



Open House

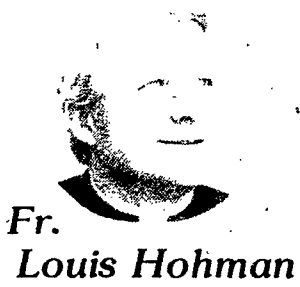
Lights at Holy Apostle's School recently were ablaze while a variety of activity was going on inside. It was "Open House." Parents with their children visited classrooms and talked with teachers. At left, Mrs. June Lopa, school board president, and Sister Ambrosine, school principal enjoy a chat. At right, Sister Marietta watches a first grader show her paper work to her mother.



Medal Presented

Bishop John E. McCafferty is presented an official Chemung County Bicentennial Medal by the designer — Leandro Vinluan. Looking on is Donald E. Kalec one of the chairpersons of the 9th Annual Charity Ball held Nov. 15, sponsored by the Ladies of Charity of Chemung County. The proceeds went to St. Joseph's and Arnot-Ogden Hospitals.

THE OPEN WINDOW



Dear Father Hohman,

Decorum in church. Many things come to mind. Noise and unnecessary talking while others are praying or during any part of the Mass or service. I find it distracting to have people whispering behind or near me when I have stayed behind to pray. Also when parents bring restless, crying, hyperactive children under kindergarten age to church. After the priest has spent hours preparing a sermon, it does not seem fair to me to have the effect of his efforts diminished by crying babies and noisy children. There are nursery rooms available. The Mass and the sermon are spiritual food and are particularly needed and appreciated by the aged. I think young parents should consider the needs of the elderly and the hard of hearing. I truly love children and have had a hand in the religious upbringing of children. Also it is unfair to a hyperactive, restless or tired child to impose church services on him before he is emotionally or intellectually able to sit quietly for the required time.

Sincerely,
A. M. F.

Dear A. M. F.,

The problem you bring up is really a very sticky one and apparently the building of "crying rooms" or the inauguration of nurseries has not solved it.

Funny I should come to this problem this particular week because last Sunday a small baby started crying in the rear of the church and soon there was a chorus of at least six or seven. It made the cheers at a Buffalo Bills game sound faint. But there are some other considerations besides the ones you mentioned.

First of all, we don't have any problem here with the elderly or hard of hearing because most of them would be at an early Mass and most of the babies at a later Mass.

I have thought this thing over many times. What about the families who want very much to come to church as a unit and establish that tradition very early in their family life? What about those who can't afford baby-sitters? And I am not in a position to reprimand those who opt not to place their child in a nursery. So what's the solution?

Speaking for myself, I don't think the priest should be an important factor in the decision. I can out-decibel just about any of them and, while it is somewhat annoying, I am perfectly willing to put up with it. It's the people in the pews I am concerned about.

Suppose we were to approach the problem this way: the Mass is a celebration. Do we exclude our kids from family celebrations such as Thanksgiving and Christmas? Aren't there times (or couldn't there be) when we have strictly adult celebrations just as we do in our social lives. Maybe such an approach could give us a clue to solution. In the meantime I hope you will try to "offer it up".

Candidates To Be Quizzed

Wantagh, N.Y. [RNS] — Leaders of the national Pro-Life Legal Action Committee, an organization supporting a proposed constitutional amendment that would overturn the 1973 Supreme Court ruling on abortion, has launched a petition drive aimed at having every presidential candidate endorse such an amendment.

According to John Short of Farmingdale, N.Y., petitions will be sent to all "right to life" groups nationwide and presidential candidates will be "confronted" by petitioners in primary elections, party caucuses, local appearances and at the national nominating conventions.

Short, who with James Ross of Wantagh, is co-chairman of the legal action committee, said the petition drive was sparked by the announcement that Vice President Nelson Rockefeller would be available as a presidential candidate. The vice president had earlier come under heavy fire from "right to life" groups for his stand on abortion.

Candidates for president will be informed by petitioners that they are only acceptable if they support a constitutional human life amendment that protects life from fertilization to natural death, requires an effort to save both mother and child, and is a "human right" amendment, Short pointed out.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Fifteen congregations in Gates and Chili, banded together as the ONE Council, will have a family Thanksgiving service at 7:30 tonight in the Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 3285 Buffalo Road, Gates. The Epiphany choir will sing.

The ONE Council (Our Neighborhood Ecumenical Council) includes six Catholic parishes, Holy Ghost, St. Helen, St. Christopher, St. Jude, St. Theodore and St. Pius X. Deacon Peter Clifford of Holy Ghost and Father Mark Miller of St. Helen will take part in the service.

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Students Honored

Elmira — Three Notre Dame students have been honored by local societies.

The team also played to a 12-0 season to claim the B-division title.

Junior Carol Farmer and Senior Dan Ramich have been named the Kiwanis athletes of the month.

Ramich, a member of the Bi-State Champion Notre Dame Crusader Football team, has been a valuable asset to the team, not only because of his outstanding performances as N.D.'s top runner but also because of his team leadership.

Carol was one of the high scorers of the undefeated girls' basketball team. A valuable asset to the team, Carol's outstanding performances helped the girls to hold the Crusader winning streak to a remarkable 26 games and no

Senior Kevin Seaman has been named the Lion's Club Student of the Month.

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DECEMBER 7, 2-5 P.M.