



Rooftop Garden

Msgr. James D. Cuffney, pastor at St. Mary's Church, Auburn, inspects produce from his rooftop garden. St. Mary's parish believes in putting every bit of available space to good use. The garden is located on the roof of the rectory garage and the corn, pumpkins, tomatoes, lettuce etc. are flourishing.

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father:

I think that you owe it to your readers to correct some misconceptions that your articles are creating.

For some months I have been reading about the joys of the Natural Family Planning Method and that information could be readily obtained by writing to or going to the Catholic Family Center. This certainly sounded much better than the alternatives of birth control or total abstinence.

Guided by your directions, I felt that rather than write for information, I would go directly to the Catholic Family Center and obtain the information first hand.

I scheduled a day of vacation and went to the Catholic Family Center. After a one-hour wait in the waiting room, I met with a priest. He said that he couldn't give me any direct information but that in a month that there would be an instructional meeting in Geneva. Sensing my frustration, he did give me a 1970 book on the Rhythm System, a non-instructional pamphlet on NFP, and a phone number of some woman I might call.

Kilbourn Concerts Begin Sept. 14

Kilbourn Concerts, the Tuesday evening chamber music series presented at Kilbourn Hall by the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester, will open on Sept. 14 with a program of music by Ravel, Schubert, and Mozart, performed by the Cleveland Quartet and five of their Eastman faculty colleagues.

The Quartet, whose members join the Eastman string faculty in September, will perform five other programs in the 16 concert series. Their programs will comprise the first Rochester performance of the complete cycle of Beethoven string quartets.

Other highlights of the series will be recitals by pianist Barry Snyder, violinist Zvi Zeitlin, with pianist Robert Spillman, jazz composer pianist Bill Dobbins, jazz guitarist Gene Bertocini, the renowned bass-baritone William Warfield, and an evening of music for lute and soprano with Paul O'Dette and Helen Boatwright.

After following your directions, I now know absolutely no more about NFP than I did before. The secret is well kept.

I recommend that you stop putting this misinformation in the Courier Journal and that the Catholic Family Center make NFP information more easily accessible to those who need it. I feel that you and the Catholic Family Planning Center are doing a great disservice to the people of the diocese. If you really want to help us, please give us the truth we need to know and make it easy to obtain it; otherwise forget about it.

Dear Reader:

I am deeply sorry that you are so frustrated by the lack of information on Natural Family Planning. The new developments in this area do not lend themselves to easy explanation in a newspaper column or letter. Personnel is required to have the information disseminated properly and usefully. If it is of any help to you one of the strongest advocates of the Natural Family Planning will be going to the Diocesan Pastoral Council in the not too distant future to ask them to do something about this particular problem of non-accessibility of information. One or two women in this entire area have been carrying the burden of communicating the information on an individual basis (which is the way it must be done). This is not a feasible mode of operation for the future. So many of us would like the Diocesan Pastoral Council to do something about this or at least start thinking about ways of getting the information through to people. It is, I am sure, immensely frustrating to be told that a particular method is available and then to be left out in the cold as to how it is to be used. I sincerely hope that at least in this diocese help will be forthcoming in the not too distant future. I will do what I can to bring that about.

Business Conference

Rochester area Catholic high schools were well represented at the National Junior Achievement Conference at Indiana University from Aug. 8-13. Attending were Suzanne Hahn, Our Lady of Mercy; Michael Milonni and James Sable, Bishop Kearney; Michelle Murray, Nazareth Academy; Suzanne Wall, Cardinal Mooney.

The purpose was to further develop an understanding of business among youth. Guest speakers were Sidney P. Marland Jr., president of the College Entrance Examination Board, and Donna Shalala, a former JA achiever, and who now is associate professor and chairwoman of the politics and education program at Teachers College, Columbia University.

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