

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Being 40 And Liking It

Several good friends and one close relative turned 40 this past year. Some marked the event very quietly, others threw parties. All, I am willing to wager, approached the anniversary with some apprehension, if not outright fear.

From the vantage point of my own years (I preceded them ever so slightly) I can offer a few words of advice and maybe comfort to them and others approaching the turning point.

Forty, most of us discover is not bad. In fact, it can be very good. Anticipation we find is far worse than the actual event.

Forty, you soon learn, is not, as commonly thought, the beginning of middle age. On the contrary, middle age is always 10

years older than you are on any given date.

Forty is the time when you acquire a little common sense - and a great deal of courage. Perhaps it comes from the frequent counting of gray hair or smoothing out the crows' feet (also known as laugh lines) at the corners of the eyes.

At any rate you discover you no longer feel compelled to take any lip from anybody, particularly authority figures to whom you've paid obeisance for too many years. These include the doctor who tells you you are five pounds heavier than the last time he saw you; the teacher who says it is all your fault your kid doesn't eat breakfast and gets disruptive by 11 a.m.; and the dentist who sneers when you ask for anesthetic to have your teeth cleaned.

Forty is when you discover it REALLY DOESN'T matter what others think of you. Only what you yourself think.

At 40 you begin to take stock of what is truly

important in your life. You find almost without trying that you can weed out the vice presidency sought after at the expense of time with your kids; the yearning for a different height, figure, face, hairline, etc.; the windfall that will rival the treasures of Tut's tomb.

At 40 you grasp securely the truth you've always suspected: There is no wealth greater than that afforded by a loving family and circle of friends; that physical, emotional and spiritual health are riches beyond compare.

At 40 your vision suddenly clears and you realize that the lump of a nose you've always abhorred is really strong in character.

Forty gives you perspective and you can finally see how many good years you have left to do the things you really want to do and that dreams are not the prerogative of the young alone.

And, finally, at 40 you realize that you and the almighty make a rather remarkable team, if from time to time you can only shut your own mouth long enough to listen to your Sidekick.

Lefebvre Comments On Talks

Vatican City (RNS) — Dissident Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, CSSP, emerged from a private meeting (Jan. 10) at the Vatican with Cardinal Franjo Seper, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the words, "Things are going well."

He added that when he returns for a second day of talks with Cardinal Seper, "important decisions" might be made. The content of the meeting remained secret.

The visit was the second made recently by the French prelate to the Vatican. He was received in private audience by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 18. Neither he nor the Vatican commented afterward on that meeting.

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Celebration

A Stewardship celebration has been scheduled by St. Mary's, Canandaigua, in appreciation for the "time, talent and treasures that parishioners of St. Mary's continually contribute to their church," according to a release. The event, beginning at 9 p.m. on Jan. 20 in the school gym, will be hosted by Msgr. William Roche, pastor. Shown above (top row from left) are Msgr. Roche; Allyn Maslin, parish council president; front row, Karen Haight, event chairman and Shirley Harvey, parish council member.

NFP Slates Meetings

The Natural Family Planning office has scheduled two informational meetings. The first of the two will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 21 at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua. Anyone desiring further information should contact Pat Robinson at 315-394-8902.

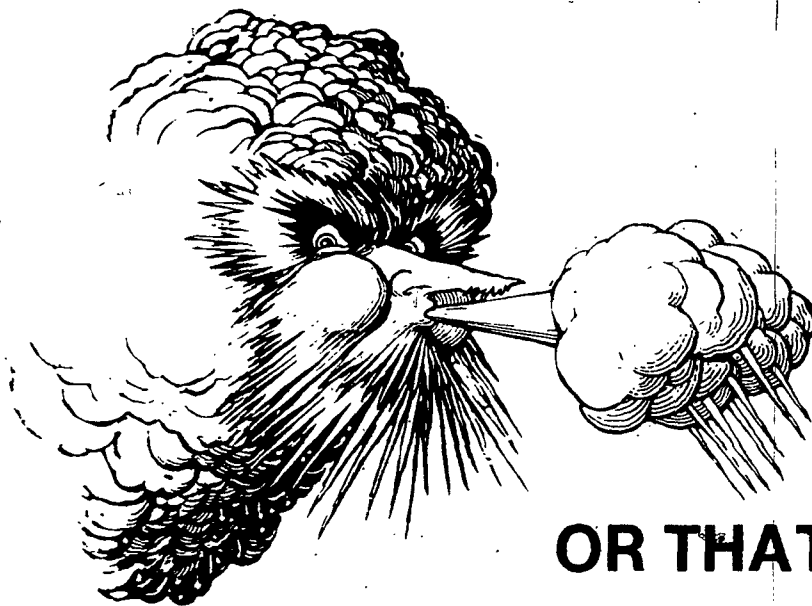
Another session will take place at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 5 at the Kearney

Building of St. Mary's Hospital. Further information is available from the NFP office, 716-464-8705.

Both sessions are open to the public at no charge.

Deadline

Deadline for news copy for the Courier-Journal is noon Thursday, the week before the Wednesday publication date.



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