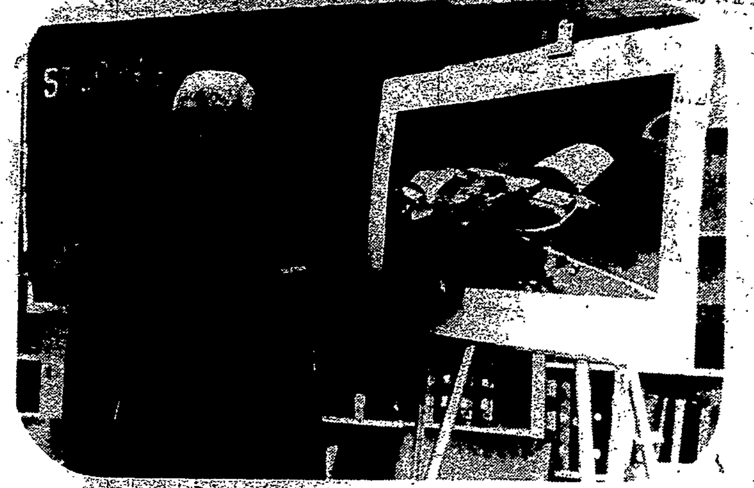

Student Life

With nearly $3 million pledged in a $6.1 million capital campaign, St. John Fisher College is about to embark on construction of new recreation facilities. Father Charles J. Lavery, CSB, president, is shown at a news conference Oct. 12 pointing out features of Louis Rossetti's design for the Student Life Center, which will incorporate the athletic center built in 1964. The fund drive is expected to provide also enrichment of academic resources, renovations and development of other campus facilities.

The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

Decisions Are Not Easy

Dear Father Hohman,

Some time ago a friend of mine wanted to get married in her own parish and went to the priest, but the priest said that because she did not come to church on Sundays there was no reason at all for her to be married in the Church, and until such time as she would begin coming or promise to come to church on a regular basis there was nothing he could do.

Fr. Hohman

So they went to the church of the young man, and there the priest said sure. So they prepared for the wedding and were married in the church of the young man.

It would seem to me that we have lost something in giving up the uniformity of former times. Now it has gotten down to a question of shopping not only for confessors but also for places to get your children baptized and married. Do you think this is good, or is it simply divisive and destructive of the credibility of the Church in her position of being one.

Personally, I would rather have the rules be exact and inflexible, and then everyone would know exactly where they stood.

(Signed) T.S.

Dear T.S.,

The problem you state is a very real and a very difficult one. In establishing criteria for the giving of sacraments there are many considerations involved, and it is difficult to put them all together into some kind of unified rule. There is, for example, the intransigence of certain priests who find it to their liking, or to the dictates of their conscience, to go by the rigid rules no matter what. The result of that can often be a deserving person being shut out of a particular sacrament. On the other hand, there are always those priests who are very free in interpreting rules and make it difficult for those who want to apply conscience to the solution of the particular problem. Add to this the fact that determination of the good will of the people involved is also extremely difficult. In many cases one feels very certain that they will never be seen again after the sacrament is administered. In other cases, there is the real chance that this might be the occasion for their turning around and gradually acquiring an allegiance to the faith community. A third situation is that at this particular stage in their lives they don't understand at all why there are such rules or why they should even go to church, but later on might do so. If they have been rejected by a priest in a previous situation, then that latter conversion might not come about at all.

I find this one of the most difficult aspects of the pastoral ministry and do not have any set solution. Hopefully, the priests of the diocese will try through their Council to get something together which will at least give better guidelines than we have at the moment.

CHD Collection To Be Nov. 19

Chicago (RNS) -- The U. S. Catholic bishops have launched their 1978 Campaign for Human Development, announcing their domestic anti-poverty program has granted nearly $7 million this year for 117 community self-help projects.

CHD's 1978 Thanksgiving-season collection, scheduled in most Catholic parishes for Nov. 19, is expected to bring the education-action program's nine-year total of disbursements to more than $70 million, according to CHD's Father Marvin Mottet.

At a news conference here, Father Mottet announced that $100,000 of this year's CHD funding has been granted to the Save Our Valley Ecumenical Coalition of the Mahonig Valley, Youngstown, Ohio.

The coalition, headed by Bishop James Malone of Youngstown, has challenged a New Orleans-based conglomerate's closing of a steel mill that employed 5,000 persons. The ecumenical coalition seeks to reopen the steel mill under community-worker ownership in the economically hard-pressed Youngstown area.

In addition, the 117 community self-help projects funded by the CHD include an independent housing cooperative for farmworkers in California, a network of senior citizen organizations in Maryland, a community health center for blacks in rural Alabama, and an archery factory run by Native Americans in South Dakota.

According to Father Mottet, CHD activities are especially timely now "with Proposition 13 and tax revolt fever gaining momentum, it is the poor who will be hurt most, and it's more important than ever that we in the voluntary sector come through."

Established by the U.S. bishops in 1969, CHD began in 1970 as the Church's effort to enable people to break the cycle of poverty and dependence. CHD funds self-help projects which aim at long-range solutions to poverty in the areas of legal aid, housing, health care, economic and social development and education. Funds are disbursed on a need rather than religious or denominational basis.

Housing Workshop Scheduled in Geneva

Moderate Income Housing for Small Communities -- How to Get It, a workshop session, has been scheduled by the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 28 at St. Francis DeSales Elementary School, 110 Exchange St. in Geneva.

The workshop will provide those interested with the opportunity to learn from housing specialists what to do and how to do it. Advance reservations are not required. A donation of $2 will cover the cost of lunch and registration. Information may be obtained from 716-328-8860.

Keynote speaker will be Karen Hanson, state director of the Farmers Home Administration. Other discussion leaders will be Peter Lorey, rural housing specialist from the Farmers Home Administration; Richard Lippold, state director, community planning and development of the Housing and Urban Development Department; Richard Pine, president, Conifer Development Associates; William Belden, executive director, Three Rivers Development Corp., Corning; Lisa Bowdey, specialist, Project BEST, Yates County; Michael Madigan, field staff supervisor, Steuben County Economic Opportunity Program; Richard Wardell, board chairman, Community Progress Inc., Corning, and Richard Willson, former project director, Community Action for Self-Help, Wayne County.

Workshop I, Multifamily Housing Opportunites, will focus on new construction or substantial rehabilitation of three or more housing units for rental or purchase. Workshop II, Rehab and Self-Help Housing Opportunities, will cover the new construction or substantial rehabilitation of single family housing units.