



THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

You have no doubt noticed that many people do not go to confession anymore. Do you think that when the New Rite of Reconciliation is fully known many more will?

One of the basic reasons why so many people have turned away from confession in the old form is that they recognize its "laundry list" characteristics, its image of instant soul wash, and don't see it as a workable means of reconciliation. It will take a very long time to instruct most people in the new rite. By this I mean not weeks or months but years. I do feel that when people are instructed little by little they will be coming back to the Rite of Reconciliation, making fuller use of it to their advantage. There will also be a much more

clear cut conversion when people are seriously alienated from Christ and wish to return. Finally, we will see many more penitential services in the community which will raise our consciousness considerably about our share in the sin of the world and our responsibility both as individuals and as a community to do something about it. Maybe I am overly optimistic, but I do believe the new rite has the potential to make people much more morally sensitive and much more willing to grow in the life of the spirit. These are the reasons changes came about in the first place.

It would seem then at least for those who have no serious sins or need a total conversion that more spiritual direction will be available. Is this true?

The Rite of Reconciliation for individuals offers a wonderful opportunity for growth through spiritual direction precisely because of the very positive approach it takes to growth in the life of the spirit. Not only do the prayers involved turn our eyes toward God and where we are in relationship to Him - rather than simply indicate a number of sinful acts we have performed, but the counsel of the priest can be a very

valuable tool for growth. The sacrament after all is basically a meeting with Christ in faith. Therefore it offers exceptional opportunity for spiritual growth one which we would be hard put to find in any other place. We can experience our Lord through faith in the Sacrament of Penance even when on a particular occasion we don't "feel" anything. It is the sincere hope of those who have revised the new rite that frequent confession will not go out the window. However it will probably not be as frequent as it has been in the past. Father Joseph Champlin in

his book on the new rite says that perhaps a good rule of thumb for the ordinary Catholic would be four times a year, like the old Ember Days of Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter.

What is this business of new and creative penances rather than the simple saying of a few prayers for penance?

The idea of creative penances should have some direct relationship with the process of growth. The simple saying of a few prayers never really conveyed this idea well. What we mean by a

creative penance is not an exotic or weird one, but rather the kind that would keep before the mind of the penitent the need to grow in the spirit, the need to turn away from whatever failures he was guilty of. For example, if one is habitually unkind to a particular person the penance would indicate some specific act of kindness toward that person. Or, a husband who has been neglecting his wife for one reason or another (drinking or gambling or whatever) might be called upon to buy a gift for her. These particular kinds of creative penance - ordinarily would be devised together by the priest and the penitent. I think you can see the value of something which would remind the person of where he has come from in the spiritual life and where he wishes to go.

St. Charles Choir to Perform Cantata at Old St. Mary's

The choir of St. Charles Borromeo will perform Dabois' famous cantata "The Seven Last Words of Christ" in Old St. Mary's Church on Washington Square, downtown Rochester, at 3 p.m. Sunday, April 4.

The presentation is planned by Father Charles Bennett of St. Mary's and the Downtown Ministries to be a rewarding religious and devotional experience. Sung in English, it will be enhanced with visual projections of Renaissance art works of the Passion and actual scenes from the famed Oberammergau passion play from the private slide collection of Father Robert McNamara.

Soloists will be Aldo Menoni as Christ; Mary Fico, soprano; Don Schreiber, tenor, and Brother Robert DeLeone, baritone. All soloists are members of the choir. Judith Ann Bowman, organist, will accompany the presentation on St. Mary's 50-rank concert pipe organ.

According to director George Geibel, the 45-member St. Charles Choir is unique in having many members from outside the parish

boundaries, even from other denominations. The choir's repertoire incorporates choice music from every age - Palestrina to modern pop. Since the choir is seeking a limited number of additional members, anyone interested in joining is urged to attend, and to contact any choir member after the performance.

This presentation is free, and will be repeated in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece on Sunday, April 11th at 8 p.m.



The following Prayer Groups are predominately Roman Catholic in attendance. This directory has been compiled and will be maintained by the Communication Committee of Catholic Charismatics in Rochester. Additions or deletions should be mailed to Mrs. Donald Mikel, 3000 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, New York, 14617.

