

# The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

## Charismatics Rescued Her

Dear Father Hohman,

Until my Sophomore year, I was a daily communicant, really TRYING to live my beliefs. Finally, no more daily, and sometimes not even Sunday Mass. Rebellion, anger, hurts, frustration, marriage, children. Now there is no fellowship because the parishes are so large and neighbors seem too busy. My child became seriously ill, not one visit from a fellow Christian, Catholic or otherwise or a phone call from the Pastor. Months later, when I asked to have him baptized, Pastor is very abrupt with me about letting it go nine months, without even asking why. Hurt, anger, frustration, turning away. It hurt more because I had been faithfully bringing my then only other



Father Hohman

child to Sunday Mass for sometime. Up pops Maria Goretti's forgiveness. "No, I can't right now; I'm hurt, I hate."

Then years later, that's three years ago, I have heavy, traumatic problems I don't seem to be able to do anything about. Mom dies; I didn't get to apologize for the one big fight we had before she died; everything seems to be falling apart; marriage problems, fight with neighbors, children are having difficulties, and one other bit of news that is so traumatic that it's the "straw that breaks..."

As a last try, I returned to Mass one more time during the week. There a woman I never met before, greeted me warmly, invited me to a meeting. As I was hurting so badly, she stayed with me then, witnessed to me about Christ's love for ME; built my faith and gave me hope. Because God is a forgiving God, He will forgive ANYTHING. Something she did for me which no lay person ever did for me

before, she prayed with me and asked God to give me peace. She said: "Go along now, and praise God today." I did; with three traditional hymns I knew and lo, by the end of the day I had more peace than I had had in years. I followed her leading me back to Jesus and receiving the fullness of His Holy Spirit. I depend on Him for each moment by moment existence with my family, friends, neighbors. He gives me strength, joy, peace, to live those moments.

What I discovered was that all of the education that I received, difficult as it was for my parents to send me away for nine months of the year two hundred miles away, and difficult as it was for me to leave them, still God had planned all that for me and how all of those things became from dim to bright and I saw so much in the Eucharistic Celebration that I never saw before, and in the Sacraments, and in other Christian Faiths. We try to emphasize our common beliefs and live a life of love for each other, leaving the difficult differences to those who know more about that. I'm forty now and it is indeed so, that The Lord of my life led me all those years on a journey

back to His Father. My Father. But, finally, I have my answers: God does not change; His gifts and miracles, and healings are for today! And, it seems people often "pick" on the physical healing point and build up such annoyance on it. Fine, I let the Lord handle those feelings. There is not one "Charismatic" whom I know who will not sincerely WANT to forgive ALL the hurts that are encountered in their lives, for they take God's Word LITERALLY "70 x 7 times." ALTHOUGH there may be waiting for the other to come around, they have forgiven in their hearts and eventually full reconciliation will and does occur.

Today, yes, I will still be hurt and am, but the Lord heals me daily. I know He will help me forgive all who hurt me with His forgiveness. "My eyes are turned to a man with a humbled and contrite heart." My life still has many difficulties, but I have "peace that passes all understanding" and I can cling to the Lord. If I ever encounter that Pastor I know that I will be able to respond to him now instead of react, in love. Praise the Lord.

My daily prayer is: Lord I

can't forgive that hurt with my own forgiving heart yet, but give me your forgiving heart that forgives all.

(Signed) M.M.

Dear M.M.,

Your very beautiful letter speaks for itself. I guess I would only make one change. That is where you say you have never known one charismatic who would not forgive. I would say I have never known anyone who loved God sincerely who would not forgive. I know you did not intend it, but it almost sounds as though this kind of forgiveness is limited to charismatics. I assure you it isn't.

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# ... At Your Parish

## St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls

Seneca Falls — Sister Agnes Paula Shambo, SSJ, celebrated 50 years in religious life at a Golden Jubilee Mass on Sunday, May 6 at St. Patrick's Church here. A public reception followed.



SR. AGNES

Sister Agnes, a native of Auburn, came to St. Patrick's in 1974. She has also taught in Penn Yan, Canandaigua, Rochester and Geneva.

## Holy Cross, Rochester

Eighth graders at Holy Cross school have actively joined the boycott of products made by Nestle Co., in protest of that company's marketing of infant formulas in Third World countries. The students are collecting coupons which they will send back to the company unredeemed, sending letters of protest and collecting articles for a Boycott Notebook.

Barbara Batt, Social Studies teacher at Holy Cross, feels

that "this project will involve the students in consumerism and in ethical concern for all Third World countries."



Parishioners James Iannuzo (left) and Philip Dattilo (right) discuss the upcoming Golden Jubilee Celebration with Father Charles Connell, pastor.

## St. Philip Neri, Rochester

St. Philip Neri Parish, 1782 Clifford Ave., is preparing to celebrate its Golden Jubilee during the week of May 20.

According to Father Charles B. Connell, pastor, activities will include an Opening Mass on Sunday, May 20 at 12:15 p.m., a Mass for the deceased of the parish on Tuesday, May 22 at 8 p.m., a Mass for children and grandparents on Wednesday, May 23 at 11 a.m. and a Jubilee Mass that will close the activities on Saturday

May 26 at 5 p.m.

A dinner dance at the Mapledale Party House is also scheduled for Friday, May 25. Those interested in attending may call the rectory for reservations. Deadline is May 11.

St. Philip Neri Church was established in 1929 as a mission church of St. Francis Xavier. Formal establishment of St. Philip's as a parish came on Sept. 1, 1959. Father

George J. Weinmann was its first pastor.

On Feb. 20, 1967 fire heavily damaged the church and took the lives of Father Weinmann and Sister Lillian Marie McLaughlin, a second grade teacher.

Father Connell, who succeeded Father Weinmann said, "We are proud of our heritage as a parish and look forward to serving the spiritual needs of the faithful in the years ahead."

LOOK FOR DETAILS IN NEXT WEEK'S COURIER

**MAY 17th, 18th AND 19th**

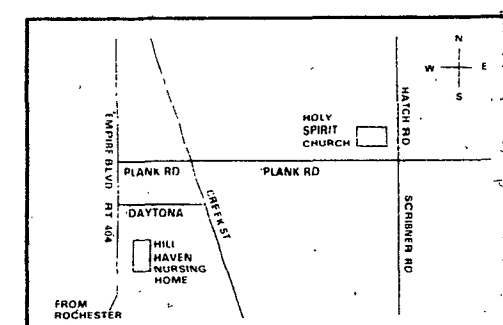
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