor among the media, the educators and some theologians. Where in our enlightened press have we read, or from which liberated theologians have we heard about Doctors John and Evelyn Billings who in 1952 began to work with 'rhythm failures' in Melbourne Australia? Who among us has read or heard of Dr. Josef Roetzer of Austria who in 1968 published an English summary on the Supplemental Basal Body Temperature? These are among the many doctors who searched for a natural family-controlled method of child spacing.

No nervous disorders, no chemical imbalance, no danger of ghastly aftereffects appearing in future generations, no additional menopausal difficulties later in life. These doctors sought to respond to the needs of mankind through a positive direction, nothing mechanical, nothing plastic, nothing that might damage a woman's normal physiological development, nothing which might start an unstoppable chain reaction within the human body.

And their research led to the Sympto-Thermic method.

I can only guess that as the Sympto-Thermic Method requires knowledge, this must be the reason for its disfavor. It does require the man and his wife to know and understand the chemical, hormonal changes which take place within a woman's body, which have taken place month after month, year after year. I can only guess that the media pundits and the liberated theologians may be afraid. They may be afraid that responsible parenthood won't sell.

So, as a Jewish friend says frequently to me, "Go ahead... do yourself a favor... learn a little... read a book. You have time." And there are people in this area who will help you on a couple-to-couple basis.

What do you have to loose?

Capitol Letters

Will ERA constitutionalize the right to abortion?

In the Supreme Court's decision on abortion, the court preferred the mother's right to privacy over the unborn child's right to life. Women's liberation has interpreted the decision as a right to abortion.

A pro-Equal Rights Amendment analysis published by the Yale Law Journal, 1971, says, "It is impossible to spell out in advance the precise boundaries that the courts will eventually fix in accommodating the ERA and the right of privacy."

The right to abortion now is only a "Supreme Court right" handed down by a 7-2 decision. It is logical to assume that women's liberation will use ERA to claim a permanent constitutional guarantee to abortion.

The Yale Law Journal analysis

HIT IT EARLY

Cancer is most curable when it's caught early and treated promptly. The American Cancer Society urges everyone to have an annual checkup, even when feeling great.

of ERA promises sweeping, perhaps "painful," social change. When one group proposed what is tantamount to social revolution it behooves all of us to carefully scrutinize the proposal in the light of the rights and responsibilities of all members of our human family.

The New York State Equal Rights Amendment passed the State Legislature last year. To become law it must pass both houses of the legislature this session and be voted in at a public referendum in November. The 1975 Assembly has passed it and it is presently before our State Senate Judiciary Committee pending further action in the Senate.

Assemblyman Neil W. Kelleher has proposed a task force to determine the legal implications of ERA including the results in other states that have passed this measure. To support Assemblyman Kelleher's Task Force proposal, write to him, to Sen. Bernard Gordon, chairman, State Senate Judiciary Committee and to your respective assemblymen and senators. Address for all, State Capitol, Albany, N.Y. 12201.

Compiled by Jeanne Sweehey

Dedication To Highlight 'Cross Walk'

Wayland - "One of the highlights of this year's Cross Walk will be the dedication of the new cross," said John Landino, secretary of the Wayland Area Council of Churches.

Wayland's third annual walk to Calvary Hill will take place on Good Friday, March 28. The steel cross measures 25 feet high and has 15-foot cross arms and is set in a four-foot deep concrete foundation. This permanent addition to what was formerly Selbig Hill, replaces the wooden cross destroyed by vandals last year.

Landino said, "It can be seen for miles away on a clear day and

stands in testimony of a shared Christian belief."

When the walk started two years ago, the council suggested that on this hill there be set up the Stations of the Cross. Another suggestion was to start those steps from Town Hall in the village and these two ideas were combined into unique means for Christian expression.

During the first march, which attracted 300 people, many carried crosses. A sermon at the crest climaxed the walk.

Last year's walk attracted 400 people. "A laying on of hands and an opportunity to talk with

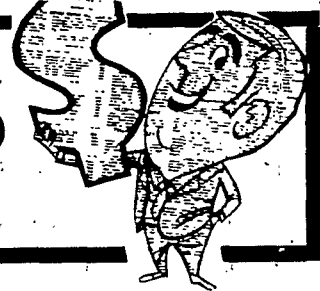
ministers and priests will complete the nearly two-hour event on Good Friday," Landino said.

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

A new radio program, entitled With Women, is broadcast every Thursday, 10-11 p.m., by WCMF-FM, 96.5. It consists of 24 minutes of music and 36 minutes of discussion arranged by the Genesee Valley Chapter, National Organization of Women. Regular features include a feminine perspective on current news and advertising, questions and answers about the women's movement and announcements of events in the community.

COURIER WANT ADS

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POSITION Available - Executive Director. Small private family counseling agency, Central New York State area. Salary open. MSW required 5 years social, work experience appropriate. Submit resume (in confidence) to D. Grot, Rd. 2, Auburn, N.Y. 13021.

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1 & 2 bedroom apts. Available April 1. Call 663-4990-266-6311. Cliff Merritt.

APARTMENT lower - Lake Avenue, Charlotte. Newly redecorated, 2 bedroom. No pets. 663-0827.

5 ROOMS - No pets, adults preferred, \$140.00. Security. 467-3115.

REDECORATED unfurnished 5 rooms, many added conveniences, adult couple. 482-9139.

FOUR rooms - Clean. Stove, refrigerator. Call 271/1477.

4 ROOM furnished, all utilities, 1 month security, no children. 621-4973. Upper.

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SPECIAL MISCELLANEOUS

Mrs. Mary Colavecchia 190 Independence Street Rochester, N.Y. 14611 235-8134

Tours for 1975

Tour No. 1 Memorial Day Weekend, Endfield, N. Hampshire - Our Lady of La Salette and Ste Anne Shrine in Island La Motte - Leaving Saturday, May 24th return 26th.

Tour No. 2 June 28th-29th - Three Rivers Our Lady of the Cap; June 30th-July 1st - Ste Anne De Beaupre; July 2nd-3rd - Montreat St. Joseph's Oratory; July 4th - Vermont Our Lady of LaSalette.

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