



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan



The new Natural Family Planning instructors are: kneeling, from left to right, Al Cardona, and Maxine and Ed McDonald; seated, from left to right, Doug and Nancy Osborn, Marty Cardona, Pat Robinson, Bobbie Jackson, Beryl Iven and Mary Young; standing, from left to right, Lon and Carol Snook, Don and Joyce Fiorentino, Joan and Bernie Weis, Jim Robinson, Bill Jackson, Nick Iven and Ron Young. Father Louis Hohman, a strong advocate of NFP, delivered the keynote address.

NFP Instructors Honored

Ten couples who successfully completed the NFP Instructor Training Program were honored at a reception Sunday at St. Mary's Hospital.

The couples are Al and Marty Cardona of Fairport, Don and Joyce Fiorentino of Canandaigua, Nick and Beryl Iven of Odessa, Bill and Bobbie Jackson of Pittsford, Ed and Maxine McDonald of Ontario, Doug and Nancy Osborn of East Rochester, Jim and Pat Robinson of Canandaigua, Lon and Carol Snook of Waterloo, Bernie and Joan Weis of Rochester and Ron and Mary Young of Spencerport.

They join Richard and Mary Beth O'Hara of Rochester and Frank and Marty Foley of Rochester as certified instructors.

After a Mass celebrated by Father James Hewes of Canandaigua, Therese Petracca, NFP program director, gave a welcome address. Then the keynote speech was delivered by Father Louis J. Hohman,

president of the Priests Council. Other speakers included Sister DeChantal LaRow, administrator of the hospital, and the O'Haras.

NFP, which depends on donations and parish contributions, recently opened an office at St. Mary's Hospital.

Its director, Mrs. Petracca, has cautioned couples interested in natural family planning, to seek trained and certified instructors. "Over the past few years," she said, "we have found couples who have learned from NFP books, or from friends, have not avoided pregnancy when they planned to because they did not have the guidance of a qualified instructor for chart interpretation."

In explaining NFP, she said that it is an educational process "which enables couples to plan or postpone a pregnancy. Couples are taught how to observe, record and interpret the natural everyday changes which occur in the woman's

body which indicate the fertile and infertile phases of each cycle. With proper instruction, motivation, cooperation and love, NFP has proven in worldwide studies to be as effective as the pill or surgical sterilization."

The Robinsons, who were among those couples honored at the reception, speak of "ever-increasing discontent with chemical and/or 'unnatural' solutions to the 'problem' of responsible parenthood." They add, "It is exciting to find a viable solution that engages a couple as thinking, mutual participants rather than programmed robots in family planning. NFP encourages communication, understanding and growth in marriage. Most important, we see NFP as an acknowledgement of a couple's mutual fertility in accordance with God's plan for procreation."

The Ivens feel that "NFP is economical, completely reversible, an answer to the Pope's encyclical, and that there are no health hazards using NFP. Some do say that abstinence is not natural. We feel that all aspects of NFP, including the periods of abstinence, are wonderful ways to express our love for each other."

Members of the NFP board of directors are the Foleys, the Jacksons, the O'Haras, Madaline Lilly, Father Hewes, Frank and Sue Starapoli, Doug Osborn, the Youngs and Joe and Therese Petracca. Chairman of the board is Frank Foley, O'Hara is president, Mrs. O'Hara secretary and Gene Lilly treasurer.

Further information may be obtained from the NFP office at 89 Genesee St., Rochester, N.Y. or by calling 716-464-8705.

Cenacle Lists Holy Week Events

The Holy Week program at the Cenacle will culminate in a retreat during the Paschal Triduum, from Holy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday morning. Leaders will be Father William Trott, spiritual director at St. Bernard's Seminary, and Father Jerome Robinson, POP, diocesan director of Black Ministries, with Sisters Betty Rogers and Margaret Mary Mattle of the Cenacle staff. The retreat will open with supper at 6 p.m. on Holy Thursday and close after Easter breakfast.

