

Today's Courier April 19, 1978

Another Fever 3

The current movie "Saturday Night Fever," has parents across the country wondering if it is suitable fare for their children. The Catholic Office of Film and Broadcasting thinks it is not. Announcing an A-4 rating, the office describes the process which led to this conclusion.



Military Aid 8

Father Brian Hehir of the United States Catholic Conference has urged Congress to cut military aid to several Latin American countries and to curtail such aid to South Korea and the Philippines.

NFP 8

Dr. Claude Lactot, a consultant to the Pontifical Commission on the Family, urges a greater effort on the part of Roman Catholic women religious, priests and brothers in the U.S. to become better informed about natural family planning techniques.

No Death 4

An editorial: Gov. Hugh Carey needs support for his veto of the death penalty passed by both the State Senate and Assembly. Proponents of the bill plan an effort to override the governor's veto and the governor will need the support of all who will choose life over death.



Kodak 16

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has signed a letter also signed by the heads of 10 other religious denominations, encouraging shareholders in the Eastman Kodak Co. to examine the company's policies in South Africa.

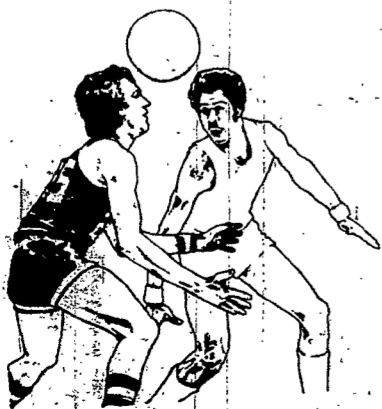
Justice 7

The Sisters of Mercy Federation will tackle issues of social justice in the coming months, it was decided at a recent meeting. The federation's Executive Committee will spell out the issues.

Orators 9

Aquinas' Father Stephen Martin has produced a sweepstake debating team. The team has traveled to Harvard University, New York City and the University of Pennsylvania, where members placed in all forensic categories. The past two weekends have seen the team win a second place in the National Catholic Regional Forensic Finals.

'Digger' 12



The Notre Dame basketball team returned to the scene of many past triumphs, its home floor, where it was feted by 950 persons on April 6. Featured speaker at the dinner honoring the state champions was Richard (Digger) Phelps, coach of Notre Dame University's basketball team.

Off to Rome

Bishop Publishes Ad Limina Report

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in this edition of the Courier-Journal makes public his "ad limina" report to Pope Paul VI, an action perhaps unprecedented in the world.

At about the same time this week's Courier-Journal is being delivered, Bishop Hogan will be reporting in person to the Holy Father in Vatican City.

Bishops who are heads of dioceses, officially known as ordinaries, are required to make these reports to the Pope every five years on the state of their stewardships.

"Ad limina" means "to the thresholds," in this case, of Peter and Paul.

Bishop Hogan said he is taking the perhaps unique action of publishing his report "because it always seemed to me to be shrouded in mystery for no reason. I just decided to let everyone know."

"I find that by making the report public it first calls me to the responsibility of accounting to the people of the diocese," the bishop said. "I also have found that not only myself but all involved in the

preparation began to get an overall vision of the good things happening in our diocese. Nor do we hide the things remaining to be done, such as under the heading Doctrinal Problems in the Diocese."

The bishop's report is also unusual in that it takes on narrative form rather than

the usual statistical accounting of the quinquennial reports. Diocesan statistics, however, are included as an addendum to the report to the Pope.

The Rochester diocese annually makes a financial accounting to the public through the Courier-Journal.

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Religious Ed . . . Try It As Teacher



Religious education classes are winding up in our parish and as usual the search is on for teachers for next year.

Since strong arm tactics are not utilized, there is frequently a problem in coming up with a sufficient number of individuals who are willing to put in an hour a week for a six month period to instruct youngsters in their faith. I would imagine the problem is not confined to our parish alone.

As one who has a couple of years of substituting under her belt and now one year of team teaching (another woman and I alternate each week) I think I understand the problem.

Most of us think we don't know enough church doctrine, are incapable of handling discipline problems, have no skill in communicating or simply do not have the time.

I worried about all of the above with one exception — I communicate constantly or so my children tell me.

Since I felt I owed the parish I agreed to the

forementioned team teaching arrangement.

As often happens when we set out to give something I received more than I gave.

The first thing I discovered was that I enjoy other people's youngsters a great deal. (They didn't know the punchlines to my jokes.)

Second, I found that appreciation of one's faith and the opportunity to pass it on to the children can go a long way in compensating for great gaps in one's knowledge. (Actually I increased my information a little as I found myself turning to various reference works for help in preparing a lesson.)

Mostly though I learned from the youngsters.

There was the discovery, for example, that many children have a lot of questions about death and want to air them. They want fears assuaged, reassurance that Jesus really did go to Heaven, clarification on the popular notions about reincarnation as treated in the movies and TV, and much more.

I learned that the child who poses a discipline problem may be covering up a bright, retentive mind and that the quiet youngster who doesn't participate contributes his own special kind of joy.

Almost without failure I went into the 4:15 p.m. class tired and came out refreshed, a phenomenon I still can't explain, since on more than one occasion I resorted to threats, yelling and other unseemly behavior.

On a recent Sunday I was hurrying out of Church to be with the flu stricken second grader so the rest of the family could get to the next Mass when I felt a tug on my sleeve.

There sat Jill, one of the girls in my class, beaming up at me. It turned that cold, miserable morning into the warm, spring-like day it should have been.

That was just one reward. There have been many others. I guarantee those who invest some time in their parish religious education programs will find the same.



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