

The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

Someone Must Know Answers

Dear Father Hohman,

I have read about the permanent diaconate in the C.J. and our priest gave us an instruction about it at Mass. And I have a pretty clear idea of what it's all about, and certainly applaud,

BUT...

Every time I encounter any specific description of what deacons are going to be doing I come up against two things: 1) the deacons will be men, and 2) this ministry will require sacramental grace, so they will receive Orders.

Yet, all of this kind of ministry has been done right along, mostly by women, certainly in response to a call, but without benefit of Orders at all.

There are and always have been countless women with home and family who have dedicated a portion of their lives to tireless, permanent service to the poor, to other people's children, to the sick, aged, prisoners, the Church.

Is the bishop implying that men cannot respond to such a call adequately without the strength and grace of a sacrament, whereas women can bypass the institutional

church entirely and draw their strength directly from the Lord?

Are women to be denied Orders because they aren't worthy, or because they don't need it? If men are ordained—their ministry confirmed by the institutional church—while women must look directly to God for ordination, then the institutional church which claims to be the Body of Christ isn't really the Church at all, and the gap between the church as institution and the church as people gets wider than ever at the very moment when the permanent diaconate is seen as a means of narrowing that gap.

What do you think?

(Signed A.)

Dear A.,

The points you bring up, I think, are very important and very serious. Frankly I do not know the answers for most of them. However, in regard to the possible ordination of women to the diaconate, the question is still very definitely an open one and I suppose would depend to a certain extent upon our new Pontiff. The other questions you have relative to ministries of service and how ordination affects them or changes their effectiveness are very vital and very good questions. I would like to invite anyone who has expertise on these particular matters to help me with the answers and to provide them as soon as possible. In this particular case I'm going to be waiting for the answer just as much as you are.

Bishop Hogan's Statement

Bus Fund Cuts Hurt, Not Help

Editor:

The recent decision of the Rochester School Board not to fund transportation for students attending schools located out of the City of Rochester will, unfortunately, affect people who are already struggling to continue to meet commitments of living in the City.

The pros and cons of the district to finance or not to finance this service to families have been eloquently articulated for the past two years. The fact remains—the decision of Aug. 25, 1978, means that families who live in the city and who select an alternative form of education for their children will pay city

taxes, tuition for the school of their choice and a daily transportation fare for each child.

This additional burden makes the choice an impossibility for many families, especially those already aided by a tuition subsidy. We have sought ways to make the opportunity to attend all of our secondary schools possible for the residents of the city by offering some tuition assistance.

The community, through the elected members of the school board, has voted to make this less attainable by adding the burden of full transportation costs.

I appreciate the effort made

by several of our state legislators, by the three members of the school board who saw their role as one to serve the educational needs of the people of the City of Rochester, by our local press, by the Federation of Catholic School Parents, and by our Education Office, to present the need for the service and the implications of its termination.

The history of non-public education in our country has been one of financial struggle, yet the contributions of that form of education have been applauded. Transportation is one form of direct service to tax payers that is supported by the courts; in our state costs are reimbursed to the district by 90 per cent; in our city this

limited service has been denied as a budget cut while, in fact, it does not have impact to strengthen the budgetary needs of the City School District.

The logic of the decision is difficult to comprehend. It is also difficult to imagine who will be helped by the decision. Those who will be forced to make personal sacrifices are apparent to us. We do understand their problems; we will not allow the issue nor the need to be forgotten.

Joseph L. Hogan

NFP Schedules Five Events

The Natural Family Planning office has scheduled two classes and three information sessions for September. In addition, there will be a get-together Sept. 29 for couples using the NFP method. This will begin at 8 p.m. in the ground-floor lounge of the Kearney Building at St. Mary's Hospital.

The classes, given by certified instructors, are limited to six couples. There is a \$20 fee. The information sessions are open to the public without charge.

The schedule, announced by Terri Petracca, director, follows.

