



Dear Father,

Why do the advocates of the new rite of Penance keep talking about a "laundry list of sins"? To the priest listening to confessions, the sins may sound like laundry lists but to the sincere penitent, it is an individual and personal searching of his soul when the list of his weaknesses and faults, and sins are spoken aloud in the confessional. I have never known any person who took going to confession lightly, or who considered his or her own sins standard laundry lists. Just as our strengths are personal and individual, so do most of us look upon our failures and sins. There was much good derived from the old rite of Penance, just as there was much good derived from saying the old familiar prayers that the priest asked the penitent to say. Saying the prayers after leaving the confessional did give the penitent a closer feeling in his relationship with our Lord, and was a source of strength in seeking a way of life that was pleasing and acceptable to God and the Church.

I think it is wonderful that the clergy want to further help the penitent by giving more time to individual confession, but why belittle or downgrade the time-tested ritual of the past that served and continues to serve those seeking help in correcting faults and sins?

Sincerely,
J.F.

Dear J. F.,

First of all, I do not think that any of us wish to downgrade or belittle time-tested rituals of the past. Our task relative to the decrees of Vatican Council II is to find out what was wrong in the past and try to improve it for the future. You are absolutely right in saying that there was much good derived from the practice of confession in the past. After all, it is the Sacrament of Penance in which we come into contact with Jesus Christ as sinners seeking to celebrate God's forgiveness.

NOON MUSIC

The Baroque Arts Ensemble plays at Genesee Crossroads Park today, 12:10-12:50 p.m.

PRIEST TO SPEAK

Auburn — Father Charles Mulligan, director of the Office of Human Development, will be guest speaker at the 11th annual Commemorative Dinner of the Cayuga County Action Program at 6 p.m. on July 11 at the Auburn Golf and Country Club. Funds raised by the dinner and publication of a souvenir booklet will be used towards the budgets of agency programs, particularly the day care center. Ticket reservations may be made by contacting CCAP offices at 60 Clark St., Auburn.

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But as I have pointed out before, we on our part must do everything we can to open our hearts to Christ's coming to us. The fact is that more than a few people got into the habit of coming to confession on a regular basis and becoming over the course of the years quite repetitive in listing sins. In other words, we didn't give much thought to the real state of our souls but rather just accepted the fact that we were doing the same wrong things week after week and they didn't seem all so wrong at that. This is what is meant by "laundry list." What is asked for now is a probing of the reasons behind our rather consistently bad behavior — anger, disobedience, profanity or whatever.

As far as the prayers assigned by the priest are concerned, they will still be assigned in many instances. But the idea of a "Penance" should include the possible ways in which I can overcome my bad habits and reverse my behavior patterns. Many people apparently got the impression that those prayers assigned by the priest took care of everything and that nothing else would be required. If the "Penance" can help the process of overcoming the sin in the future as well as remind the penitent of the necessity of turning around, then it is all the more worthwhile.

Padre Pio, Lecturer's Topic

Joseph Lomangino, widely-known Marian apostle from Long Island, will present a slide-lecture on Padre Pio and on Marian apparitions, including Fatima, on two dates in this area: Saturday, July 10, at 8:15 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo school hall, and Sunday, July 11, 1 p.m. at St. Mary's school gym, Waterloo. Admission is free.

Lomangino has lectured in 13 countries and 30 states in America and appeared on national television in the U.S. and Ireland.

CYO PROGRAMS

The CYO has scheduled five two-day "Reachout" sessions designed to help high school students develop leadership skills for work in parish, school and civic organizations. The first is set for July 26-27.

In addition, there will be Summer workshops for people 14 to 19 years old on the following topics: Group Process, Interpersonal Communication, Leadership Skills, Biblical Studies, Cultural Awareness, Television, Human Sexuality. Further information is available at the CYO office, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604; telephone, 716/454-2030.

and numerous local television and radio programs here and abroad. His lectures in Rochester and Waterloo will be on the famous Franciscan monk, Padre Pio, who bore the visible wounds of Christ, the "Stigmata," for 50 years until his death in 1968, and whose cause for

canonization has already been introduced in Rome. Lomangino will also discuss modern-day apparitions of the Virgin Mary, including those at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 and others.

