



'Mirror, Mirror'

St. Mary's School, Elmira, presented the operetta "Mirror, Mirror" at the school recently. Billed as a "mod operetta" based on the Snow White story, the production involved 49 students, and was directed by Miss Geraldine Schultz, with Miss Signe May serving as accompanist. Above, Snow White (Amber Walker) sings her opening number, accompanied by the chorus.

THE OPEN WINDOW



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,

I read The Open Window on May 4, 1977, in the Courier-Journal. I'm a regular communicant at St. John's on Humboldt Street. I believe this church is beautiful. I'm happy M.M. is content worshipping at St. Mary's, with rails, statues and ornate surroundings. I would like to point out that Jesus Christ lives through the people, liturgy, Eucharist and music. The church is not a building. Our co-pastors are concerned that anyone who comes inside will find a touch of living faith. I would like to invite this Christian Believer to step inside St. John's and walk with Our Lord and see more than trappings.

Signed, F.C.

Dear Father Hohman,

It is quite true that the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed are essential to our faith. The statues of the Saints, the Crucifix and the altar on which the Holy Sacrifice is offered recall to our minds GOOD LIVES.

All these accidentals as you state do attune our minds to what happens when the priest offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Without these accidentals, a church is like a barn — such as St. John's on Humboldt Street.

In walks of life such as the priests and nuns: I believe in the Religious living up to their state to the fullest. Their attire is part of it. Priests to wear their priestly garb; nuns, a simple habit, modest-length, simple veil, a chain and cross with corpus, so as to distinguish them from lay persons. Nuns should not be seen in public participating in cocktails. Doing so sets a very bad example. The eyes are the windows of the mind. Since we all have a soul and physical nature, we should be alert at all times to temptation that enters into it.

Signed, M.Q.

These letters are two samples of the responses I got to the column of May 4. They show quite clearly, I think, how much of what is involved here is simply an opinion, a point of view and a way of looking at things.

However, I would like to comment on the statement made by M.Q. as to nuns being seen in public places having cocktails. For anyone who believes that alcohol is evil I suppose it would be giving bad example. But since the Catholic Church does not

teach that taking alcoholic beverages in moderation is a sin at all, but rather quite acceptable, it seems to me that we cannot have one standard for ordinary people (and priests) and an entirely different standard for those who are Sisters. The logic behind this is faulty, to say the least. Either the thing is wrong, and then it is wrong for everyone, or it is all right, and therefore all right for everyone.

I do agree with M.Q. that statues and works of art in a Church can be useful reminders of the persons whom they represent, but it is definitely true that they are needed more by some people than by others. At the same time, they can be a distraction if they take one's focus away from the essential worship that is taking place. So this again is quite a relative thing and does not have an answer which is once for all.

SETON 29

Seton Branch 29 will hold a garage sale Saturday, June 11, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at the Pittsford Mile Post School, 210 Pittsford-Mendon Road. Profits will go to St. Mary's Hospital.

AS I SEE IT



Pat Costa

Are television viewers really to blame for the high percentage of violence in our nationally televised entertainment programs?

In a debate between a spokesman for the Campbell Soup Co. and the director of the National Citizens Committee for Broadcasting, which recently ranked the soup people as 11th among top corporate sponsors of violent TV shows, the finger was pointed directly at the viewer.

According to Ted Carpenter of the consumers group, when cross-section sampling of American public opinion is taken, "70 per cent of the people will invariably say there is too much violence on TV."

But added Carpenter, "If the public doesn't want violence on TV, why is there?"

Why, indeed?

Using that argument you can also blame the American public for the huge amounts of garbage that the nation generates day in and day out.

We are a consumer society, right? And we do buy, buy, buy and discard, discard, discard. If one looks more closely at the problem, however, it becomes obvious that a great deal of the material thrown out each day is industry motivated.

Of course we buy razor blades. But we do not insist that they come packaged in three times the non-degradable material necessary to protect them.

Of course we buy cereal. We would buy it in simple cellophane bags if that is all it were available in. But, no, each manufacturer outdoes the other in layer upon layer of packaging and eye appeal, all in the name of competition.

Of course we continue to buy cars and refrigerators and vacuum cleaners much too frequently and litter the earth with the no longer usable predecessors. Is the American public to blame for built-in obsolescence?

And that's the same reason we watch violent TV programming — it is what is available.

Let us hear no more about deplorable public taste. It won't play any more, not after "Roots," biographies of FDR, "Upstairs, Downstairs," etc.

Incidentally, viewers will be happy to know that the Campbell people concede that the consumer group ranking has led them to rewrite their sponsorship policy. And said the soup

company vice president, "I think you'll see less violence on television next year."

LONGHORNS

Fred Phillips is the new chairman of the Longhorn District. Introduced with him at the district's 20th annual dinner were William Galloway, Boy Scout chairman, and Edward True, Cub Scout chairman. The new district commissioners are Paul Lone Sr. and Gerrie Smith. Merit awards were given to Robert Dinkle, Bernie Logan, Mary Malideo and Father Albert Gaelens, CSB.

PRE SCHOOL

St. Pius X Pre-School at 3000 Chili Ave. is accepting registrations for the Fall term. Details may be obtained through 247-5650.

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