Classes: Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7:30 p.m., at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, taught by Nick and Beryl Iven, 607-594-2380. Friday, Sept. 15, 8 p.m., at St. John the Evangelist, Humboldt Street, Rochester. Bill and Bobbie Jackson teaching; registration through NFP office, 716-464-8705.

Information sessions: Monday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m., room 207, Kearney Building, St. Mary's Hospital; Wednesday, Sept. 13, 8 p.m., St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira; Tuesday, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m., church hall at St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario — details from Ed and Maxine McDonald, 315-524-8891.

Mercy Celebrates Anniversary

Our Lady of Mercy High School will celebrate 50 years of service in the education of young women in the Rochester area on Sunday, Sept. 10.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will be the principal celebrant and homilist at a Mass to be said at 2 p.m. on the East campus of the school.

The public is invited to attend the event.

Blue Army

The monthly all-night vigil sponsored by the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima will open Friday, Sept. 1 with a Mass celebrated by Father William Leone at Holy Rosary Church at 9 p.m. The vigil concludes with a 6 a.m. Mass celebrated by Father Robert Meng, pastor of the parish.

Council Elects

Mt. Morris—The parish council of St. Patrick's Church has elected Mrs. Josette Anzalone president; Edwin Palermo, vice president, and Sister Angela SSJ, secretary. The emphasis this year will be on the new stewardship program.

Arts Center by Arts Center Theatre Company, Friday and Saturday nights at 8:30, Sept. 1-23.

AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE RPO—Erich Kunzel conducting Rochester Philharmonic at Community College of the Finger Lakes, 8 tonight, and at SUC Genesee, 8 tomorrow night, Aug. 31. Tickets through Ticketron or at RPO Box office, Eastman Theatre.

ENERGY INTO ART—Twenty-four art works that move, from 15 artists working in kinetic and technological media, at Memorial Art Gallery, Sept. 2-Oct. 15.

CREATIVE WORKS-HOP—Art work by youngsters in Memorial

Art Gallery's summer classes, through Oct. 10; also at the gallery through Oct. 10, 18 prints selected from Patrons' Print Portfolio.

ZOOFEEST—Three days of stage entertainment at Seneca Park Zoo, Sept. 2-4, continuous from 11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. daily; adults \$1, children .50, for elephant exhibit fund. Free shuttle buses between Irondequoit Plaza, Hudson at Titus.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE—New program for disabled and han-

dicapped adults and their families, sponsored by YWCA and Community Development Corporation, to be introduced at open house Thursday, Sept. 7, at Y, 175 N. Clinton; 10 a.m. noon.

FOCUS ON THE EUCHARIST—Mass with evening vigil at St. Nicholas Church, Remington and Leo streets, tomorrow, Aug. 31, beginning at 7:30 p.m.; Melkite Rite Mass at 8:15, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament; public invited.

Classified

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WANTED—Antiques, dolls, toys, post cards, jewelry, silverware, glass, china, leaded colored & clear windows, furniture, old advertising & coin, operated machines. CASH 223-0155.

PAPERBACKS, COMICS, old books, magazines, coins, stamps, records. (716) 637-3420.

VIOLENS BANJO mandolin, cello, viola wanted. Any condition. CASH. 342-2339.

GARAGE SALE Items wanted (old glassware, tools, etc.) CASH. 385-2339.

TV PORTABLES—must be in working order. 235-1203 or 342-5923.

LARKIN DESK or similar, oak, good condition. \$80 range, depending on finish. 223-1626 evas.

PRIVATE COLLECTOR will buy coins, U.S. and foreign and also old jewelry. 247-7999.

ATT: SURVEYERS, LAWYERS, REAL ESTATE AGENTS. Wanted to buy, old city plat books (city maps). 621-8920 after 5 p.m.

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Calendar

DAMIEN—Ninety-minute television special presents Terence Knapp as Father Damien of Molokai, in one-man drama written by Aldyth Morris—10 p.m. Friday, Sept. 1, WXXI.

THERE'LL BE A HOT TIME IN THE OLD TOWN TONIGHT—Turn-of-the-century cabaret presented at Nazareth

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