



New York Ceremony

When the New York City Archdiocese on June 29 ordained three auxiliary bishops, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan of Rochester was in attendance. The three bishops-designate are seated in the sanctuary, from left, Msgr. Theodore E. McCafrick, Msgr. Austin B. Vaughan, and Spanish-born Father Francisco Garmendia. Just to the left rear of Msgr. Vaughan is Rochester's Bishop Hogan. (RNS)

# Father Haering Comments On Women's Ordination

De Pere, Wis. (RNS) — The Catholic Church's opposition to the ordination of women stems from its failure to understand that "Jesus was a prophet and not a member of the priestly class" and that He called His disciples, both men and women, to be "witnesses to all mankind," a noted moral theologian stated here.

Long a supporter of an equal role for women in the Church, Father Haering said he now wonders how the Church can proclaim women — such as St. Catherine of Sienna and St. Theresa of Avila — Doctors of the Church, yet deny them ordination.

He would be looked at totally differently if we understood that Jesus was a prophet, and not a member of the priestly class," he said.

"Christ was a layman, a lay preacher" and not a member of the hereditary Jewish priesthood, but was anointed by the Holy Spirit as a prophet, the theologian explained.

Father Haering, who has taught for many years at the Academia Alfonsiana (Lateran University) in Rome and is the author of "Medical Ethics" and "Sin in a Secular Age," said that proper understanding of Christ as prophet is vital to the women's ordination question.

"For Christ, priesthood was service, not male dominance," he said, adding his belief that one of the major needs of the Church is "to be liberated from the wrong use of authority and an alliance with wealth."

In declaring that Christ as prophet called on His disciples to be "witnesses to all mankind," Father Haering asked: "Who can doubt throughout the ages that both men and women have been consecrated by the Holy Spirit, have been called as witnesses?"

While an advocate of greater involvement of women in the Church, the Redemptorist theologian does not recommend ordination as the main thrust of the women's movement in the Church.

He encourages women "first to become more directly active, in the Church. Before ordination women must learn to give all that they can give. They must also become part of the decision-making process."

"Then ordination will fall as the ripe fruit from the tree," Father Haering promised.

Father Bernard Haering, CSSR, said the "all-male priesthood is a celebration of original sin" because male dominance is a result of man's fall in the garden. "Salvation through the death and resurrection of Christ should heal this rift in mankind."

The German Redemp-

torist priest, participating in a three-week St. Norbert College Summer Theological Institute, repeatedly referred to the role of women in the Catholic Church, admitting that he is "puzzled by the recent decree issued from the Vatican against the ordination of women."

"Many of these questions such as women's ordination

# Birth Rate Rising

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — A report of the National Center for Health Statistics reveals that the birth rate appears to be rising from its historic low in 1976.

In 1977 — 200,000 more than if the birth rate had remained at last year's level.

However, demographers were reluctant to predict an upward trend in birth rate, on the basis of a few months' experience. Many experts saw an irreversible decline in child-bearing, because of such factors as wide use of contraceptives, abortion, late marriages, divorces and career aspirations of women.

Marriage rates were up for the first quarter of 1976 and for the first time in years there was no increase in divorce, according to the Center.

It reported that the birth rate increase began last September. If it continues through 1977, some 3.4 million babies will be born.

## CRAFT FAIR ITHACA

The 24th annual exhibition and sale of the works of leading New York State craftsmen is scheduled for Aug. 6-13 at Ithaca College. There will be daily demonstrations of techniques in various media by teachers and students from the School for American Craftsmen at Rochester Institute of Technology. A special feature will be a collection of raku ceramics by Nancy Murs of Scottsville. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. daily.

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## ONE-DAY FAIR

Bath — The people of St. Mary's parish have planned their annual fair and chicken barbecue for Saturday, Aug. 13, on the church grounds. Festivities will run from 4 p.m. until midnight, with supper service beginning at 5.

## ART SHOW

Valley Manor, at 1570 East Ave., is showing paintings by Sally Watson, through Aug. 27. Visitors are welcome any day between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

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Pat Costa

Item: A network practices chief (the fellow who decrees what is obscene and what is merely creative) recently gave an interview in which he said he tried to withhold all television from his children but discovered there were too many programs he wanted them to see.

## LANSING FESTIVAL

Lansing — On Sunday, Aug. 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. the annual All Saints Parish Summer Festival will be held at the Lansing Rod and Gun Club on Salmon Creek Road in Ludlowville. A chicken barbecue will be served starting at noon, and the cost will be \$2.75 for adults and \$1.75 for children. There will be crafts for sale, games, and a white elephant sale. Cuffy the Clown also will perform. The public is invited; all proceeds will benefit the building fund.

## FESTIVAL

Seneca Falls — Dinners and concerts will highlight the annual festival at St. Patrick's parish Aug. 4-6. Activities will begin each evening at 6 with a spaghetti and meatball dinner. There will be a band concert Thursday and a choral concert by American Spirit Friday, both at 7 p.m. An auction is scheduled for 8 p.m. Saturday. Plants and fresh garden produce are among the items to be featured in the booths. Margaret Zona is in charge of the event.

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Amen. Amen.

As a parent who has discovered that a child who has the option between TV and a friend to play with, or a beckoning back yard and clement weather, almost invariably will vote against the tube, this viewer has made her peace with the medium as it relates to children.

Granted the Saturday morning programming continues to be mindless and degrading, ditto, the fare composed of ancient sit-coms-dished up for after school and after supper consumption.

Prime time is little better; sometimes far worse. So where is the merit in TV for kids?

Much of the time it is to be found in programming considered adult fare, and by adult I do not mean the euphemism used by film merchants who deal in sex and violence and wish to protect themselves from those concerned with children's welfare.

Adult, in this case, refers to programming which expands the consciousness, enlarges one's information, titillates instead of drugging the thinking process, whets the appetite for more knowledge.

Contrary to what TV's detractors would have us believe, there are any number of such programs.

As I scanned the story about the aforementioned network censor, a number of these kinds of shows we had watched with the kids came to mind.

One of the most vivid in memory was a special on the pyramids. Another about the same time was the two-part Jesus of Nazareth. An interview with the Shah and Empress of Iran, a rescreeing of 1776, the marvelous musical about the establishment of this country's independence; a film of Carson McCuller's *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, the canonization of St. John Neumann, etc., etc., etc.

To miss such shows as these because so much of TV is a disaster makes about as much sense as to stop breathing because pollution befools much of our air.

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