

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

Was so pleased to see letter [2-18-76] on Natural Family Planning. The Sympto Thermic Method mentioned in your article really works. We have used it three years and are confident that it is effective. It's so great not to have to think you only can take pills etc. to space children. NFP has come a long way. Contraceptives might prevent pregnancies but they also are abortive in some cases. I doubt doctors are telling patients the whole story.

John and Sheila Kippley have a book current, available through Office of Family Life. It's the

teaching manual for Rochester NFP teachers. It tells the story of contraception "like it really is." Eventually people will be awakened to the facts and NFP will become more popular. "Humanae Vitae" isn't so bad after all. Thanks again for printing the 2-18-76 article.

Signed S.P.

Dear S.P.,

Thank you for your very nice letter. As time goes by I am becoming more and more convinced that while it is possible theologically that contraception is not against the divine law, nevertheless birth control by the Natural Family Planning method may in the last analysis be the real answer. All other methods seem to be coming up with problems which were not foreseen in the beginning and which may involve a much more serious kind of immorality than merely being means of birth control.

I guess we're going to have to try to work harder to distinguish between legitimate birth control for reasonable causes and methods of contraception which are physically, mentally or emotionally harmful to the users. Thank you again for your comments.

Bishops, priests and Sisters. Most have been faithful to the laws of God and the Church, and to His Spirit. As a result the Church enjoyed 400 years of relative internal tranquility. But if you read church history you will find some periods which make your hair stand on end. Some Popes and Bishops were just thugs, while at the same time along side them were Catholics who were saints, leading heroic lives. Did you know that four monks of the Order of the Humiliati tried to murder St. Charles Borromeo in 1569? Why? Because he insisted on the reform of their worldly order — despite the pious title, "Humiliati." One monk fired a bullet at St. Charles while the saint was at prayer with his people in the chapel. We're better off today, as tough as things seem. Frank Sheed, author, lecturer and publisher wrote a book in 1974 to give courage to disheartened Catholics. It is entitled "The Church and I!" and has humor, wisdom and contemporary history. He wrote: "An increasing number of Catholics find the Church as they meet it a trial to their faith. It is no trial to mine. I know more than most about its day-in-day-out reality, yet not only can I not imagine myself outside it, I delight being in it. In the eyes of the onlooker, the Church is to be judged not by the sinners, not even by the average, but by the Saints. That may seem like loading the dice, but it is not. A medicine is to be judged by those who take it, not by those who throw it down the sink. The Church is to be judged by those who know its teachings, obey its laws, receive its sacraments. The saints have done all these things with all their heart. Those of us who have done them partially or not at all are less useful as evidence to their value."

Then you are not discouraged?

Oh, not at all. Our Lord promised to be with His Church even to the end of the world; but He did not promise that everything would be wine and roses. We preach Christ and Him crucified. And the suffering Church is the reality which is here, and which we greatly love. It is up to us to fill in the sufferings of Our Lord which are found wanting. But this we must do "with patience and with kindness." (I. Cor. xiii)

CONTINUING

Rochester area women who have considered returning to college will have a chance to explore opportunities available at Monroe Community College, on Tuesday, May 18, and Wednesday, May 19, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. They are invited to the MCC faculty dining room to meet faculty, staff and administrators, talk with women who've returned to college, and to learn about programs and courses offered.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Wed., May 12, 1976 7

Dr. Pacala Baccalaureate Speaker

Dr. Leon Pacala, president of Colgate Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozer will be the main speaker at an interfaith baccalaureate ceremony for a record number of Nazareth College graduates at 5 p.m. Saturday, May 15.

Both the baccalaureate ceremony and Sunday's noon commencement exercises will be under a tent on the East lawn of the campus. A total of 675 undergraduate and graduate degrees will be awarded, surpassing last year's record high of 531.

The baccalaureate ceremony will be divided into two parts, an ecumenical Service of the Word and a liturgy of the Eucharist.

Nazareth graduate and undergraduate students and Msgr. William Shannon, chairman of the Religious Studies Department at the college, will participate in the first part of the ceremony along with Dr. Pacala who will deliver the homily. Father John Robbins, Nazareth College chaplain, will celebrate the Eucharist.

Dr. Pacala, an ordained Baptist minister, has been president of Colgate Rochester/Bexley Hall/Crozer since 1973. Prior to that, he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Chairman of the Department of Religion at Bucknell University. In 1973, he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Conference of Academic Deans.

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ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE CHURCH TODAY?

About eight or nine years ago, when hatred of the Institutional Church was going full blast in the National Catholic Reporter, I got a blistering letter from a progressive priest. He wound up a diatribe vs. the Church thus: "You adore the Church as a god!" I was distressed both by his hatred and by his theology. However he had a lot of emotional problems which accounted for most of his ideas.

Why did he ever become a priest?

Oh, men are attracted to the priesthood usually through idealism. They regard the priesthood, rightly, as the apex of service to God and man, because only a validly ordained priest can celebrate Mass. Usually they have an ambition to serve people through the Church with which they are familiar. They see it in ideal action in Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her 800 Sisters and 200 Brothers; and they see it in the lives of the Saints, e.g. Dom Bosco, Mother Cabrini, and my own favorite, St. Ignatius. All of these were service-oriented. Sometimes men enter the seminary starry-eyed, and they expect seminarians and their professors to be uncanonized saints. That's goofy. Ordination does not change a priest's personality or character. The difference is that after ordination the same man has special supernatural powers, means of grace; and a special obedience to his bishop or religious superior, which he accepts at ordination.

But people expect priests to be models of Christ.

Of course. And so are you and every other baptized person called "to put on Christ." However, most of us appreciate the text: "He who is without sin, let him cast the first stone."

But since Vatican II awful things have hit the Church!

Cheer up. Since the Catholic Counter-Reformation and the Council of Trent 400 years ago we have been blessed with exceptionally good Popes and