- SUNDAY**
- St. John the Evangelist (Spencerport) 60 Martha St. Spencerport Frank Ferris, 352-4218, 8 p.m.
 - St. Mary's Church 95 North Main St. Canandaigua St. Marie Albert, 394-2325
 - St. Mary's Marian Center Fulton & Franklin Sts. Elmira Salvatore Ruziani, (607) 732-1248
- MONDAY**
- St. Rose's Church (women) 1985 Lake Ave. Lima Jean LaBore, 582-1319 following 9 a.m. Mass
 - St. Stephen's Charismatic Community DeSole's High School Cor. Pultney & High Sts. Geneva Mrs. Sam Venuti, 789-8557, 8:15 p.m.
- TUESDAY**
- St. Augustine Rectory 310 Chili Ave. Rochester John & Betty Bunce, 235-0235, 8:30 p.m.
 - St. Michael's Prayer Group 3681 Lake Ave. Rochester William & Mary Buechel, 663-7645, 8 p.m.
 - St. Mary's Charismatic Prayer Group 32 East Morris St. Bath Mary Bihlin, (607) 776-6726, 7:30 p.m.
- WEDNESDAY**
- St. Leo's Prayer Group 167 Lake Ave., Hilton Al and Betty Howe, 392-8895, 8 p.m.
 - Maranatha Prayer Group 7369 E. Main St. Lima Bill & Bobbie Buechel, 624-4529, 8 p.m.
 - Chadash Prayer Community 830 Clarkson-Hamlin Townline Rd. Hamlin Helen & Warren Lynch, 964-2490, 7:30 p.m.

- Holy Cross School 4488 Lake Ave. Rochester Frank Lirchegessner, 865-2650, 8 p.m.
 - St. Michael's Prayer Group (women) 3681 Lake Ave. Rochester Mary Buechel, 663-7645, 10:30 a.m.
 - Bethlehem Prayer Community St. Rita's Church 3008 Maple Drive W. Webster Dick Mahaney, 671-1845; Jim Dammen, 671-5839
 - Emmanuel 132 Illinois St. Rochester Judy Costello, 654-9597, 9:30 a.m.
 - Donald & Mary Lou Mikel 3000 St. Paul St. Rochester 266-3749, 8 p.m.
 - St. Pius X Prayer Community 3000 Chili Ave. Rochester Bob Dunning, 247-3740, 8 p.m.
- THURSDAY**
- St. Anne's Prayer Group 1600 Mt. Hope Ave. Rochester Margaret Whitney, 461-1656, 8 p.m.
 - Precious Blood Prayer Group Our Lady of Mercy Parish School 600 Denise Rd. Greece Larry and Helen Kavanaugh, 663-9327, 8 p.m.
 - Santo Spirito St. Francis (old school) 314 Bay St. Rochester Jose Malave, 342-7759, 7 p.m. Israel Santana, 482-1252, 7 p.m.
 - Upper Room Prayer Group St. John's School W. DeZerg St. Clyde Joseph DiSanto, 923-7865, 7:15 p.m.
 - St. Charles Prayer Group St. Charles Borromeo Church Nursery 3003 Dewey Ave. Rochester John Taffner, 663-4851, 8 p.m.
 - Women at the Well (women) 151 Dalia Lane Rochester Mary Termine, 544-5211, 12:45 p.m.
 - St. Paul's Prayer Group St. Paul's Church 783 Hard Road Webster, N.Y. John Paille, 671-6090, 8 p.m.
- FRIDAY**
- Armand & Kathy Tanquay 311 Tobey Rd. Pittsford 381-1949, 8 p.m.
 - Sacred Heart of Jesus Prayer Group St. Lawrence School 1000 N. Greece Rd. Greece Klaus Schulz, 392-9646, 8 p.m.
- SATURDAY**
- Mr. & Mrs. Fred Burgess W. Union St. Extension Newark 331-3841, 9 p.m.
 - St. Monica's Church 34 Monica St. Rochester John & Rita Donnelly, 328-1332, 4 to 5 p.m.
 - John & Rita Donnelly 9 Ellicott St. Rochester 328-1332, 8 p.m.

Fr. McBrien, Theologian Heads Retreat

Ithaca - Father Richard P. McBrien, the internationally known theologian and professor at Boston College, will lead the Holy Week Retreat for the Cornell Catholic Community, April 10-14.

Father McBrien will speak at the weekend Masses on "What Am I to Be?" from Baptism to Resurrection.

He will discuss the formation of a Christian conscience, authority in the Church and the Church and social justice on the following three evenings at 8 p.m.

All events will be held in Anabel Taylor Hall auditorium on the Cornell campus.

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