

'The Ark' Floats Handicapped into Mainstream

By Michael C. Groden

"Mainstreaming", the deinstitutionalizing of our handicapped, has received much attention lately. Many handicapped people have demonstrated that they are very capable of taking care of themselves and able to lead near normal lives in the world outside the institution whenever they are given the chance.

Numerous programs and half-way houses are slowly taking the place of formal institutionalization giving many mentally and physically handicapped more and more independence and a greater sense of pride and self-worth.

One such program in Rochester which seems to be a success is l'Arche community in the Southview Towers on South Avenue.

l'Arche (the ark) is an "international federation of communities where mentally handicapped and 'normal' people live and work together" according to a booklet written by Ann Shearer, a l'Arche worker.

The program, begun in 1964 in Trosly, France, offers many handicapped people an alternative to living in institutions.

l'Arche in Rochester is headed by Father William Frankhauser, S.J. and now occupies 50 apartments scattered throughout the building. Southview Towers also houses many elderly people. Father Frankhauser said that at first the elderly didn't like the idea of mentally and physically handicapped living with them but gradually they have come to accept and



Father William Frankhauser, S.J., and Kathy McDonnell (above) plan an outing to Mendon Ponds Park for the l'Arche community. Shown at right Kathy works on her latest macrame project. Her hobby serves as therapy for her hands.

in fact welcome their new neighbors.

He said that most of his time is spent in getting the people in the community out of the apartments and active in something.

Many of the l'Arche residents work as volunteers all across the city. They travel to and from their activities by themselves, something that was thought of as impossible a short time ago.

One of the participants in the program, Kathy McDonnell, explained that when she left the Newark Developmental Center people asked her "who was going to wash your clothes, and cook your meals?" She said that once she was allowed to live

on her own she showed them that she could.

Kathy lives in her own apartment and is making plans for a trip to Florida. She credits Father Frankhauser with giving her the confidence to "travel around."

She has already travelled to Boston and Washington, D.C. and will visit another l'Arche community in Cleveland in the fall.

She also helps Father Frankhauser when he visits different places to explain the program. He said that she's become quite a salesman for the program.

Father Frankhauser also gives much credit to Elliott Landsmann who operates the building. He has made two

apartments available, free of charge, for the community's use. One serves as a chapel the other as a counseling area. Another close associate, Winn Fletcher, was cited for her work as counselor to the l'Arche community.

Rents are usually provided through Medicaid and other government assistance. Father Frankhauser said that "so far" the l'Arche program hasn't needed any money.

l'Arche, Rochester has been incorporated now for five years and the program seems to be growing. Father Frankhauser said that the l'Arche community is open to anyone "who needs the kind of advocacy we can provide."



THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER
"Happy Father's Day... Day"



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

The setting apart of a special day on which to honor Fathers is indeed appropriate. The special church services, his favorite dinner with the family and -- of course -- the gifts!

All this attention sits very kindly on a father's heart, and says "thanks" in a special way.

But let's not stop there. We should honor our fathers -- and our mothers -- every day. Time is very short, and we spend so little of it with each other. Whether we are near or far, we need to make the extra effort to recognize what our parents mean to us -- and let them know our feelings now, while there is still the opportunity.

We join with you in wishing all Fathers a very happy celebration of "their day."

Use our lending library of books concerning death, dying, bereavement, and related subjects.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL
2100 St. Paul St. HOME 342-3400

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Grim News: Abortion to Be 'Sold'

Ten minutes until the head of the house is due home and after giving the rice a stir I spread the evening paper out on the kitchen table.



The news is grim. Planned Parenthood will spend \$1 million to convince the country that abortion is right and good. They have hired a public relations firm to spread the message. It appears, however, that their fight is more against anti-abortion forces than it actually is pro women. Reading between the lines one learns that the anti forces have been too successful and must be counteracted. Women must be told they have a choice, says a Planned Parenthood spokesman.

From upstairs the strains of "Carnival of Venice" come drifting down with only one or two false notes. Not bad for a beginning trumpet player and I think about the "choice" that was made 11 -- no more than 12 years ago.

I read on and the face of a friend comes to mind. For all of the seven years I have known her she has wanted a baby desperately, a baby of her own. She has a baby at long last, a baby of her own -- although another woman has given it birth and the radiance on her face these days is blinding.

The trumpet player comes downstairs to ravage the refrigerator. Too near supertime. I interfere and we have words. We are more often at odds with each other than not, but it is a surface thing. Underneath fierce emotion binds us. He was introduced to us (his father, older sister and I) when he was five months. He said "Ah-Bah" and we fell in love.

His younger sister comes in and turns on the TV and a smile plays across her face as some inanity takes place on the screen. At 9 years old she knows more about the joy of living and loving and how to communicate it to others than some adults who have lived 10 times as long. She knows for example, that contrary to popular belief life sometimes IS a musical comedy; that money is best spent on presents for others and that every unfamiliar face is a potential friend. She was three months when she

first lit up our lives.

From the living room comes the lilting sounds of Beethoven's "Für Elise" as the oldest ready for a lesson. But for the "choices" two other women made, she might have been an only child, a fate some say is not so bad, but she would not agree.

I go back to the paper and read on and mourn for all those lives that will have no "choices". I think about the slogans that will be written by the most clever, most persuasive of copy writers whose glibness today sells soap and cars and tomorrow will doom babies. I wonder if any of them will care or is it only another job.

CAMP STELLA MARIS

1979

OUR 53rd YEAR

OF CHILDREN'S RESIDENT CAMPING EXPERIENCE

FOR BOYS

- Ages 7 to 14 years
- A. July 1 to July 7
- B. July 8 to July 14
- C. July 15 to July 21
- D. July 22 to July 28

FOR GIRLS

- Ages 7 to 14 years
- E. July 29 to Aug. 4
- F. Aug. 5 to Aug. 11
- G. Aug. 12 to Aug. 18
- H. Aug. 19 to Aug. 25



PARENTS — Register Early - Avoid the disappointment of your child not being able to attend

OPEN HOUSE

All Parents are invited to Camp Stella Maris June 10, 1979 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You may tour the facilities and meet the staff of both boys and girls encampments. Some refreshment will be available. Parents may also register their children that day for camp.

For Further Information Contact the Secretary - Camp Stella Maris
3052 East Lake Rd., Livonia, N.Y. 14487, Telephone 716-346-2243
An Accredited Camp of The American Camping Association