

**THE OPEN WINDOW**



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

You may have answered this before, but I have noticed on the Courier-Journal editorial page your name and underneath it "Episcopal Advisor". Just what does that mean?

Curious

Dear Curious,

It is amazing the number of people who ask me about that. At the time we decided on that as my job title with the Courier we never imagined it would be so obscure.

First of all, believe it or not, I have been asked at least three times whether I have left the Roman Catholic Church because of the word "Episcopal". That word is not the same as "Episcopalian," which is a Protestant denomination one of whose central beliefs is the need for bishops. The word "episcopal" is merely an adjective meaning "pertaining to a bishop." So I pertain to a bishop by way of being advisor.

Am I advisor to the bishop about the Courier or to the Courier about the bishop? Very little of the former. Mostly I try to work with the Courier to help them know where the bishop is at in various policy matters. I am also a resource person in regard to certain theological questions. Not an expert but simply a clarifier (I hope).

I also hope this clarifies the meaning of my position with the Courier. I find working with them one of the most interesting things I do and in these three years have become thoroughly convinced of the necessity of the Catholic Press. I think our regular readers are, too.

working to get ready for possible ERA passage was revealed.

They have begun a difficult task but will not have time, in their own estimation, to complete even the first step before the adjournment of the legislature this year.

Thus far the commission attorneys have isolated approximately 750 sections of New York law which contain "sex-based words i.e., woman, man, male, female, masculine, feminine, husband, wife, father, mother, boy, girl, lady, gentleman, widow, widower, and the plural (or possessive) of all of these." Of that group approximately 261 sections "appear at first glimpse to give some right, benefit or status to one sex without granting the same right, benefit or status to similarly circumstanced members of the other sex."

These 261 sections of New York law have been further categorized as follows: widow widower, 48 sections; family support, 41 sections; married women's rights, 24; job-related, 15; use of masculine language which implies discrimination, 22; widow's dower rights, 38; miscellaneous unequal benefits, 66. The final category at this point is labeled "questionable" and contains 7 areas of possible inequality which fall outside the power of the state to correct.

The full report on the identification of sections which will require revision will not be ready until the commission publishes its annual report in 1976. After that, any legislative action on these sections of New York law will be in the sole province of the legislature. No indications beyond educated and well-intentioned guesses and personal opinions have been offered relative to the extent of these revisions.

In my considered judgement New York voters would be unwise to grant hasty approval this November to a major sweeping revision of our state laws without objective and extensive research into the probable direction of those revisions.

May I suggest that you contact the local League of Women Voters for their opinions. And may I recommend the Phyllis Schlafly ERA Packet as a beginning point for the literature and legal cites in opposition to ERA ratification. Send for the packet from the Phyllis Schlafly Report, Box 618, Alton Illinois, 62002.

Documentation sources available on request.

**International Leader Here**

**Kolping Fun . . . But Serious, Too**

By JOHN DASH

The gemütlichkeit (fellowship) was as hearty as the atmosphere at the German House, when the Kolping Society welcomed their affable international president last week.

At a dinner and party for Msgr. Heinrich Festing of Cologne, Germany, the society turned out in full force to make merry, swap stories, and celebrate the visit of their president.

Msgr. Festing is on a whirlwind tour of the U.S. and Canada, visiting Kolping groups and reporting on the state of the society internationally.

With the help of Msgr. Charles Boyle, chaplain to the Rochester group, Msgr. Festing paused for a few moments to speak with the Courier-Journal on the aims of the society.

The 44-year-old prelate who was elected president of Kolping in 1972 stressed that the society is "especially interested in social justice: is interested in producing better citizens for America as it is in producing better citizens in each of the countries it appears."

Msgr. Boyle explained that Kolping was founded in Germany in the 19th Century by Father Adolf Kolping. The purpose was to provide places for Catholic guildsmen, in the journeyman stage, places to stay and recreate in urban areas and in areas where the Catholic population was a minority.

