



**What a View!**

Sister Marie Michael, director of nursing services at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, shows Tim McCall the inside of his brother Jeffrey's ear. The twins are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis McCall. Mrs. McCall stands at left. The Chemung Valley Mothers of Twins Club recently gave the hospital an otoscope and an ophthalmoscope for St. Joseph's developing Burn Unit.

**Church And Politics**



Sister Frances

The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) is the proposed 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It states that "equality under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

The purpose of this proposed amendment is to provide constitutional protection against laws and official practices that treat men and women differently simply on the basis of sex. In other words, it is designed to remove sex as a factor in determining the legal rights of any individual. It is intended to abolish existing discriminatory laws and to prevent such laws from surfacing in the future. It is not intended to interfere with or dictate the form of private relationships between men and women. The question of unisex restrooms, who will wash the family dishes, and who will bring home the paycheck are outside the jurisdiction of the ERA. The ERA applies to laws, not to personal relationships. The general governing principle is this: laws which restrict rights on the basis of sex will no longer be valid; laws which protect rights will be extended to both men and women.

Overwhelming evidence exists which clearly shows that sex discrimination under the law exists, particularly in the areas of legal rights, credit, insurance, education and employment. Today, some 52 years after ERA was first introduced in Congress, women in some states are still not recognized as mature and responsible adults. In many states there still exist vestiges of the old English common law which treated women as inferiors and which still prevent them from serving on juries, starting businesses, getting mortgages, controlling property, receiving

Social Security and compensation benefits, and competing for available jobs on an equal basis with men.

Although it is possible that these and other abuses might eventually be corrected by legislation, legislative remedies are not adequate substitutes for fundamental constitutional protection against discrimination. Only a Constitutional Amendment, with its massive symbolic, moral, and legal impact can provide the impetus for the necessary changes in our laws. Any class of persons (eg. women) that cannot successfully invoke the protection of the Constitution against discrimination comprises, by definition, "second class citizens," inferior in the eyes of the law.

Discrimination in the area of legal rights is disturbing because it restricts basic rights and responsibilities of our democratic system, in which men and women alike are constituents. Nothing could be more basic to a democracy than the concept that all its members are entitled to and must receive equal protection, and benefits under the law.

Aside from legal and democratic issues, ratification of the ERA is truly a Christian concern, for it will result in the right of every individual to direct his/her own life according to God-given talents and capabilities, likes and dislikes. It will eliminate sex-stereotyped careers and roles, and will open wide the door to personal freedom wherein every individual will truly be "free to be" what God has promised - a unique and free human being.

Christians are called to witness to deep and abiding respect for the sanctity of human life. We are committed to a belief that the human right to life extends beyond the process of birth (and the concept of a right-to-life) and includes a concern for the quality of the entire process of living out one's life. It must contain, for us, a guarantee of freedom, respect, and concern for the individual without arbitrary distinctions on the basis of race, creed, color, or sex.

"We are no longer Jews or Greeks or slaves or free or even merely men or women, but we are all the same - we are Christians; we are on in Christ Jesus." Gal. 3:28.

**OHD Groups Exchange Information**

Bath — Twenty representatives of the six Human Development committees active in Steuben County exchanged information about their plans and projects at

a meeting April 30 at St. Mary School.

Projects reported included community gardens, rehabilitation of houses, quilting bees and "pantries" for the needy, and visiting the residents of nursing homes.

and prayer, and welcomed delegates from Sacred Heart, Perkinsville; St. Ann, Hornell; St. Gabriel, Hammondspport; St. Mary, Bath; St. Patrick and St. Vincent de Paul, Corning.

**Councils Honored**

Five diocesan K of C councils were honored at the recent New York State Convention of the Knights of Columbus at Kiamasha Lake.

For their support of the group's Charitable and Benevolent Program, the convention singled out Pope Pius XII Council, Irondequoit; the Dansville Council and the Mt. Morris Council.

The meeting was called by Sister Mary Kruckow, field representative in Steuben County of the diocesan Office of Human Development. A talk by Father Daniel Torney, assistant to the OHD director, led to a discussion of the responsibility of the committees in social issues.

Father Eugene Sweeney, regional coordinator, opened the meeting with scripture reading

For the quality of their bulletins, the convention honored Trinity Council, Webster; and the Horseheads Council.

**Holy Apostles Sets Anointing**

Bishop John F. McCafferty will be the principal celebrant and preacher at a special parish Mass and Anointing of the Sick at Holy Apostles Church, on June 8 at 3 p.m.

Wheelchairs, a Wheelchair Mobile and a bus are available for those who require them through the Parish Office at 254-7170.

**CDA Lists Officers**

Auburn — District Deputy Mary Altamari of Waterloo recently installed officers at a meeting of Court Auburn, Catholic Daughters of American, at the K of C Home.

Officers installed are Miss Catherine M. Hockeborn, regent; Mrs. Herman J. Lingenfelter and Mrs. George E. Payne, vice regents; Miss Rose Manzone, treasurer; Miss Dorothea E. Nolan, secretary; Mrs. Gordon J. Hartnett, financial secretary; Mrs. Leon G. Miner, monitor; Miss Eileen McCarthy, lecturer; Miss Gertrude Kennedy, Miss Francis Tortorica, trustees; Mrs. Alfred Ineich, organist.

**BREAKFAST**

On Sunday, June 8 after the 9 a.m. Mass, the St. Thomas More Women's Guild will hold a communion breakfast for women and girls of the parish, in the school gymnasium. Jo Anne Hartman will sing several of her favorite songs. Mrs. Lawrence Palvino, Guild president, will introduce the new officers. Assisting Mrs. Palvino in planning the breakfast is Mrs. A. Donald Dugan.

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