



### Retirement Party

Photo by Susan McKinney

Msgr. Patrick J. Flynn, who is retiring from the pastorate of St. Helen's, Gates, was showered with gifts and best wishes last week at the parish school. Msgr. Flynn, 42 years a priest, is a former editor of the Courier-Journal. The girls photographed with him are, from the left, Chris Lootens, Karen Ren, Anne Marie Schickler and Deanna Schulmerich.

## 70 Present Selves For Diaconate Class

Screening committees both in Rochester and in the Southern Tier will begin interviews of applicants on July 8 for the candidates for the first diocesan permanent diaconate class, Msgr. George Cocuzzi said last week.

first class not be accepted, they stand a chance in ensuing years, he said.

Msgr. Cocuzzi, director of the diocesan program, expects the screening

interviews and the selection of the first class of permanent diaconate candidates to be completed by the end of July. The training program will begin in September.

He revealed that more than 70 men have applied for the class.

Of that group, however, only 20 will be accepted in the initial stages of the program; although, he hastened to add, applicants' files would be retained for review for the next class. Should men who have applied for the

### DPC Members

Sister Janice Morgan, SSJ, principal of St. Theodore's School in Gates, became a member of the Diocesan Pastoral Council at the annual convocation June 16-17. She fills a Catholic Education slot.

### Rose Garden

The Monroe County Parks Department pointed out this week that the rose garden in Maplewood Park is in full bloom and is open to the public daily from 7:30 a.m. until 10 p.m. The garden, at Lake Avenue and Driving Park, is used as a test site for the All-American Rose selections and contains more than 7,000 plants in 300 varieties, the department noted.

Marge Nurnberg of St. Patrick's Parish in Elmira was seated as a representative of ecumenistic action. Both were appointed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

## The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

### Conscience And Guilt

Dear Reader

Not too long ago in a certain parish in this diocese something I had said in the Courier-Journal was commented on in a Sunday bulletin, and, to a certain extent, attacked.



Fr. Hohman

One of the unfortunate parts of this is that I was not informed until much later that the article had appeared, nor was I informed by anyone what was going to be said. The bulletin was sent to me anonymously. I have a great difficulty dealing with that and I think that there is no reason in the world why we cannot remain charitable to one another and at the same time identify ourselves in terms of points on which we disagree. If I have no way of knowing with whom I am disagreeing, then I have a disadvantage which is very unfair.

In this article I am quoted as speaking of the advantages of natural family planning, but then stating, "not to say I refuse to respect people who still regard contraception as the only way that they in conscience can plan their families. This is between them and God." The article goes on to say that "the verb 'respect' means to hold in high honor, or esteem, or regard. It implies a sanction or approbation. We wonder if the writer, like many of us who scribble words, might not inadvertently have written 'respect' for sympathize with. We can sympathize with anyone who commits immoral action because none of us is perfect but we certainly can't sanction or even condone immorality."

The fact of the matter is that I am not in any way shape or manner condoning immorality. I will

not argue with the fact that the writer of the article attributes to the Holy Father in this matter an infallibility which even the Holy Father does not attribute. What bothers me about this whole situation is the gross misunderstanding of the meaning of conscience. The writer should know that one must follow even a false conscience if it is a certain conscience. In that sense I can respect people who sincerely say that they believe this is the only way for them. That is none of my business. Both I and anyone else can do our best to inform them as we see a particular situation or more particularly as the Holy Father sees it, but we have no right to make a judgement about their guilt or non-guilt when they make a decision of conscience.

It amazes me that the author and many like him simply do not know the difference between objective right and wrong and the subjective guilt or non-guilt of a person following conscience.

The writer of the article also has a paragraph which reads, "The newest excuse for moral laxity is to trace it to conscience and God. Those looking for an excuse for an immoral active life style blame it on prayer. They sit down and talk to God, and they always emerge from the reverie with a judgement favoring their predetermined course of action."

I reject utterly this kind of rash judgement on the part of anyone, be he priest or lay person. We have no right to say that they always emerge from the reverie with a judgement favoring their predetermined course of action. That is unfair and Jesus Christ himself condemned it roundly. I do hope that there will be more effort to be objective on the part of people who simply sit down and from memory of things learned many, many years ago try to come up with particular judgements.

## Nun Notes 50th

Sister Philomena DeSocio will commemorate 50 years as a Sister of St. Joseph of Rochester on July 15 in her home parish, St. Anthony's, Elmira.

Sister Philomena's career includes 43 years of teaching in nine diocesan schools as well as a stint at the Sister's of St. Joseph mission in Selma, Alabama. She has also been involved in CCD programs and summer ministries in the diocese.

Presently she is serving as director of activities for her Community, mainly with the sisters at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary.

Sister Philomena, now residing at Nazareth Hall, Rochester, will celebrate her anniversary with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 1:30 p.m. at St. Anthony's on W. Washington Avenue, followed by a reception at the Center. All relatives and friends are invited to join 8



SR. PHILOMENA

Sister and her family on this happy occasion.

### Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. James G. Izzo of Washington Avenue, Irondequoit, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary July 3 with a family dinner at Barry's. Msgr. Richard K. Burns will offer a Mass for them at St. Thomas the Apostle Church.

## 150 LAPS

OF MODIFIED/SPORTSMAN ACTION

JULY 4<sup>th</sup>  
5 P.M.  
GATES OPEN 2 P.M.



MILLER HIGH LIFE  
FIRECRACKER 150  
Twin 75 lap segments  
MODIFIED-SPORTSMAN  
plus  
STRICTLY STOCKS  
OVER \$11,000 PURSE  
(Rain date July 7)

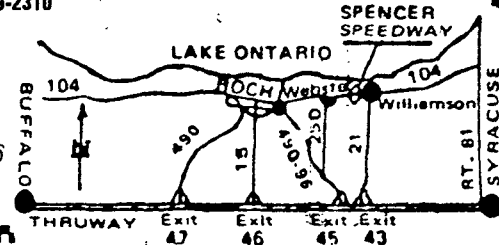
JUNE 30 - COCA-COLA NIGHT-REGULAR PROGRAM

### SPENCER SPEEDWAY

Rt. 104 East, Williamson - 20 minutes of Rochester  
PHONE: 1-315-589-2310

SAT  
NIGHT  
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Gates Open at 6  
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8 P.M.



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