

THE OPEN WINDOW




Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I read your Courier-Journal article on group confession with great interest, but there was mention of forgiveness for all sins but "grave" ones. In all of my years, I don't recall hearing that adjective in relation to a sin. Please explain

The Church 1976



Fr. Andrew Greeley

An archbishop I know recently remarked to someone else that he couldn't understand me. I was always pleasant and friendly to him in person, but it was so terribly critical of him in print. How could it be?

The comment is symptomatic of American Catholicism today. You see, there are no difficulties about issues — only about personalities. If you criticize someone's policy stands, it must mean you don't like him.

Now some of my best friends are bishops — though, as I have said, you wouldn't want your sister to marry one. I will gladly buy dinner for an archbishop — which is more than most priests would do — but I do think many of them are making a terrible mess of their job of leading the American church.

I don't see any contradiction in those two positions at all, do you? If so, then you're part of the problem, I fear.

I find it hard to hold grudges for very long, but because personal antagonism goes away, it does not follow that differences on issues, policies, and ideas go away, too. How can they?

I mean, I could even meet the two top people on my enemies list — Cardinal Cody and University of Chicago President John Wilson — on an airplane and have a moderately affable conversation with both of them. That doesn't mean I agree with either their general policy or their decisions about me.

I really can be very pleasant. I was pleasant to Michael Novak for years — and heaven and all the other ethnic activists know how difficult that can be. I don't even find it hard to be pleasant personally — at least if I have enough sleep and haven't been to the dentist.

But what has that got to do with ideas, issues, policies, and the fate and future of the Church?

I do not relish the role of gadfly to the hierarchy (well, not altogether — sometimes it's fun to get even). By temperament, conviction, and training I believe in compromise, coalition, consensus. My mentor in things ecclesiastical, John Egan, convinced me long ago that the best way to accomplish change within the Church is to

what a grave sin is and give an example or two.

Keep up the good work, your "Open Window" is always very interesting.

Signed, E.M.

Dear E.M.,

Grave is from a Latin word gravis which means heavy and therefore can be translated as serious. I suppose the reason you never saw it was that we generally spoke of mortal sin rather than grave sin although in the study of theology the word grave or gravis came up continually.

Grave sins would include murder, adultery, large theft, or serious injury to a fellow human being. These are heavy matters and therefore are grave sins.

Thank you for your kind words about Open Window.

work inside the system — that is to say, to work with the bishops "trying to educate them."

I gave up that policy only after about 18 years as a priest — because it wasn't working any more, and the problems facing the Church were too serious to ignore.

Going into opposition wasn't easy. Still, as life draws down to its finale, you've got to face the fact that a lot of dreams aren't going to come true, that a lot of promises have been blighted, and that a lot of things don't work.

And you don't want to come up against the Old-Fella and have to answer the question of why you were silent in the face of ignorance, oppression, injustice, and incompetency — especially when you had the forum and the position from which to speak out.

It will do no good at all to tell him, "But they were nice guys."

I believe that dissent is a healthy means of upward communication in any human organization. The wise leader has a house "no man" around to make sure that dissent occurs. The more loyal dissent in the Church, the better off it would be.

Unfortunately, the present crowd in charge is in mortal terror of dissent. They might hear something they don't want to hear, apparently. Too bad for them.

And if I don't enjoy dissent, I enjoy even less being a coward, a careerist, a corrupt yes-man, a fink. I fear that's the kind of person a lot of bishops want around them. Too bad for the rest of us. Too bad for the Church.

Fisher PR Man Moving to U of R

Raymond A. Martino, assistant director of the Office of Communications at St. John Fisher College since 1972, is moving into a similar job at the University of Rochester.

Martino, a graduate of John Marshall High School and Fisher class of 1971, received a master of science degree from Syracuse University's Newhouse School of Public Communications in 1975. He will be editor of the University Record, a bi-monthly newspaper for employees, an associate editor of Currents, a weekly for students, faculty, and staff, an assistant editor of UR's quarterly alumni magazine, Rochester Review, and will handle other public information assignments.

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Triduum Set In Shortsville

Shortsville — In preparation of the feast of St. Dominic Aug. 8, there will be a Triduum in St. Dominic's Church here consisting of exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament; recitation of the Most Holy Rosary, meditation of the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary.

The Triduum will be conducted by Father Joseph Sasso beginning 7:30 p.m. Aug. 4, 5 and 6.

St. Ann's Alumni Plan Dance

Hornell — The St. Ann's School Alumni Association banquet committee is planning a dinner-dance Oct. 2 at the Knights of Columbus. The new association has a membership of 742.

Festival committee chairmen named are Mary Aini and Mary Agnes Crosby who will man the membership booth at the annual St. Ann's Parish Festival Sept. 10 and 11. Program committee co-chairmen named are William Sirianni and Angelo Daniels.

Father Robert C. MacNamara, pastor, spoke briefly on the hope for a successful association by the members feeling an awareness of the values and aims of the Church and why this Alumni Association was formed.

The next meeting of the group will be at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 11 in St. Ann's School.

PARISH BARBECUE

Port Byron — St. John's will serve its barbecue Saturday, Aug. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. Chicken and pork chops are on the menu. Margaret Young and Josephine Van Acora are chairmen, assisted by Marjorie Darrow, Pauline Seaman, Mary Guidone, Marie and Theresa Van Datto, and Don and Ann Kudla. Father Bernard Kuchman, pastor, is honorary chairman.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Hornell — Dominic and Angela Parillo Mauro, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently at a Mass in St. Ann's Church and a reception at the Big Elms Restaurant. Among the guests were two members of the wedding party, Mrs. Lucy Capalupo of Binghamton, the bride's sister, and Mrs. Monica Buco of Johnson City, a sister of the groom.

The Mauros were married in St. John's Church, Susquehanna, Pa., and moved here two years later. They have four sons, Salvatore, Joseph and Francis, of Hornell, and Carl, of Dansville. Mr. Mauro retired in 1970, after 48 years with the Erie-Lackawanna Railway Co.

GOLF BENEFIT

The ninth annual Walter Hagen Memorial Golf Tournament will be played at Midvale Country Club in Penfield on Aug. 2. Approximately 160 golfers will tee off at noon. More than \$156,000 has been raised for the American Cancer Society in the past eight tournaments. Honorary chairman of the 1976 tournament is William D. Gasser, accounting professor at RIT and an active volunteer for the American Cancer Society, Monroe County Unit. General chairman is Ross Virgo.

FIRST THURSDAY
 First Thursday devotions at Blessed Sacrament Aug. 5 will begin at noon, with adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continuing until 5 p.m. Benediction will follow the regular 5:15 p.m. Mass.

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