

Ecumenical Sharing

Through the ecumenical efforts of Monroe Community Hospital's Catholic Parish Council and Protestant Workshop Group, a baked food sale supplemented by patient and resident contributions, raised \$344 to support their Christmas community project — food baskets for the needy. Items for the baskets were purchased through the cooperation of Long Ridge Mall's Star Market. Above, Father Bruce Ammering (chaplain), Louise Radunc (Protestant Worship Group), the Rev. Gerald Wunrow (chaplain) and resident secretary Gert Webb (Catholic Parish Council) head out in the hospital's new chairmobile to distribute the baskets.

**Vigil
On Jan. 6**

There will be an all-night vigil at Holy Rosary Church on Jan. 6. The 9 p.m. Mass will be celebrated by Father William Leone from St. Jerome's. Presiding over the Holy Hours, 10-11 p.m. will be Deacon Steven Gagnier and 11-12 p.m., Father Louis Vezelis. The 6 a.m. Mass will be celebrated by Father Robert Meng.

WORKSHOP

Staff members from the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal will conduct a three-session workshop this month for divorced Catholics who wish to apply for annulments. The meetings are scheduled for 7:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 10, 17 and 24, at St. John the Evangelist, 547 Humboldt St. Further information may be obtained from Rita Lewis, 482-1715.

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Nancy Murphy

I do not know who is responsible for the emphasis on artificial contraceptives so evident in our Pre-Cana and Catholic school courses; and I do not know who will have the moral courage to stop it. But I do know that many families resent and resist this as an arrogant disregard of papal leadership. Therefore I was especially pleased to hear that St. Mary's Hospital has given office space to a new Natural Family Planning Center in the Kearney Building at 89 Genesee St. (Rochester, 14611). It opened Jan. 2. The hospital does not fund the project — it cannot afford that — but once again St. Mary's has quietly proven their Catholicity. No abortions are performed at St. Mary's in an era which has witnessed local Catholic support for first-trimester abortion; no sterilizations in the same era which has witnessed so many of them in other Catholic hospitals; and now this active cooperation with NFP. I sometimes think everyone connected with St. Mary's is on the path to sainthood.

With respect for the well-meaning but poorly informed people who are teaching our youth about artificial contraceptives — the lay and religious who recommend Threshold as a place to seek "help", and those who present Pre-Cana lectures on "Why We Chose the Pill" — I maintain that we have systematically short-changed a whole generation of intelligent and sensitive kids by en-

couraging secular values in place of Catholic morality (a copy of Sidney Simon's "Values Clarification" is in almost every Catholic office where I have interviewed). Teenagers and young marrieds are like the rest of us, we all prefer to take the easy and expedient way out; but there are thousands of young people today who suffer needlessly because nobody taught them there is a BETTER way.

Under the able guidance of Mrs. Therese Petracca, approximately 14 teaching couples are connected with the new NFP center and are able to serve a 10-county area. They will offer Fertility Awareness Classes for high school girls/others; information sessions; Couple-to-Couple and Group Instructions; and speakers. Not an office which simply recommends a book or gives referrals, the new Center will actually teach NFP, a 9-5 resources center. Now at last counselors, teachers, writers, students, doctors, educators, principals, administrators, parents, other hospitals, ME groups, prayer groups, pastors, CCD coordinators, engaged couples... all can get real help. It's there for the asking.

The telephone number is (716) 464-8705.

St. Elizabeth Seton pray for us...

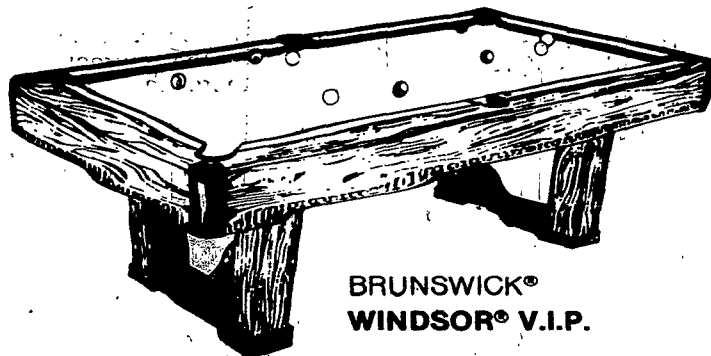
BIRTHDAY PARTY

Rosarians of Holy Family Parish will bring friends to next Wednesday's meeting, in celebration of members' birthdays. Mrs. James Schwartz will be hostess. The party, at 8 p.m. Jan. 11, will be preceded by church services at 7:30.

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