

Gala Oktoberfest

Photo by Susan McKinney

Principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School, Sister Mary Bonaventure, welcomes members of the Oktoberfest committee. The event will be Saturday, Oct. 23 at the school, 1437 Blossom Road, from 8:30 to 1 p.m. Left of Sister is Nancy McDermott, Jeanne Virgil, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Burkle, who are co-chairmen, and Mary Ellen Eckle. The Crazy Firemen Band will provide music for dancing.

Brazil Missioners' Report:

Role of Women Studied in Brazil

Uberlandia, Brazil — A report from Sisters Mary Ann Mayer and Virginia Schmitz, SSJ, Rochester missioners to Brazil, dealing with the emergence of women in Brazilian culture, recently arrived at the Courier-Journal.

The sisters, who come into contact with Brazilian women from every social level, asked four questions which they "felt embraced some of the more interesting aspects of the emergence of the women."

"In the Brazilian reality do you see the place of women today the same or different from that of the past?"

All who responded unanimously stated that there is a vast difference today. Their response was substantiated by the following opinions: in the past her education was scant, and mostly geared to domestic skills. She was in fact being prepared for marriage and a career solely as wife and mother. She was considered as an object with little value and less liberty; she was imprisoned in her home — in a word, she wasn't her own person. Today, as one noted, the woman herself has become more aware of the varied roles she can play in society.

"How, then, do you see the role of women?"

In general, it is seen that the woman wants to participate and make her contribution to the world, and without this she does not sense herself as being fulfilled. She views her presence alongside man in the progress of humanity as necessary, and sees her femininity as her greatest contribution to this progress. Obviously, many traditional barriers have been broken down in the political-social-economic-educational realms so that today most professions and jobs could be seen as equally open to both men and women.

"What do you feel most contributed to bringing about the change in women's place in society?"

With the growth of industrialization in the past few decades and the concomitant urbanization there has been a steady change in many of the traditional social structures throughout Brazil, especially in the decline of the "patriarchal" family and of a predominantly agricultural society.

With this occurrence the woman entered into an era of "new freedoms" whereby there was a lessening of previous social inhibitions. She was offered and

accepted opportunities for greater development of her whole person in all fields of education which formerly were open only to men.

"In the light of what you have said do you think women have a contribution to make to society?"

It was very obvious that all of the women interviewed saw themselves, and women in general, as making very valuable contributions to society at all levels. One in particular noted that as woman complements man in the biological order, she ought also to complement him in the political and social order. Others stressed the womanly understanding and sensitivity to suffering and other human situations as great assets to the cause of humanization.

In talking with these women we did not intend in any way to conduct a professional survey or to produce a "de fide" statement of the position of women in Brazilian society. However, the women we approached, who included housewives and mothers (grandmothers, too) of varying ages, a principal of a school, parish catechist, students at varying levels, and working girls, represent a reasonable cross section of today's woman in Brasil.

HALLOWEEN DANCE

Auburn — A Halloween Dance is scheduled at 9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 30 at St. Alphonsus Parish Center. The cost is \$3 per person.

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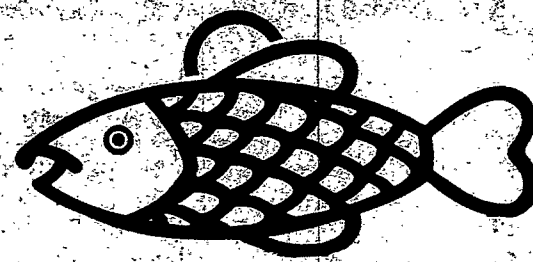


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