



Spring Again

Richard Maier of St. Theodore's parish drives the tractor in a process that almost eliminates the "stoop work" of transplanting. Fifty thousand melon plants were set out June 4 on the Harry Maier Sons farm in Spencerport. Everybody rode except Richard's son Rick, who is shown at lower right checking whether the plants are set properly.



Photos by Susan McKinney

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

It is disheartening to us who know that Sympto-Thermic is as effective as any artificial contraceptive to learn that 36 women have died on IUD and that women are handed the pill not knowing they may have one or more of the 25 side effects from it, including depression, and then to hear the clergy say "I'm not interested."

Women are bitter because the Church has told couples what to do but not how to do it. This knowledge has been available for some time, but many doctors don't know, won't take the time to instruct, or assume people won't or can't abstain. We have instructed hundreds of couples and are wearing thin because their story is all the same. Many will not or cannot because of physical, moral, aesthetic reasons use artificial methods. Where do they turn? It is pathetic to see them turn for help to us — a non-professional, or dinary couple.

A great deal could be done if clergymen were more aware of what is being done in NFP in other dioceses and all over the world, for that matter. It's interesting to note that the Church's ignoring the matter of family planning apparently hasn't helped to make marriages any happier.

I was disappointed that you didn't correct the letter writers's

statement that Catholics should use Rhythm or abstain entirely. Knowledgeable people today do not use the word Rhythm because to most this means Calendar Rhythm — Natural Family Planning indicates Sympto-Thermic and this is what the Church advises.

Actually, S-T teaches a woman so much about herself, that will probably be its best selling point. Arguing about whether the Church is right or wrong seems to me to be a waste of time. Constructive action — teaching NFP — would help many couples resolve much in their conscience, in their family planning problems, and in enriching their marriage.

Sincerely,
M.O.

Dear M.O.,

Your observations are being printed because they point up what has become more and more evident to me in recent months: namely, that artificial methods of birth control can be not only aesthetically distasteful but also physically harmful. I personally would be delighted to help promote Natural Family Planning (Sympto-Thermic method).

However, I think it might be a little unfair to blame priests for the non-dissemination of this method, since we are not really competent in that particular area. The Church consists of more than hierarchy and clergy. It consists of lay people like yourself as well as professional people like physicians, and everyone has a role to play even in fields involving morals. Therefore I will be glad to help in this matter but someone like you or a professional physician will have to lead the way.

Incidentally, anyone interested in this particular method of Natural Family Planning may write or call the Catholic Family Center at 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, 14604. Thank you again for your perceptive observations.

St. Joseph's Nursing Honors

Elmira — Academic honors were bestowed upon four of the 46 graduating students of St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

In ceremonies presided over by Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty, Sister Anne Marie Burns, SSJ, received the Rev. Francis J. Walker memorial Award for highest scholastic achievement; Patricia Kaveny, Rochester, was the recipient of the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Faculty Award for second highest scholastic achievement.

The St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Award, for excellence in nursing practice was presented to Kathleen Ring, Williamsport, Pa. Barbara Quinlan, Rochester, was cited for outstanding leadership in student nursing activities by District 3, New York State Nurses Association.

Recognized for maintaining a "B" or higher average were honor students Sharon Blake, Sister Anne Marie Burns, Jo Anne Cannuli, Sheila Chambers, Joan Foley, Carol Tomazin Gehen, Kathleen Jurka, Patricia Kaveny, Diane Rogers Leach, Diane Luchaco, George Mandery, and Susan Mikolajczyk.

Audition

Auditions for Frank Loesser's "The Most Happy Fella" principals, dancers and chorus members, are scheduled at the Eastman School, Thursday and Friday, June 17-18. For appointment, 275-3060 should be called.

SUMMER FESTIVAL

The annual summer festival at Holy Ghost Church in Gates has been scheduled for July 16 and 17, with a rain date of July 18. All proceeds will be used for an addition to the school hall.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

Bit by bit I am getting rid of my craft materials. Several dozen white perforated ceiling tiles left over from a renovating job at a former house went to the kindergarten, where they were turned into interesting pictures. Flat, oval-shaped cobble stones picked up near the lake have been given a coat of paint, affixed with a picture and turned into paper weights for a school craft sale.

An assortment of nondescript plastic boxes designed to hold 4 by 6 inch index cards have been similarly decoupage'd, filled with candy and handed out as favors at a birthday party and have gone on to be reused as toiletries containers for camping expeditions.

Interestingly shaped bread boards picked up at garage sales and five and ten cent stores have received decorations, been shellacked and made their way to become somebody else's clutter.

Coffee and potato chip cans have been covered with adhesive backed wrapping paper, and the plastic lids slit enough to receive coins. As banks they were attractive but something less than successful as allowances could be put in and retracted almost immediately — which they usually were.

Brandy snifters have been made

into terrariums or covered with rice paper, flowery pictures, more varnish to become candle holders.

Blocks of wood have been stained to become bookends, more wood turned into plaques and still more wood into key chains, pendants, etc., etc., etc.

At least part of the reason for ending this long running love affair with craft materials is that we have run out of recipients. It is very difficult to give something away when the would-be giftee starts running in the other direction.

Second, the kids at our house whom I used as an excuse for dabbling in all the mess have revolved and refuse to get excited over becoming painted and glued and puttied up to their elbows.

And over the years, the fellow I share the basement storage quarters with has tended to become less tolerant of finding rocks, wood, old cans and old calendars littered over a large area of the cellar to say nothing of having the kitchen table always wearing a veneer of glue or paste.

The main reason, though for getting rid of the junk is none above. Rather, it is because I have found a new hobby. I would not presume to call it sewing. That is what people do who turn out wearable, serviceable garments that can go to school or work or other places where the civilized masses tend to gather.

My efforts do not fit in that category, limited as they are to tank tops, halters, shorts etc. very useful for occupations such as washing cars, sitting in a sand box, having a mud fling, etc.

Nevertheless such activity requires its own paraphernalia — 15 boxes so far of fabric remnants, spools of oddly tinted threads, patterns, etc. And frankly the house just won't hold two such hobbies at one time.