

# The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

## Everyone Should Help Find the Truth

Dear Father Hohman,

I have been a regular reader of your column in the Courier-Journal, but now I'm moving away from the Rochester diocese. Before I leave I want to tell you how much I've enjoyed your column and how much it has helped me.



Father Hohman

As a child I attended Catholic elementary and high school, and although it was definitely a wor-

thwhile and wholesome experience, I realized as I grew older that I had been trained to remain as a child in Catholicism. Rather than being guided toward adulthood in the faith, I was taught "here-is-the-question-here-is-the-answer;" all statements on religion made by priests, bishops and pope are always true and are considered to be directives, etc. Although I was taught that I was created in the image of God and therefore possessed a capacity to both love and reason, I was encouraged to develop only my capacity to love, while my capacity to reason-in-the-faith was left dormant.

As I now grow more toward adulthood in the faith, I find my faith has become stronger and richer. Your column has

helped me to grow and I'm very grateful to you.

In addition to saying thank you, I hope you will find in my letter some encouragement to continue your column. As a regular reader I know you are receiving criticism from well-intentioned children of God. I hope that when you do receive that sort of criticism you will be encouraged to recall that you are helping other people grow richer within their Catholic faith and that they find your column to be very helpful.

Sincerely,  
(signed) N.K.

Dear N.K.,

As it says in the commercial, "I needed that." I needed it because sometimes I wonder whether I am simply antagonizing everyone and not really accomplishing any good. I have no intention of antagonizing

people or making life more difficult for them, but I certainly have a responsibility to the truth as I perceive it, hopefully under the influence of the Holy Spirit. I think you have grasped very fully the fact that we are a pilgrim church and that we have not reached the fullness of truth and that each of us has a stake and an obligation in searching for that truth and in discovering it. It is not a cut and dried matter and I think it is important that someone bear witness to that fact. It is a disservice to everyone for people to say that we have a triumphant church, that it is in possession of and has expressed the fullness of truth until the end of time. That is simply not true; and I shall continue to bear witness to the falsehood of that statement as long as I am able.

Thank you for your encouragement. I have no intention of quitting.

## Seminarians Undergoing The 'Desert Experience'

Twenty second-year theology students from St. Bernard's Seminary are undergoing the "desert experience" this month at St. Michael's Mission Center on Hemlock Lake.

Good Counsel; Peter J. Schmitt, St. Boniface. These men are among 21 students installed Dec. 8 in the office of acolyte, the seminary announced.

The four-week program provides silence and solitude; time for concentrated prayer and reflection, and conferences with seminary teachers and guest speakers. Together, the men take part in the celebration of the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours; in recreation and manual labor. Father William Trott is the director.

The seminarians studying for the Rochester diocese are Joseph R. Catanise of St. Mary's, Waterloo; Robert L. Muhlneckel of Sacred Heart, Auburn; James E. Willsey, St. Ann's, Hornell; Robert P. Ring, from St. Francis de Sales in Salisbury, Md., and these Rochesterians: Frank E. DiSano, St. Cecilia's; Rosario P. LaDelpa, St. Francis Xavier; William A. Moorthy,

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## On The Right Side

By Father Paul J. Cuddy

### Communion In the Hand? Yes and No

What do you think of Communion in the hand?



Fr. Cuddy

At first I pondered the idea greatly. When a custom is established for centuries it usually has been the custom for a good reason; and we should have good reasons to change it. However, I find few difficulties and some advantages in Communion in the hand.

What are the difficulties? Well, 1) a sensitivity toward faithful Catholics who have been schooled to such reverence for the Blessed Sacrament that the idea of a layman's handling the Sacred Host causes anxiety and even anguish for some, albeit needlessly; 2) unwashed hands; 3) As God commanded ultra reverence for the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament, the Church commands ultra reverence toward the Eucharistic Body of the Lord, and there is a danger of a casual regard for the Lord's Body in the new permission to handle it; 4) There is a real danger of parts of the Host dropping to the floor or on clothing.

What are the advantages? It is easier to place the Blessed Sacrament on the hand than on the tongue. Not everyone is adept at placing the Sacred Host on the tongue without touching it, which is repulsive and unhygienic. I always enjoy Father Heisel's dilemma: "What do you do when a person puts out his tongue and his hands at the same time?"

What do you think of lay distributors?

