

Family Encounter Follows ME

Last in a Series
By MICHAEL GRODEN

During a recent visit to Elmira, Father Gabriel Calvo, Spanish-born founder of Marriage Encounter outlined his future plans for the movement. Father Calvo stated that Marriage Encounter is the first phase of his vision for the world. After a couple has made Marriage Encounter a part of their lives they should look for Family Encounter.

In order for Father Calvo's vision to become a reality, however, he feels that there must be unity among all faiths and that the different expressions of Marriage Encounter should strive for that unity.

In describing his feelings towards the different expressions in Marriage Encounter, Father Calvo explained that he understands the reasons why they exist but is saddened by it.

He realizes that there are basic philosophical differences and that this unification will take time. Father Calvo stresses that any changes should be made according to the rules of the church. True

ecumenism can become a reality but only by working within the Church.

Father Calvo feels that when this unity is achieved, Family Encounter will have a better chance to succeed.

James and Mary Sue Govola, federation leaders of the Christian Family Movement (CFM) in the Rochester Diocese, stated that in Family Encounter the husband and wife take what they have learned in Marriage Encounter and apply it to their children.

"Where before you had Marriage Encounter now you can have an encountering family that consciously lives with Christ in their home. Parents sometimes feel frustrated when alone or confused in their roles and responsibilities. However, if they join with other parents they find encouragement and help in developing a Christian Family," they said.

"Sharing struggles, joys, fears and principles of Christian living with a group of friends has its unique reward. As parents continue to

meet, they learn to open up to each other, to listen, to share, to accept and challenge each other. This is the process by which Christian community is formed."

A Marriage Encounter couple says that Family Encounter is more difficult. It is harder for parents to communicate deeply with children as they did with one another, and even more difficult for the children to express themselves to their parents. The task is made easier when a couple has learned the technique of communication taught in Marriage Encounter.

The success of Family Encounter will make it possible for Father Calvo's ultimate goal, world unity. The Spanish priest feels that when family members become deeply involved with one another and interact with other families, a unified and peaceful world can evolve.

Business in the Diocese



LaSALLE EMMANUEL

Two key administrators at Nazareth College have been promoted to vice presidential positions, it was announced by Dr. Alice L. Foley, president of the college.

Stephen LaSalle, 17 Enfield Dr., Pittsford, was appointed vice president for finance, a post which incorporates his present duties as college treasurer and business manager. Sister Gabriella Maloney will continue as director of financial affairs.

At the same meeting, Judith Emmanuel was named vice president for student affairs, a post she assumes after serving Nazareth College for over five years as dean of students. Miss Emmanuel resides at 3660 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford.

The recent promotions increase the number of vice presidents at Nazareth College to four.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE HILL

Tom Sawyer's hope for better luck on the "Other Side of the Hill" is the main idea of The Pirates, a play which the St. Margaret Mary seventh grade will present in the school auditorium at 7:30 tonight.

The play is adapted from Mark Twain's Tom Sawyer. Directed by Amy Higgins and Barbara Mikel, the production has been underway for several months under the advice of language arts teacher, Mrs. William O'Neill. Cast members include Dan Graupman as Tom, Tim Healy as Huck Finn and Mary Ann Bonafede as Aunt Polly.

Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

[Sixth in a series]

This column will focus on Catholic sex education as it has been (and in some instances still is) influenced by SIECUS — a sex education organization whose members favor 1) total sexual freedom in experimentation and entertainment, including pornography; and 2) human sexuality being taught in the schools as early as kindergarten. During the 12 years since SIECUS spun off from Planned Parenthood in the mid-sixties, Catholic notables have served SIECUS as board members and/or supported the vast organization in some way.

Many well-intentioned Catholic educators, viewing children as miniature adults, believe that human sexuality plays a consistently dominant role in the course of child development almost from the moment of birth. They see sexual maturity as an ultimate goal (Walter Imborski, the former priest who wrote the Becoming A Person Program while serving on the SIECUS board of directors noted, "Maturity is the beginning of holiness." Excuse me but this is absurd — maturity isn't the beginning of anything, least of all holiness. For instance, what is a child whose brother or sister is mentally handicapped to feel if this maturity-holiness can never be reached? Mr. Imborski's stress on sexual maturity matches exactly that of SIECUS.)

Many Catholic educators believe, write and teach that we must subject all children to all the proper medical terminology, all the biological information, psycho-sexual observations and sex-related details as early as possible, as early as the educators think the children's minds are capable of memorizing the data. Ideally starting in the kindergarten years. They seek to eliminate home-inspired pet terms related to bathroom functions (hardly a facet of human sexuality in the first place, and something children outgrow if the authorities leave them alone). They offer SIECUS-sponsored films such as Girl to Woman and Boy to Man designed specifically to stimulate early-year "open" discussions of intercourse and masturbation — and in some films, homosexuality/lesbianism —

topics which normally remain latent during the early age years surrounding the 4th, 5th and 6th grades (the Latency Period).

Some Catholic educators, obsessed with "showing the other side," have taught the advantages of contraception, mechanical or surgical; the necessity of some abortions; inaccurate information on the pre-birth baby; the very liberal view of sterilization; and the new "open acceptance" of homosexuality.

In one midwestern Catholic elementary school, fifth graders were taught in the most explicit ways the definitions of obscene four-letter words — oral sex included — in order to detoxify their minds and to rid them of parental "taboos." In other schools closer to home, 4th graders are told to discuss "intra-family relationships" (no one's business); 9-year-olds are taught about masturbation, and given the medically proper words penis, vulva, testicles, clitoris, sperm, and zygote. Adoptions (a very private matter) are discussed in class; weaknesses in family life are defined and discussed; role-playing and personal dramatizations are 4th grade projects. Parents are often discouraged, if not forbidden, to attend classroom discussion periods because "children won't talk about family sex when mothers are present" and educators want children to talk about family sex.

I am not against sex education in the Catholic schools. But there are two things I fail to understand: the reliance on the SIECUS approach; and the reliance on the very gentlemen who teach that Catholics must be liberated from the authority of Rome, the celebrated Dissenters Marc Oraison, Andrew Maloney, Walter Imborski, Charles Curran, James Carol, John McLaughlin, John McCall, and Anthony J. Wilhelm (all but two of whom have left the priesthood). I respect their intelligence, their dedication, and their rights. Their personal opinions on sex may be valid, but they are certainly not Catholic.

NEXT WEEK: Catholic sex education continued. Documentation sources available on request.

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Priest Elected To Auburn School Board

Auburn — Father James C. Enright, associate pastor of St. Mary's, won election to the Auburn Board of Education on May 4 by placing second in an eight-way race. Dr. Richard Unger, first place winner, and Father Enright will succeed James G. Willis Jr. and Kenneth Champlain, the incumbents, who were defeated in re-election bids. The new board will begin the three-year term on July 1.

COUNSELOR WORKSHOPS

Counselor Workshops will be offered by the Drug and Alcohol Council during the summer in two locations. The courses will be given on Tuesday evenings, beginning June 1 and running through August 17 at the YMCA, 797 Monroe Ave., and St. Monica's Parish Center, 34 Monica St. Interested persons should register by calling the Drug and Alcohol Council, 454-2535.

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A CHAPEL OF THEIR OWN

The Sisters of Our Lady Immaculate who care for poor foundlings in Trichur, India, desperately need a chapel. Just \$3,000 will build it for them. Elsewhere in India, \$10,000 will help build a parish plant, with completed church, for a poor village. What better Memorial for someone you love!

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