

**THE OPEN WINDOW**



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman, I've just discovered your radio program, and it's really informative. But in regard to all this modern theology, I don't think it's as complex as everyone seems to think.

I used the rhythm method long before it was perfected, because of my own precarious mental health, and my husband's bad heart. It was a real cross, true — anguish, yes indeed! We were both hoping that the pill would be approved.

But aren't we Christians? Aren't we supposed to take up our cross daily and follow in the footsteps of Christ? And aren't we supposed to believe in the miraculous power of prayer and the omniscience, providence and tender mercy of God?

Aren't we supposed to go to the heights of heroism for our faith — even death? Maybe even so far as to practice total continence within the married state, if necessary, if that is what God seems to be asking of us?

I don't think anyone who uses contraceptives or sterilization is going to hell. I think malicious gossip is a far worse sin than some poor, scared, sick, over-burdened mother using the pill.

But I do think that we are getting away from the idea of the in-

comparable value of suffering and anguish, borne for the love of Christ, in the redemptive plan. God knows, I've been through a living hell, but I have come to know and love a God of infinite delight. And by God's grace, I'd go through those terrible years of anguish all over again, if He were waiting for me at the end of the Via Dolorosa.

Signed, A.C.

Dear A.C., Your letter is truly a faith filled and compassionate one and I think you must be a very beautiful person. It is true that we as Christians are called to carry the cross but that doesn't preclude the necessity of our finding truth about God's will through either theological or scientific investigation. For example we must not terminate our fight against disease because it would be "heroic" to bear pain over a long period of time. Nor would it be God's will that we avoid taking pain killing drugs in order to suffer in the way He suffered on the cross. What you did, you did in good faith and I'm sure that you are a much better person for it, much closer to God, and much richer in the Spirit. But we still have to keep checking out legitimate ways of controlling birth when that is reasonable and wise. Natural Family Planning, which is a successor to the rhythm method, is supposedly a very effective means to this end. It does not involve contraception or sterilization. And so if you had it available to you at the time you could have used it in good conscience. But that would have taken away the anguish and the difficulty that you went through because you believed that it was God's will for you. As I said before, you are a better person for what you did and certainly God loves you very dearly and will reward you.

Even with all the advances of science, there is still plenty of suffering in this world upon which all of us can grow. May we be equal to the lot apportioned to us as you were to yours.

**Musical Comedy Tour Launched By Local Troupe**

A new theatrical company called Family Features launched a local tour this week with an original musical comedy, *Town in a Trance*. The play is the work of John Gaspar of Pittsford, a Nazareth College student, who organized the group with his sister, Nancy, Abigail Howell of Pittsford, a senior drama major at Nazareth, directs a cast of 30 young people from the Rochester area.

The troupe will perform at 7:30 tonight in the United Church of Pittsford.

The remainder of the schedule, with an evening curtain time of 7:30 throughout Saturday, Aug. 7, Jewish Community Center; Wednesday, Aug. 11, Blessed Sacrament School; Friday, Aug. 13, St. Jerome's, East Rochester. In addition, there will be a show at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Jewish Community Center, and other engagements may be scheduled.

**FAMILY PICNIC**

A family picnic for members of charismatic prayer groups will be sponsored by St. Paul's prayer group Saturday, Aug. 14, at the Creek Bend Shelter in Webster Park. The picnic will begin at 3 p.m., and will conclude with a Mass at 7 p.m., celebrated by Father William Trott. Families should bring their own picnic supplies. Further information can be obtained by contacting John Paille, 671-6090.

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**More Opinions**

**Sees Populace Hypocritical**

Editor: As a nation consisting of 46 million Catholics the legal abortion of three unborn babies every 60 seconds is not only shameful but utterly repulsive. Add these figures to the rest of the Christian populace and we are the most quantitatively arranged blob of hypocrites that ever existed.

If anyone would bother at all there is a crisis that needs to be faced. What the infamous Supreme Court unleashed on us in 1973 is raging out of hand and only a handful are answering the call. The atrocities performed on the little bodies of God's Creative Hands are the results of a silence that pervades year after year. Here are just a few of these consequences that happened in only a two week period.

The Supreme Court ruled that a mother and father could not intervene if their underage daughter wished an abortion, whether she be 12 or 20.

HEW just released figures that federally funded abortions number between 250,000 and 300,000 and costs taxpayers from \$45-50 million yearly.

The March of Dimes is currently funding a program to detect birth defects (Amniocentesis) in unborn babies, which in almost every case results in an abortion of the baby. A long time pro-abortionist is director

of the March of Dimes Abortion Research Project.

One of the planks in the Democratic party platform is to oppose any motion to overturn the 1973 Supreme Court abortion ruling.

You can now purchase human fetuses and/or fetus organs embedded in "crystal clear blocks." The three to four month old fetus goes for \$97.80 with organs that can be purchased separately. The ad for these "products" reads: "Fresh from autopsy, there wet embedded specimens are displayed in living color."

Finally here is one for the record of when life begins; the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture ruled against the importation of fertilized cattle ova because "fertilized ova represented cattle." Commenting on this Rep. Bob Bergland (D-Minn.) said "That should answer any question about abortion."

Anyone subscribing to the National Catholic Register and the National Right to Life News has read these articles and can verify that they do not even begin to scratch the surface. On Nov. 4 all candidates supporting a human life amendment must be voted for Human Life has top priority over all other issues. Rejecting this, one can give myriad excuses, but there can never be any reasons for a Catholic that is.

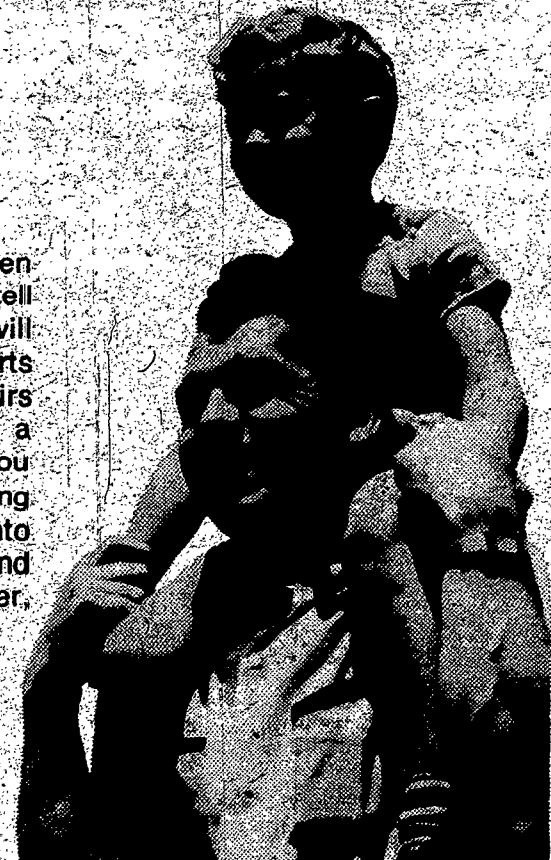
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