

### THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

If masturbation is considered a mortal sin and having sex with a member of the opposite sex (both single) is considered a mortal sin, are they equal or is one more wrong than the other? To me, a mortal sin is a mortal sin. Why should there be a degree of difference, if there is?

If I practice masturbation, would it be any more wrong to discontinue that and have normal sex with a man?

Dear Inquirer,

If you're speaking in terms of a person going to hell for a mortal

sin, then I suppose in that sense they would all be equal, at least in consequence. But in terms of the evil that is involved (and that is what we try to emphasize today) certainly there is a vast difference between various kinds of mortal sin. For example, in the case of masturbation whatever harm is done is done to the person who performs the act. In the case of fornication or sex with someone else there is the harm done to the other person and to the personalities of both. One might argue how much that harm may be, and in that case the sin would be greater or lesser depending on how much harm actually occurred or was perceived. There is a vast difference in the evil of various mortal sins. An example that might make it more graphic is that of the difference between fornication as a mortal sin and murder as a mortal sin. We certainly couldn't say that they were the same.

In answer to your last question, I would say that it certainly would be more wrong to have normal sex with a man (I'm assuming you're a woman) because of the spiritual and emotional harm which could and probably would come to both of you.

An employee of Rochester Gas and Electric for nearly 43 years, Mr. Quetchenbach was known for donating his services as an electrician to a number of projects for the Church. He was a member of the Nocturnal Adoration Society and of the Knights of St. John.

Besides Father Quetchenbach, he is survived by his son Albert E. Quetchenbach, two daughters Mrs. James (Evelyn) Brophy of Elmira and Mrs. Dorothy Shaller, one sister, Mrs. Frederick (Margaret) Robinson; 15 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

### Dolores Legler

Dolores Schirmer Legler formerly of Rochester died Oct. 1, 1976 in Clearwater, Florida. She is survived by her husband, Lawrence, one son Charles, one grandson; two brothers, Leonard and Herbert Schirmer.

She was a member of The Rosary Society of St. John's Church, Humboldt Street and LC, BA, #104. Services were held in Clearwater, Florida Oct. 4.

He was the father of a priest Father Raymond Quetchenbach, SVD, a missionary to the Philippine Islands. Father Quetchenbach was the principal concelebrant of the funeral Mass. Other concelebrants were Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, Father Ralph Fraats, Msgr. John Duffy, Msgr. Robert Burns, and Divine Word Fathers John Farley, Patrick Barber, Paul Berrichter, Richard Thibeau, and Charles Schneider.

Msgr. Cirrincione, in delivering the homily said, "Al was a man who knew how to pray." Mr. Quetchenbach died with the rosary in his hands.

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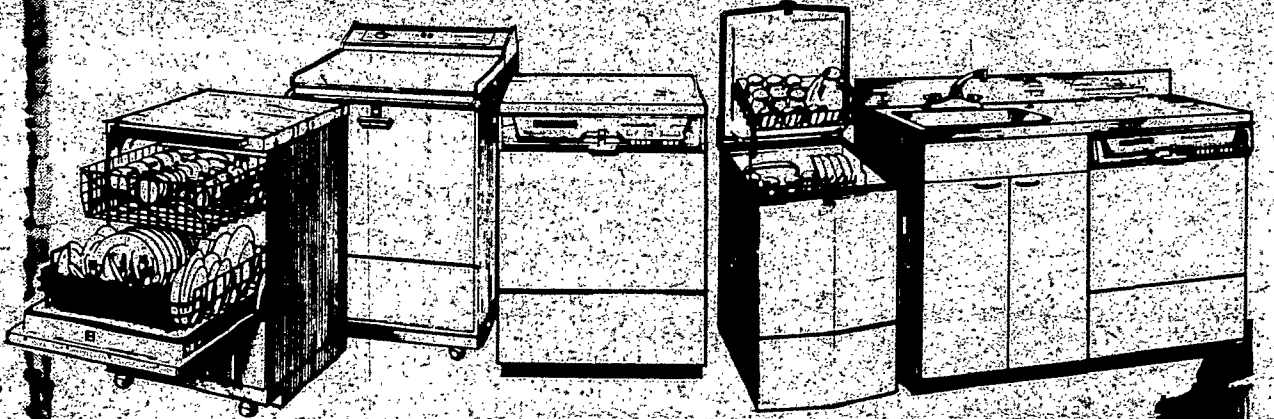


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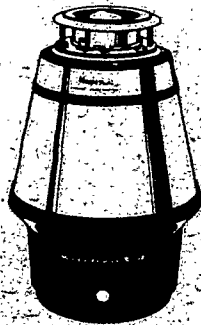


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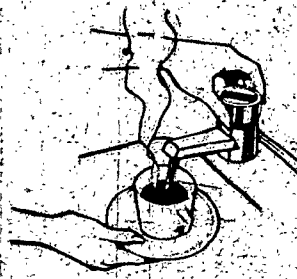
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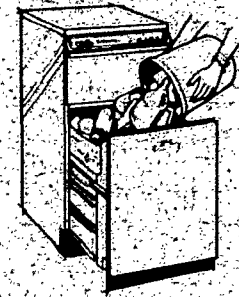
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