

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I have enjoyed your column and miss it lately, so your comments will be appreciated. My eighth grade student is receiving Confirmation this year.

I attended 12 years of parochial school and understand Confirmation to make us strong Christians, soldiers of Christ and ready to defend our religion. Maybe I was just idealistic but then most of us were. However, I don't think the majority of today's young people could accept that thinking.

I would [appreciate] be interested in your views on Confirmation; besides the usual gaining of grace during these times.

Sincerely,
A.P.

Dear A. P.,

Thank you for your kind observation. I have some difficulty with your question because you did not indicate how young people differ in their views on Confirmation. The only thing I can think of right now is that in the late 1960s young people sort of backed off the expression "soldiers of Christ" because it was military, and in those days the military was not much in favor with youth (not much these days either, I expect). Of course the expression was never meant to have any relationship to the military but rather to be a

Cancer Control Material Now Available

A permanent library of public education material on cancer control, donated by the American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit, is now available for all parochial schools in the Rochester area. The collection of materials is kept at the Parish Center, 1150 Buffalo Road, and interested teachers may contact Sister Edwardine Weaver.

Included in the library are three 16mm. films on smoking, three films on general biology and two on cell biology. A film strip on smoking is also available. Other biology teaching aids are senior and junior high school teaching kits, six biology film loops on cell biology and 15 overhead transparencies on various aspects of cell structure and function.

The American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit, has contributed this permanent library to the parochial school system through its public education program, which is funded along with the ACS programs on Research, Service and Rehabilitation, by the annual Cancer Crusade in April.

CARMELITE CELEBRATION

Gaylene Filipi, a postulant for the past year in the Carmelite Order, will be given the habit of the order in a ceremony Saturday, Nov. 1. She came to the monastery at 1931 W. Jefferson Road from Dickinson, N.D., State College. The ceremony is private, but visitors will be received Saturday and Sunday from 9:30 until 11 a.m. and from 2:30 until 4 p.m., the sisters announced.

metaphor expressing our determination to overcome evil and make good prevail.

At the last Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting in September Sister Michael Lappetito of the Education Department told us about the Task Force which is now working to sort out the varying views on the Sacrament of Confirmation and make it clearer and more powerful as a sign. Everyone agrees that Confirmation is one of the three segments or sections of Christian initiation — the others are Baptism and Eucharist. So Confirmation, as the name indicates, confirms our incorporation into Christ by the further action of the Holy Spirit. Originally Confirmation was administered immediately after Baptism (and still is in the Eastern Church). In the Western church it became separated from Baptism by reason of having to wait for a bishop to administer it.

Later it was used (as it still is to a certain extent today) as a catechetical instrument to be a sign of one's personal commitment to Jesus Christ. Let's hope that the task force does a good job sorting out all these things.

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