

The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

Comments May Provoke Questions

Dear Readers,

Perhaps many people think that I am receiving a large number of questions and so don't bother to send in questions themselves. Or it is quite possible that the vast majority of people are not interested in any particular intellectual growth in the faith. Or they think I make up the questions anyway. In regard to the latter, there have been only one or two times that I have actually made up a question (I may have reformulated some that I received verbally); but practically all of the questions which have appeared in this column have been sent in or asked by readers of the Courier. I want to keep it that way; otherwise, it would be like setting up clay pigeons to shoot down.

In the meantime I would like to make a few comments that may or may not provoke questions. Many questioners in the past, as well as writers of letters to the editor, have used the word *magisterium* in a way that indicated they thought it was a completely encased body of

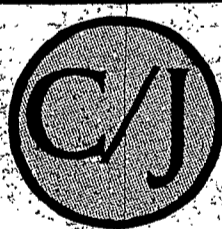
doctrine settled upon once and for all, and easily recognizable. I would like to ask them just where they find this magisterium and how complete is it and how infallible is it. Many times they equate the ordinary magisterium with what a pope has written or said. That's the whole thing; there is no more, according to their way of thinking. Writers of questions are not expected to be theologians, but people who make very positive theological statements are expected to have at least a modicum of theological expertise. Many questioners, or rather, people who state facts apodictically, seem to have a doctorate in Baltimore Catechism. I would like to make that very careful distinction. If you wish to ask questions there is no such thing as a dumb question. But if you wish to contradict someone who is trained in theology, you had better be pretty sure that you have a least an equal background in theology.

Also, there is no place either in letters or other communications for slander or insult. To say, for example, that a particular priest is doing a disservice to the Church and is harming the Church more than helping it is very definitely slander. Especially when the reason for the attack is that that priest does not agree with your own particular point of view.

National CDA Day

Members of Court Our Lady of the Cenacle will celebrate National CDA Day, Oct. 15 with a Mass at St. Jude's Chapel and breakfast at The Inn on the Campus; Father Thomas Hocotr, new chaplain at Rochester State Hospital, will offer the Mass at 9 a.m. A past regent's pin will be

presented at breakfast to Mrs. Anthony Rosica; a 25-year pin to Mrs. Charles Guzzetta, and a 30-year pin to Miss Margaret Sirianni. The celebration marks the 75th anniversary of the founding in Utica of the widespread organization now known as Catholic Daughters of the Americas.



Calendar

COURT OUR LADY OF THE CENACLE, CDA— Reception of new members at 7 p.m. Mass Oct. 17, St. Philip Neri Church; officers' practice at 6:15. Each member asked to bring a bar of soap for missions.

BLESSED SACRAMENT OKTOBERFEST— Oct. 21 in school hall, 8 p.m. German food dancing, music by Maestros; \$2.50.

ST. CHARLES DIVORCED CATHOLICS GROUP— Film, rap session, 7:30 p.m. Sunday Oct. 15, school library, 3003 Dewey.

FRIENDS, INC.

Singles 18-35, second annual Halloween Party, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 28, 780 Arnett Blvd., between Thurston and Genesee Park Blvd.; \$1. With masquerade costume, \$1.50 without. Reservations by Oct. 25: 458-0436.

FAMILY WEEKEND EXPERIENCE— At St. Philip Neri Oct. 20-22. Information, reservations: Ron and Sue Barry, 482-7102.

DISCERNMENT SEMINAR— At the Cenacle, 693 East Ave., Oct. 20-22, led by Sister Mary Louise Moore, Cenacle. Sister from St. Louis University. Reservations: Sister Ann Dowd, 271-8755.

MERCY ALUMNAE— 50th anniversary banquet 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, Burgundy Basin Inn, preceded by open house all day at Mercy High School. Dinner reservations: Martha Kolb, 482-6917.

DEDICATION RECH AL— Dr. Timothy Albrecht, organist at St. Stanislaus Church, Hudson at Norton, 4 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 15; reception. Public, free.

FAMILY FILM— The Song of Bernadette, at Holy Family School 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13; 8 p.m. Oct. 14. Single ticket 50 cents; family, \$1.00.

CLASSIC FILMS— Catherine the Great (1934) 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Rochester Museum and Science Center auditorium.

THE PHAROAH: THE LAND— Sunday, Oct. 15, 2 and 3:30 p.m. at Rochester Museum's Eisenhart Auditorium; first of six Sunday films in series titled Tutankhamun's Egypt.

PHOTO FLEA MARKET— Fifth annual sale sponsored by Xerox Photo Club, Sunday, Oct. 15, noon-4:30 p.m., Xerox Building 336, north of Webster, off Rt. 250.

BOOKS SANDWICHED IN— At Rundell Library, 12:12 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17; Peggy Savlov, actress and singer, reviews Ethel Merman's autobiography, with music.

Vocations Week Begins Oct. 15

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has named a special diocesan vocations team to raise the consciousness of the people of the diocese for Church vocations.

The announcement of the team, to be headed by Father Thomas R. Statt, rector of Becket Hall, as chairman, was timed to coincide with Church Vocations Awareness Week Oct. 15-21.

In addition to Father Statt, members of the team are Sisters Jacqueline Reichart, RSM; Clare Stoe, SSND; Judith Greene, SSJ; and Sheila Stevenson, RSM; Fathers Charles T. Manning of Our Lady of Mercy, John Carriero, SJ, of McQuaid Jesuit High, and Joseph Trovato, CSB, of St. John Fisher College.

The vocations week is sponsored by the National Catholic Vocation Council to provide the opportunity for all Catholics to promote vocations in the Church.

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey who heads the diocesan Department of Personnel, has asked all parishes to participate in vocations week either through their bulletins, Prayers of the Faithful or homilies on the weekend of Oct. 15.

Father Statt said the team was formed "as a result of the work of the Task Force on Vocations which was established to study the whole situation. This Task Force came into existence in the Fall of 1976 after it was requested by both the Priests and Sisters councils, both of which bodies have approved the concept of team rather than by a full or part-time priest."

"Our prime responsibility," said Father Statt, "is to make people aware of the need for Church vocations and to renew interest for service."

Last winter, Bishop Hickey announced a "contact group" of priests whom people considering a vocation could

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contact. The priests, Fathers Thomas Valenti, John Firpo, William Lum, Donald Schwab and Robert Gaudio, will continue working under the umbrella of the vocations team, according to Father Statt.

Father Statt has encouraged anyone with any questions concerning a Church vocation to contact him at Becket Hall, 75 Fairport Road, and he will refer them to the proper

member of the committee. He stressed that such questions will not imply any commitment or obligation.

"We do not want to discourage any questions or interest even of the most tentative kind," he stressed.

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