



Busy Days

Sister Sheila Stevenson, left, an instructor in the dental hygiene department at Monroe Community College, and Sister Mary Ann Kosakoski of the Blessed Sacrament School faculty are spending the summer in camp. They operate the Mercy Sisters' Camp Silver Birch five days a week from 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., and after a half-hour breather, emerge as coaches in the Mercy Basketball Camp for seventh and eighth grade girls.

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 10:38-42. (R1) Gn. 18:1-10. (R2) Col. 1:24-28

In today's readings we have two beautiful domestic scenes one in a tent and one in a home.

In the first scene, three strangers visited Abraham and Sarah. It was the hottest time of day — probably siesta time. But no difference. So hospitable was Abraham, he insisted that the strangers rest and dine. He rushed in to Sarah and excitedly ordered her to bake bread and make a banquet for the three wanderers. Such graciousness! And what happened? One of the visitors turned out to be God.

God doesn't need temples to visit us. Nor lofty mountains. He doesn't need perfect marriages — Abraham and Sarah had their ups and downs. Nor does He need youth — Abraham and Sarah were beyond the age for child-bearing. All He needs is kindness, hospitality and love on our part toward others. He found these in the tent of Abraham and Sarah and rewarded these with the promise of a child from whom the Messiah would come. So often God blesses God-fearing parents with vocations.

The second domestic scene is a picture of the home of Mary and Martha. To this home, God again came, not as a stranger, but as a friend. He came not to work any miracle, but to teach a wonderful lesson: a lesson Christianity was teaching long before any women's liberation movements ever existed, namely, that women have equal rights with men.

Martha's complaint about her sister not helping her had thousands of years of

tradition behind it. In the ancient world, a woman's place was not only in the home, but in the background of the home. Her place was to keep busy in the background. Where was Sarah at the banquet she had set for the three strangers? She was not present. She served the men, but could not dine with them. Furthermore, in the ancient world, only men could sit at the feet of great masters as disciples. Never in ancient history, except perhaps for a few "notorious" women, like Sappho or Aspasia (mistress of Pericles) or Portia (the wife of Brutus), did women sit at the feet of teachers. That was a man's place. So Martha complained when Mary sat at the feet of the Master — that was unbecoming a woman!

But our Lord liberated women that day. He said to Martha, "Martha, leave her alone; Mary has as much right to sit at my feet and listen to me as any man."

In homes we often find two temperaments that often cause misunderstanding: the active and the contemplative; the ones who want to do, and the others who want to listen, to think and pray. Both are needed in homes, both are needed in the Church: those whose work is prayer and those who work at prayer. Both serve Christ.

In a church bulletin, after the listing of Masses, there was this reminder: "The end of worship, the beginning of service." At worship we meet Christ Himself. In service we wait on Christ in others. Church services are meant to end in service. Thus at every Mass we are dismissed with the words: "Mass is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord." To serve is to love: to love Christ in others — in strangers, as Abraham and Sarah did, and in friends, as Mary and Martha did.

This is the mystery of Christ: He is present in strangers at work and on the streets, and He is present in friends at home. For it is written: "What we do to the least in the Lord's name, we do to Christ."

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Boston Prelate Criticizes Summaries of Sex Study

Boston (RNS) — The communication media's handling of the new book, *Human Sexuality*, has created an erroneous impression that the Church is about to make "radical changes" in its official teaching on sex, according to Bishop Thomas J. Riley.

The retired bishop, who writes the *Theology for Everyman* column for *The Pilot*, archdiocesan newsweekly, commented on coverage of *Human Sexuality: New Directions in American Catholic Thought*, a report of a study commissioned by the Catholic Theological Society.

The report indicated that 85 per cent of American Catholics reject the official Church teaching on birth control; that a minority of priests supports a ban on artificial contraception, and that 43 per cent of American Catholics approve of premarital sex for engaged couples.

Bishop Riley said summaries of the report and some media commentaries, including many in Catholic periodicals, likely will be interpreted as forecasting changes in official teaching.

"The impression is

conveyed," the bishop wrote in *The Pilot*, "that the report will open the way for radical changes in the teachings... which have been recently reaffirmed by the Holy See" in the 1975 Declaration on certain questions concerning sexual ethics.

He said he was concerned about the media coverage because of the wide circulation and the fact that relatively few people would read the study report itself.

The authors of the report "are entitled to their opinions as scientists and to their freedom of inquiry as scholars," Bishop Riley said. "They have no right, however, to present their report as an expression of moral conviction for others to follow in the formation of their own judgments of conscience."

He charged that through the public sale of the book, and the publicity surrounding it, the authors in effect had usurped the Church's teaching position.

He spoke of a "growing conflict between those whose positions within the Church charge them with ultimate responsibility in matters relating to moral

conduct and those whose talent and training qualify them as experts in one or more fields of scientific inquiry."

"The lines seem to be drawn," he observed, "between those who are authorized to speak in the name of the Church and those whose authority derives from academic achievement or rank."

The committee that produced the report included Father Anthony Kosnik, professor of moral theology at St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Mich.; William Carroll, professor of law at

John Marshall School of Law, Chicago; Sister Agnes Cunningham, SSCM, associate professor of church history at St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Ill., and Father Ronald Modras, professor of systematic theology at St. John's Hospital School of Nursing, Marshfield, Wis.

FOR CHILDREN

The Tic Toc Players, resident theater company at Nazareth College, will perform *Winnie the Pooh* in the Arts Center at 10 a.m. tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. July 15; 2 p.m. July 16 and 17 and, for adults, at 8:30 p.m. July 16.

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Nationwide Right to Life Elects Polito

William Polito, Rochester lawyer who is a delegate to the National Right to Life Committee from the state committee, was elected vice chairman of the national organization's board of directors at a recent convention in Chicago.

Dr. Carolyn Gerster of Arizona was re-elected chairman of the board.

Dr. Mildred F. Jefferson of Boston was elected to her third term as president, by acclamation of the 3,000 delegates. She urged them

to bring pressure on Congress for a human life amendment to the Constitution this year.

"Congress is the place which must ultimately hear the will of the people," she said. "We know that it will respond when the electorate makes its voice loud and clear."

The convention offered workshops on poverty, euthanasia, genetics and the increasing violence in society.



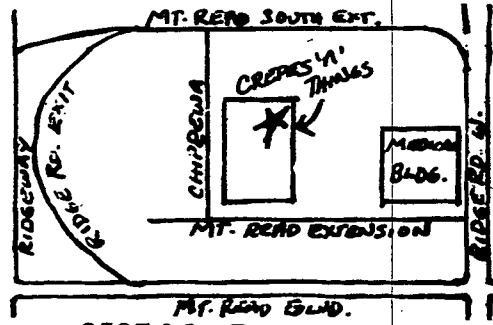
presents Sunday Brunch **Crepes-Carafe-Collage** served on our recently opened outdoor terraces weather permitting.

Our Menu:

- Fruit and Cheese Plate
- Cranberry Shrub or choice of juices
- Omelette from your selection of twelve ingredients, or
- Eggs Benedict or Quiche Lorraine
- Spinach or Garden Salad
- Cheesecake Crepe topped with Whole Strawberries & Real Whipped Cream Beverage

\$4.35 + tax & gratuity

10-3 Every Sunday



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