THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Readers,

The letter below enclosed a copy of my column of March 17, 1976, in which I was making the distinction between mortal sin and serious sin. The writer points out two sentences, the first having to do with the meaning of serious sin in which I wrote that a person "might end up in a situation of serious sin but he would not be alienated from Christ because he would still be moving in the direction of the Christian life."

The other quotation is the last sentence in the column: "I rather like the distinction because it takes away the idea that one could be seriously alienated from Christ through one single act or through a short series of acts". These two sentences are referred to in the following letter.

Dear Father,

I realize what you are saying, so far as it goes, is true. But do you know the point that comes across — at least to me, and I'm sure to some others? It's that we now have a sort of permission to relax our strict moral beliefs, and not be on guard against certain actions, like excessive drunkenness, because even if we commit sin it is not mortal. Nowhere do you point out the evil of serious sin [oh, do you really think it is apparent to all your readers?], that it causes a serious, though temporary alienation from Christ, even though "he would still be moving in the direction of the Christian life." You seem to be saying he would not be alienated from Christ at all. This is not theology as I learned it, nor does it even make sense, unless one believes in a wishy-washy kind of God.

I pray that you will use your words more carefully in the future. Your articles can do a lot of good, but they can also do a lot of harm to the people of God, especially those of more liberal upbringing.

Yours truly,
M.C.

P.S. I think the temporary alienation of Christ due to serious sin is a serious alienation — nothing to be taken lightly by the sinner, but rather to be acknowledged and regretted, as well as confessed as soon as possible.

Dear M.C.,

When you speak of a sort of permission to relax our strict moral beliefs I assume that you feel there is some kind of immediate punishment when mortal sin is committed. Are you aware of any immediate consequences of mortal sin? If not, then there would really be no difference between the two. The only difference is in the final outcome of our lives, and that has to do with the direction our lives are taking in toto.

So serious sin is still serious, exactly what it says; it is not to be be taken lightly by the sinner, but rather the sinner must have a profound consciousness that he has done something which requires a radical change in his way of acting. Therefore you and I don't really disagree. Apparently I just didn't express myself adequately.

Scholar

Daniel P. Lomio, former Gates resident, has recently been granted a full scholarship from the Department of the Army. Lomio is now attending San Jose State University in California and is a Sgt. 1st Class in the university's ROTC program. He is the only student in the program to get the award this year.

Feis Rochester Set for July 10

Irish dancers from northeastern states and Canada will assemble here Saturday, July 10, for the fifth annual Feis Rochester. More than 130 competitions will be conducted under the rules of the North American Feis Commission. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Monroe County Fairgrounds.

Neil Daly, chairman, urges dancers to get their entry blanks soon from Mrs. Marylou Neary, 239 Leonard Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14616. Further information may be obtained from him at 716/663-8767.

CHURCH FESTIVAL

Hilton — St. Leo's Church held its annual summer festival last week. Featured were an assortment of rides and booths, including an arts and crafts booth with items made by parish members, and a cake booth also supplied by St. Leo's parishioners.

Monaco Royalty to Key Family Life Conference

Philadelphia (RNS) — Prince Rainier and Princess Grace will keynote a family life conference here in connection with the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in August.

Monaco's royal couple will read "an affirmation of hope" at the start of the Aug. 2 meeting of 14 national Catholic family life organizations, organizers of the congress announced.

Philadelphia is the hometown of the princess, the former Grace Kelly.

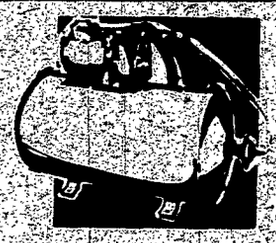
Other leaders of the family life conference are Patty Crowley, co-founder with her late husband, Pat, of the Christian family movement; Father Donald Conroy, family life representative for the U.S. Catholic Conference, and Father James Young, adviser, Divorced Catholics Group.

Father Joseph V. DiMauro, national coordinator for family day activities, said that "the virtue of hope will be focused on every aspect of family life, from the womb to the tomb."

Workshops will deal with such topics as the theology of marriage, mission of the family in society, family at prayer, widowed and divorced persons, morality, and marriage enrichment.

There will be an evening Mass, celebrated by Cardinal James Knox of Melbourne, Australia, appointed by Pope Paul as papal legate to the 41st Congress. Cardinal Terence Cooke of New York will offer the homily in English and Spanish, and a special meditation will be presented by Father Gabriel Calvo, a Spanish priest who founded the Marriage Encounter movement in 1962.

MONTH OF JUNE SPECIALS



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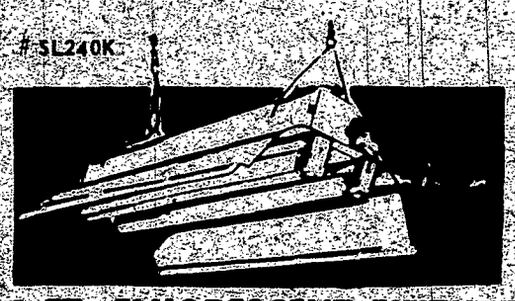

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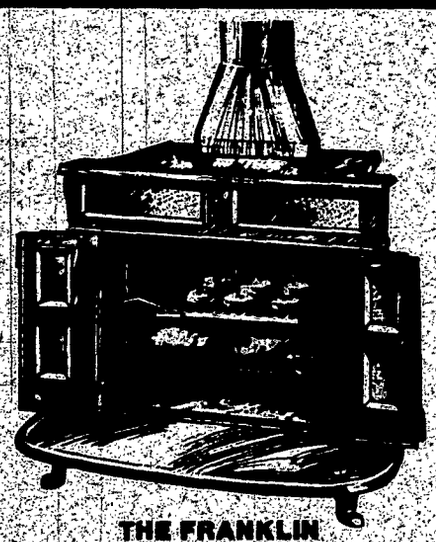

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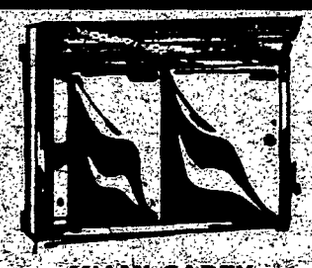

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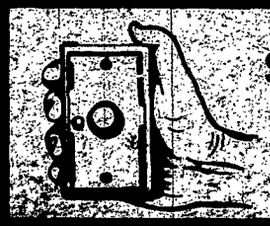

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