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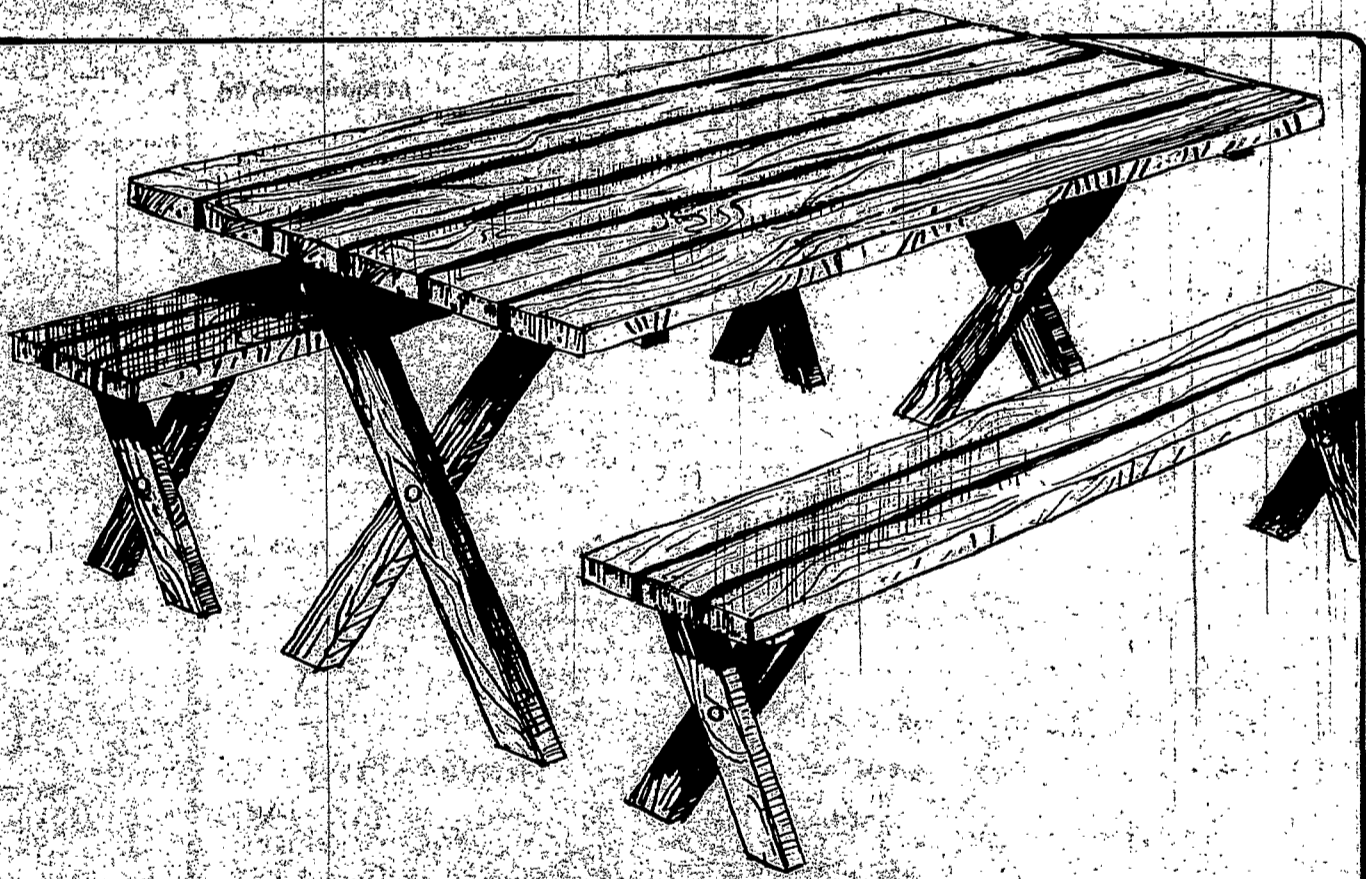
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