

Doctor Promotes NFP

By JOHN DASH

An independent researcher into the natural family planning methods devised by Dr. John Billings may have come up with a way of determining the onset of ovulation in a quicker, "more aesthetic," fashion than is now employed by practitioners of the method.

He is Dr. Arthur Michael Ash of Cornwall, England, a former surgeon who maintained offices on Harley Street in London.

Dr. Ash was in Rochester recently to discuss his research with physicians and others interested in NFP

and to pursue development and research funding for his discoveries.

And, he is a missionary of sorts, a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, an admirer of Mother Teresa, and carries a mandate from Pope Paul VI to pursue his studies in NFP.

During a private audience with the pontiff, Dr. Ash says he was told, "This is important work. I urge you to carry it through."

"It was a tremendous privilege," the doctor said recently in an interview in the home of development consultant John Foley. "I never felt anything like

that." The pope's eyes "are headlamps, but his body is very frail."

Pope Paul told Dr. Ash that he himself was "personally involved in NFP," and encouraged the development of the method.

"We must work together," the pontiff said.

Dr. Ash stated recently, "Billings, the giant upon whose shoulders I stand, has no test to confirm the onset of ovulation," but Dr. Ash may have devised just such a test.

The physician says his test is a chemically treated cotton swab, which when in contact with saliva, changes color when the female is fertile.

He notes that he has tried his device out with the cooperation of his daughter and also with patients in Australia.

He is hopeful that while he is in the U.S. he will be able to find funding for his device and to research it more fully.



Nazareth Lectures

Father Philip Rule, SJ, associate professor of English literature and rector of the Jesuit Community at the University of Detroit will deliver two lectures at Nazareth College on Monday, March 13. Father Rule will speak on "Popular Patterns and Private Probings: 2001 and Star Wars" at 1:30 p.m. in Room A-14 of the college's arts center. In the evening, following a 7 p.m. showing of Ingmar Bergman's "The Virgin Spring," he will lead a discussion on symbolism in art and religion.

St. Anthony's Novena Set

A "novena" of 13 Tuesdays has been scheduled at St. Anthony's Church at 60 Lorimer St. in Rochester beginning at 7 p.m., March 14.

The practice of 13 Tuesdays in honor of St. Anthony began on a Tuesday - June 17, 1231, the day of the saint's funeral. It

is related that on that particular day many miracles occurred throughout the city of Padua attributed to the intercession of St. Anthony. From then on the gratitude of the people consecrated Tuesday to the saint's honor.

The fervor of the faithful, however, was not satisfied with devoting only nine Tuesdays to the saint, a devotion then practiced by many. The number was gradually increased to 13, in remembrance of his death, or rather the date of his birth into eternal glory, on June 13, 1231.

TAX HELP

People who want help in the preparation of income tax forms can get it from Internal Revenue Service representatives on the next three Saturdays between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at one of three libraries. The service is free. Taxpayers should bring their W-2 forms and receipts for medical bills and any other expenditures they think might be deductible. The schedule:

March 11, Biblioteca Manuel Alonso, 946 Clifford (Spanish interpreters available); March 18, South Avenue Branch Library, 715 South Ave.; April 1, Wheatley Community Library, 13 Bronson Ave.

'Enrichment' Day Slated

An Enrichment Day for teachers of religious education will be held at St.

Helen's School on March 11, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

Father Sebastian Falcone of St. Bernard's Seminary will speak on the "Development and Sharing of Faith." Individual workshops, for teachers from the pre-school to junior high school level, will follow.

Several publishers of religion texts and a display of religious education materials will be featured at the event.

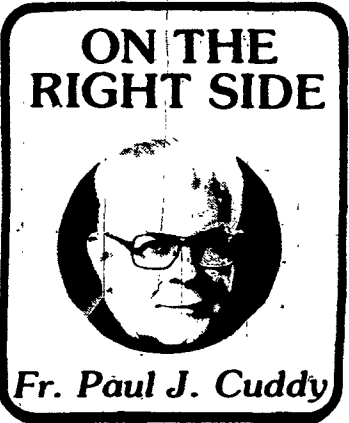
Further information and registration for the day may be made by calling Sister Barbara 235-2391.

VOCATIONS

The School Sisters of Notre Dame who work in Rochester have designated March 6-10 SSND Vocation Awareness Week. Their announcement quotes from Peter van Breen's "As Bread That Is Broken: This is the vocation of each of us - to give the people an impression of who Christ is!"

In the parishes where they work, time will be found "for the sisters to reflect on their own call and to educate students, parishioners and co-workers in the theology of vocation and the heritage of the School Sisters of Notre Dame," the announcement says. Sixty-seven members of the order teach in this diocese.

Natural Family Planning ... an alternative 464-8705



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

Don't people get mad at you?

Of course. Everybody gets mad at somebody at one time or another. Why not at me?

Oh, you're teasing. What do you mean?

It is rare that anyone is offended by praise. But few people will accept honest criticism if it is not laudatory. The more famous the person, the more people will be down on him. For example, when Our Holy Father condemns conjugal looseness, religious defections, theological liberalism, internationalizing the Holy Places in Jerusalem, think of the different people who become enraged. But all are enraged for reasons which involve themselves. The conjugal rake has no quarrel with the pope about Jerusalem or the Trinity or priestly fidelity, but says he with indignation, "Let the pope keep out of the bedroom." Of course this is restricting the presence and domain of God. It's a bit like the alcoholic who says, "Let the pope stick to religion, and leave my private drinking to myself." Anyone who takes a stand will have enemies. However, not everyone who disagrees is an enemy.

What do you mean?

For example, when Fr. Atwell was editor of the Courier-Journal in 1967 I was convinced that he was publishing outrageous theological liberalism, and that he was not presenting the position of the pope or the Church. We entered into heated controversy, with the result that he invited me to write a weekly column. In fact, he suggested the title. I always chuckle at his invitation. "Why don't you write a column for the paper? After all, there are people who think like you." Can't you feel the vibrations of wonderment at those people's dimness of apprehension?

Though we disagree at times, it is a disagreement in ideas, without personal animus. In fact, he has invited me to share his platform in the Avon parish hall Thursday, March 9. The subject for discussion is "What do we really believe today as Catholics?"

What do people dislike most about the column?

Oh, it varies. But practically always something involving their own thing. Some dislike what seems to them an unwarranted over-self-assurance. I follow Chesterton: "The purpose of the open mind is to close it on something solid." One subject that raises hackles is my advocacy of Capital Punishment. Unfortunately, my opponents have the idea that I advocate carte blanche execution of every malefactor who is a murderer, kidnapper, molester of children, terrifier of the aged. They ignore my contention that Capital Punishment should be, but should be rare. St. Thomas teaches a thing called retributive justice, which has been accepted by the Church for centuries.

I wish these same people would entertain the same anguish for the deaths of little babies in the womb.

The C-J editor gets some snappy letters against you.

Yes, and occasionally so do I. Most of them are from people who are impelled to rush to the typewriter without re-reading the article under discussion. Most of them miss the point entirely.

Despite some honest criticism from some people, I give thanks to God that through this column thousands of people are using thousands of prayer books, catechisms and other instructional books; over 2,500 are reading Abp. Whealon's valuable "Living the Catholic Faith Today." Many are being inspired by the Sheen and Basset and Mother Teresa tapes. Many conservative and confused Catholics feel less lonely and abandoned. And hopefully, many people get an occasional smile to make them happier.

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