I have gone to enough banquets to know the annoyance when there are not enough waiters, causing clumsy delay and wasted time. Lay distributors are a great help

to facilitate the expeditious distribution. However, there are two points to be considered: First, no one should accept the privilege unless he is a bona fide, practicing Catholic—honest, faithful in marriage, charitable, generous with time and talent at home, to neighbor and the Church. Second, Eucharistic vestments are required by the Church for celebrants at Mass. These are not of the essence, but they are of the sacred. And they give witness that the Mass is a liturgy of special holiness in a spot made holy by the Eucharist. How pregnant are the words of God to Moses at the burning bush: "Moses, Moses, take off your sandals, for the place where you stand is holy." (Exodus 3:5)

I do not like to have altar boys in street clothes serving Mass, without necessity. The cassock and surplice are church garments—special. And I do not think it fitting for Eucharistic ministers to walk from the middle of the congregation, having shaken hands with neighbors, without washing their hands, and without wearing a special church vestment symbolizing that they are acting in a sacred capacity. Nor do I appreciate their returning to the congregation without washing their hands, having handled the Holy Host. The priest is directed by the rubrics to wash his hands after distributing Holy Communion.

What do you think of Communion under the form of wine?

The Bishops have voted it as an option, and I believe in obedience. But I do not think it will be very common, excepting where some Fancy Dan priests are hung up on foisting their wills upon a helpless congregation. Using the same chalice for several persons is repulsive to many hygienic-minded Catholics.

## DPC Ranks Ten Priorities

By MARTIN TOOMBS

Canandaigua — The Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) discussed the rank ordering of 10 diocesan priorities and then did its own ranking Saturday.

The 10 priorities, presented by the Ministerial Review Committee (MRC), deal with the wide range of diocesan services. The priority list is to be used as a guide in preparation of the 1979-80 diocesan budget.

Three topics dominated the hour-and-twenty-minute discussion: what it meant for each item to be placed where it was, and suggestions that the Role of Women, ranked tenth by the committee, and Liturgy, ranked sixth, be moved higher.

Sister Dorothy Ellen and Diane Blum both suggested moving the Role of Women to second place, noting reasons they felt justified that position.

Bert Jones, Northwest delegate, noted the need to use the trained women available for ministerial roles.

## Mary Wright Heads State RTL

Mary Wright of Endicott, former first vice chairman of the State Right to Life Committee, has been named the organization's sixth chairman.

Other officers named are Gertrude M. Keough and William B. Smith, vice chairmen, both of Westchester; John Grimes of Queens, treasurer; Phyllis B. Hyrcza of Jamesville, secretary, and Jeanne Head, RN, of Manhattan, delegate to the national RTL Board.

The new chairman is former chairman and legislative director of Broome County RTL, and also served as representative to the state board for the 27th Congressional District. In 1975, she founded Birthright of Binghamton, an emergency pregnancy help service and has been active in maintaining

Anthony Rosati, Northwest delegate, suggested moving Liturgy higher, and he was seconded by Beth Stefano, Tompkins-Tioga; and Marilyn Meunch, Northeast delegate. Father John Mulligan pointed out that the quality of liturgy was cited by more people than any other factor as the reason for choice of parish in the Selection of Bishop survey.

The DPC's ranking re-ordered several of the priorities, which had been culled from several sources by the MRC.

Announced Monday by Sister Mary Ann Binsack, DPC executive secretary, the DPC's list left the first three priorities, Education (especially for leadership), Family and Evangelization and the Unchurched, intact.

The delegates made Liturgy fourth (moved from sixth); Institutionalized and Economically Disadvantaged fifth (from eighth); Youth sixth (from fourth); Role of Women seventh (from tenth); Religious Vocations eighth (from ninth); Finances ninth (from seventh); and Diocesan Organization Structure tenth, from fifth.

quality maternity services in her area.

She founded the Southern Tier Couple to Couple League for the promotion and instruction of natural family planning methods.

### Effective Living Scheduled

An Effective Living Seminar will be held at the Cenacle on the weekend of Feb. 16-18. The program will be conducted by Cenacle Sisters Arline Brent and Shirley Kitagawa. The Program includes lectures on raising one's self-concept. Registration opens on Friday at 7:30 p.m. Further information is available through Sister Betty Rogers, (716) 271-8755.

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