He further noted that Kolping in the United States originally aided German immigrants settle here, helping with language, employment and housing problems.

Today, Rochester Kolping serves to provide a Catholic voice

**Speech Center Receives Cancer Grant**

A grant of \$6,680, one of the community service awards given each year by the Monroe County Unit of the American Cancer Society, was awarded to the Hearing and Speech Center of Rochester.

The financial assistance, presented quarterly during the year, is for the center's program in teaching esophageal speech to laryngectomized persons, the only instructional source in the Monroe County area for laryngectomy patients.

**Fisher Sets Tuition Hike**

The Board of Trustees of St. John Fisher College recently announced an increase in the tuition, room and board rates for the 1975-76 academic year. The tuition, now \$2,285 will be increased by \$240 to \$2,525, and the room and board fees will rise \$100 from \$1,351 to \$1,451.

"The increase," according to Rudolph Kóletic, vice president for business and finance, "is simply to keep pace with the spiraling costs of quality education as well as the increase in goods and services."

In a letter to parents and students at St. John Fisher College, Fisher President, Father Charles J. Lavery, CSB, commented: "In the coming year the college expenditures will increase by approximately 10 percent or \$450,000. This unavoidable increase in operating costs reflects sensible program costs designed primarily to maintain the current level of quality education."

among the German populace, he said.

Msgr. Festing said, "One of the main objectives of Kolping is the development of social consciousness — but always in conformity with the teachings of the Catholic Church."

At present, he noted, teams of young Kolping members are serving in Brazil and elsewhere in the Third World where they live with the poor and teach such basic skills such as agriculture, carpentry, plumbing, and leather work.

He noted that, an essential part

of Kolping is its family orientation. Msgr. Boyle clarified the point that when a young man enters the society he generally remains in it for the rest of his life, bringing the family he establishes into the group with him.

Kolping, Msgr. Boyle explained, is always under the sponsorship of the local bishop. A chaplain is always appointed as an official act, he said.

Msgr. Festing and Msgr. Boyle also noted that the local group will engage in a recruitment drive during the coming year.

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**SEE THE HOLY LAND IN THE HOLY YEAR**

Our Holy Father has proclaimed 1975 as a Holy Year. He encourages more pilgrimages to Rome and the Holy Land during this time of reconciliation. In keeping with his wishes, Catholic Near East is sponsoring two-week tours for just \$1,133 per person. Write for information.

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**Life, Liberty and Law**

Nancy Murphy

Conclusion of a series on the ERA

Among the people I contacted during my research into the ERA were my state assemblyman and senator here in New York.

In lieu of answers, the gentlemen enclosed in their responses the sentiments of (a) the League of Women Voters, and (b) a 'Dear Colleague' letter from a trio of women legislators. These publications stated, among other things, the writers' opinions that the state ERA would not make women eligible for the federal draft; it would not change the social security system; women would not have to pay alimony; there would be no co-ed prisons; and the Supreme Court's Griswold v. Connecticut decision guarantees the constitutional right to privacy in public places.

(Naturally a state constitution has no power over the federal draft, although it does have such power as we have noted in the state of Maryland, over the state militia; a state constitution almost immediately after ERA approval in 1972 indicates the direction state laws have taken as a result of hasty ratification. In many instances — especially in family support — these Maryland bills are direct contradictions of the comforting opinions I received second-hand from the legislators.)

The senator did not think to inform me (although I had asked specifically about rape, prostitution and sodomy laws) of New York SB #731. This bill is identified as "An act to amend the penal law, in relation to removing the crime of consensual sodomy and repealing section 130.38 of such law relating thereto." Would its passage legalize sodomy?

My contacts with the State Law Revision Commission were more fruitful. Although the director of that group, Professor Willis L.M. Reese, was courteously vague in his letter of April 30, I did receive a call from Albany which went a long way toward a restoration of my faith in the New York state government. During an extended phone conversation with one of the commission attorneys, the extent toward which they are