The first Holy week event will be an afternoon of reflection Sunday, March 19, 1-5:30, directed by Sisters Betty and Margaret Mary. They have entitled their program Crossing the Thresholds of Life. A film, The Parable, will be shown.

At 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 21, a film and lecture on Jesus and the Passover Meal will be presented by Sister Margaret Mary, under the sponsorship of the St. Raphael Guild. Men and women of all faiths are invited.

Project's Goal:

Get Everyone Up to Date, Historically Speaking

A project to search out personal, family or an organization's "roots" is the goal of a recently launched history program.

The Rochester-Genesee Valley History Project seeks to discover and preserve "the rich historical heritage of this region."

With headquarters at Monroe Community College, the project is headed by Jonathan Carlock, coordinator; Robert Greenberg, historical coordinator, and Nicholas Cattat, production coordinator.

In its first newsletter, the project urged individuals, groups and institutions to record their own historical backgrounds before sources are lost or memories fade.

Teachers were encouraged to include local community history in their classes.

A workshop for town and county historians, representatives of historical societies, librarians, museum staff, as well as "amateurs" has been tentatively scheduled at

Monroe Community College for June 10 or 17.

Churches, religious organizations, schools and colleges are also invited to take part. Further information is available from the project at Monroe Community College, 442-9950.

Bishops: 'No Penalty'

Albany — Attempts to restore the death penalty in New York are continually meeting opposition from the New York State Bishops Conference, a group which represents the views of the 30 bishops of the eight dioceses of the state.

In a letter to the legislature, Charles Tobin, secretary of the organization, urged that any proposal to "enact or restore capital punishment be defeated."

Tobin cited a 1977 statement by the bishops which said: "No person is beyond the mercy of God and therefore, is not to be beyond the bounds of human mercy."

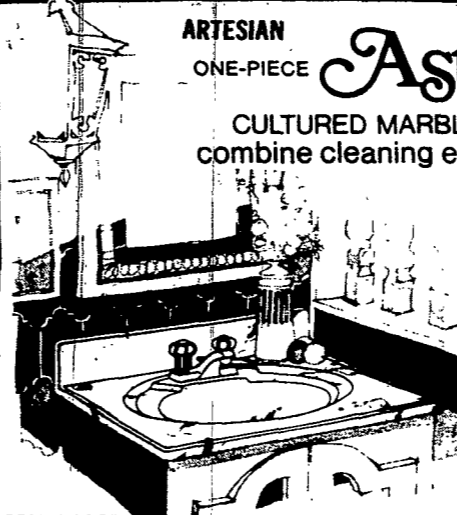
In view of this position, a similar sentiment expressed by the United States bishops in November 1974, and the Judaeo-Christian tradition, the state bishops once again "go on record in opposition to capital punishment," Tobin stated.

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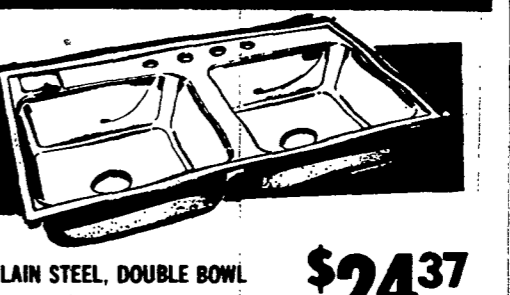
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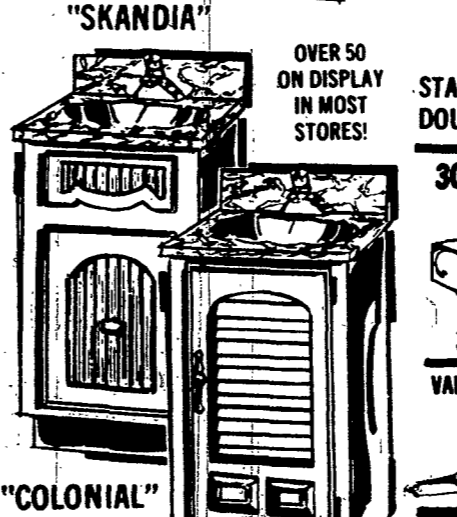


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