



Dinosaurs in Hornell

Sixth graders at St. Ann's School, Hornell, display their current science project, models of pre-historic animals. Their teacher is James Roby.

THE OPEN WINDOW

Fr. **Louis Hohman**

Dear Father Hohman,
A non-catholic asked me how a neighbor of hers could have obtained an annulment. He was married to his first wife in the Catholic Church—she is still living, and they have two teenage children. The other day he was married again in the Catholic Church and claims he had an annulment. Truthfully, I couldn't answer her, but I told her I'd try to find out. Please tell me what answer to give her.

(Signed) C.A.

Dear C.A.,
As you and your Protestant friend are both aware, the Catholic Church does not recognize simple divorce and remarriage. There are, however, circumstances under which the Church recognizes that from the beginning there was not a real marriage at all, and therefore can declare that that marriage was null and void from the beginning. This is called a declaration of nullity. We use this expression rather than annulment because the State of New York over the years has used the word annulment to indicate what in effect was a divorce.

What are the reasons why the Church would declare a particular marriage null and void from the beginning? There are many reasons, such as defect of consent, defect of form, or overriding fear. But in recent years there has been consideration of the psychological factors which would indicate that a marriage was null and void because of the incapacity of one or both of the parties to enter into a mutual covenant of love that would constitute a Christian marriage. In other words, "what God hath joined together" has a very specific meaning, and there are many marriages which, even though they were performed before a priest, would not be ratified in the eyes of God because of the incapacity of one or both parties to make a Christian covenant.

In recent years the Church has worked very carefully with couples to determine in what cases there was a psychological incapacity for a real marriage at the time of the wedding. Many of these cases do not have to be referred all the way to Rome but can be settled in

this country in a relatively much shorter time. That is why your friend probably was puzzled about what had happened in the case of her neighbor. The probability is that he obtained a declaration of nullity on the basis of psychological incapacity of one or both to enter a marriage in the first place, and therefore his first marriage was null and void in the eyes of God and man.

Business in the Diocese



CURRAN FRANCO
Ernest J. Curran has been named president of Underwood Mortgage and Title Co. of Trenton, N.J. He has been executive vice president of H.J. Ludington Co. of Rochester. Curran has been active in civic and professional organizations, a past president of the Rochester Chapter of the National Association of Accountants and a district chairman of the Monroe Community Chest.

Michael R. Franco has been named director of media relations for Rochester Institute of Technology. He has an undergraduate degree from Boston College and a master's degree in journalism from Boston University. He has been bureau manager in Rochester for United Press International.

John E. Philippone, of Park View Dr. in Rochester, has been elected president of the Italian American Businessmen's Association for 1978.

Philippone, 36, is a practicing attorney and former assistant district attorney.

Francis A. DiProsa has been named general manager of Station WOKR-TV, succeeding G. Bennet Larson who is retiring after 51 years in broadcasting. DiProsa, 37, has been sales manager at the station since 1970.

A 1963 graduate of St. John Fisher College, DiProsa also has a master's degree from the Newhouse Communications Center of Syracuse University.

Charismatic Mass Jan. 27

Corning—A special Mass for Charismatics in the Southern Tier will be celebrated Friday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church. Father Elmer Schmidt, pastor of St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, and liaison for charismatic groups in the Southern Tier will be one of the concelebrants. Sponsored by the Southern Tier group leaders, a social hour will follow the Mass.

Ecumenical Service Scheduled

Elmira—There will be an ecumenical service marking the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Sunday, Jan. 22 at 4 p.m.

Rev. William Cooper, of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Horseheads, will be the featured speaker at the event, sponsored by the Elmira Ecumenical Task Force.

All Elmira-area Protestant and Catholic clergy have been invited to participate in the service. The Our Lady of Lourdes choir will lead the singing, joined by members of other church choirs. Paul Holland will direct the choir, and Charles Hickman of Park Congregational Church will be song leader.

Others participating will be Rev. Peter Courtney of Grace Episcopal, Jonathan Guest of Park Church, Father Albert Delmonte, St. Anthony's, Rev. Harry Taylor, Central Christian, Margery Nurnberg, St. Patrick's, Father Francis Davis, Our Lady of Lourdes and Sister Mary Ann Sliwa, St. Casimir's.

The event is being planned by Rev. Courtney and Sister Mary Ann.

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