



Joan Smith in her herb garden.

Courier Writer Published Nationally

Joan M. Smith, Courier-Journal RapAround editor, is the author of an article that appeared in The National Observer Nov. 13.

Her story was in the "Off Hours" column of The Observer, a department in which readers of The Observer tell what they do in their leisure to add zest to their lives. Mrs. Smith's column is about the fragrance of her garden of herbs and how it helps to overcome the day's frustrations and disappointments.

Mrs. Smith also is in the process of completing a novel.

She and her husband, Sidney Smith Jr., have two children, Paul and Denise.

Divorced, Separated Invited to Meeting

Coming — The first meeting for Corning area Divorced and Separated Catholics has been set for Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. in St. Patrick's Hall. Father Louis Vastle and Sister Agnes Catherine of St. Patrick's are organizing the meeting, which will feature talks by Sister Kathleen Kircher, Diocesan Coordinator of the Ministry to Divorced and Separated, and Father James Lawlor. All interested divorced or separated Catholics are invited.

Business in the Diocese



Lincoln First Bank has named Gerard J. Russi a vice president. Russi joined Lincoln First Bank in August of 1961 as trust operations manager. In November 1967 he was named assistant manager of data processing operations and named an operations officer in December 1969. In April 1972 he was promoted to project manager of the direct deposit program, and subsequently, in April 1973 named sales manager.

Russi became an assistant vice president in 1974. He presently serves as sales manager for direct deposit and personal retirement programs.

A native of Irondequoit, Russi is a graduate of Aquinas Institute and holds a B.S. degree in business administration from Rochester Institute of Technology. He is a member of the zoning board of the Town of Irondequoit and of the St. Ambrose School Board. He resides with his wife, Judy and two children in Irondequoit.

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ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Christmas recalls a cluttered Bethlehem, and anxious Joseph and Mary, no room in the inn, and the cave.

And yet that cave so dark and stark

God's tranquil spirit pervades
 For Infinite Love is Incarnated
 In a tiny Babe."

We gaze upon the tiny Bundle, weak and needful as any human child, and ponder over the mystery of Infinity bound in human limits. In an odd way we celebrate that mystery.

In Christian homes throughout our country the memory of that stark night is recalled — alas, celebrated strangely by pretty cribs so clean and colorful, so odorless, celebrated by stuff piled high as if love were measured in things material.

We turn our eyes from piles of stuff, to ponder the lesson from the Cave. The Gospel of the Cave is otherwise. It is a divine protest

against utter poverty and un-concern in the scandal that a Child however loved should be born in starkness. It is a lesson that even in poverty happiness abides where there is love and self-giving.

Then our Faith reminds us, as all the Creeds do tell us, that Christ lived and died and was buried, that He truly rose from the dead, ascended into heaven. And He spent His Spirit to inform the Church which is His living Body to continue to do His work in the world, and to find Him in every person.

"Our greatest gift is the Word Made Flesh

Who still dwells amongst us.

That Word continues enfleshed in men.

Who love and serve in the spirit of God's love and service.

We learn this lesson drastically from Mother Teresa of Calcutta and her Missionary Sisters of Charity. Yet we need not be so drastic to serve Christ in neighbor. The means are at our elbow. Christopher Notes of last May records this incident:

Acting on an impulse, a doctor in Boston wrote a note of thanks to a childhood teacher whose faith in him had greatly influenced his life. She replied in a shaky scrawl:

"Dear Willy, I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my 80's... lonely like the last leaf of fall. I taught school for 50 years and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It cheered me as nothing has in years."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Holiday Hours at RG&E

All Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation offices will be closed on Friday, December 24 and Friday, December 31, 1976 in observance of the holidays.

The Bull's Head and Hudson Avenue offices in Rochester will be open Thursday, December 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. All other RG&E offices will be closed December 23.

Emergency service is always available, 24 hours a day, by calling 546-1100 (or 454-1133) in the Rochester area. Emergency numbers for our District offices are: Enterprise 9149 in Canandaigua/Finger Lakes District; Enterprise 9188 in Genesee Valley; and Enterprise 9429 in Lake Shore District. For customers outside Rochester, please consult your local telephone directory.

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