



NFP Officials

Larry Kane, right, executive director of the Human Life and Natural Family Planning Foundation in Washington, D.C., and Father Timothy O'Connell met with Rochester officials here last week. Father O'Connell is planning an NFP program in Los Angeles, and at Kane's suggestion, visited Rochester to study the local program.

The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

Real Love Cannot Be Temporary

Dear Father Hohman,

What is the Church's attitude toward two adults of opposite sex living together without benefit of marriage? I can't seem to accept this.

(Signed) D.C.
Fr. Hohman

I don't think there was ever a time when the Church allowed fornication, which would be sexual intercourse between unmarrieds. And the presumption is that your concept of living together would include that. St. Paul was very definite in his condemnation of this particular kind of behavior.

The reason many young people decided to make this kind of arrangement was that they felt many people were going through the motions of making the vows of a wedding and then not living up to them, or having their marriage end in divorce. They felt that something could be accomplished by testing the relationship and if it proved

valid, to simply ratify it by marriage at some particular point in the future.

The trouble with this arrangement is that you cannot involve the deep emotions of people in such relationships, even though they are not intended to be permanent, without creating some deep hurt and damage to one or both. Psychiatrists and social scientists today are recognizing that this is precisely what is happening in many cases, and there are probably many cases where it simply has not come to the surface.

Even our inclinations to love are inclinations to permanence. We never speak of love as being a temporary thing. So the solution is not to eliminate the permanence. The solution, rather, is to guarantee the permanence by guaranteeing the love. When we have been schooled properly in love, when we have committed ourselves to it mutually, then the permanence follows normally and naturally. It is when love is either misunderstood or is not entered into seriously that the permanence is not there because the love is not there. So there is no point in experimenting on a temporary basis with what is by its nature permanent. If failure comes, the failure is just as traumatic without the permanent commitment as it is with it.



Calendar

ST. CHARLES DIVORCED CATHOLICS GROUP — Meeting at 7:30 p.m. Sunday in school library, 3003 Dewey, to hear Wesley Allen on Your Attitudes' Role in Your Future.

BAND CONCERT — Monroe County Parks Band at Harris-Whalen Park, Penfield, 7-9 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 19; free.

NOONTIME MUSIC — Bahama Mama, Reggae-rock band, tomorrow noon in Manhattan Square Park; free, sponsored by

Hochstein Music School and city.

BRISTOL VALLEY PLAYHOUSE — The Only Game in Town, this weekend and next, RD. 3, Naples. Friday, Saturday curtain 8:15 p.m.; Sunday 3:15. Reservations necessary, through 716-374-6318.

RARE BIRD — Summer blood donor campaign runs through Sept. 14 at Red Cross center, 50 Prince, with extended hours: 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays; 5 p.m. closing Monday, Friday.

TOURING GREAT CITIES — BBC films Mondays, 8 p.m., Rochester Museum's Eisenhart Auditorium; \$1.50. Aug. 20: Hong Kong, Madrid.

CLASSIC FILMS — High Noon (Gary Cooper, 1952) 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Aug. 16. Museum Auditorium, RMSC.

Insights in Liturgy

The Church Today: Mary As Model

By Father William J. Amann
Pastor, Our Lady of Mercy Church, Rochester

The meaning and value of Marian Feasts today depend on understanding the meaning and value of Marian devotion; and that is spelled out in the directions of Vatican II, which recall for us the place of Mary in salvation history. In 1973 the American bishops bemoaned the malaise in the commemoration of Mary "in spite of the urging" of Vatican II "that we celebrate the feasts of Our Lady and deepen the sense of her association in the central saving mysteries of Jesus the Savior." (NCCB) Further clarification may be helpful.

"Within the cycle of a year the Church unfolds the whole mystery of Christ... from His incarnation... and in the expectation of a blessed return." "Thus the Church opens to the Faithful the riches of the Lord's powers, made present, and to be laid hold of by all.

"In celebrating this annual cycle of Christ's mysteries, the Church honors with special place the Blessed Mary, Mother of God, who is joined by an inseparable bond to the saving work of her Son. In her the Church holds up and admires the most excellent fruit of the redemption, and joyfully contemplates, as in a faultless model, that which she herself wholly desires and hopes to be." (Vat. II) Mary is the "first of the Church, as she is perfected in the world to come."

It is this two-fold relationship of Mary to Christ and to His Church that gives Mary such value, and our reason for such a focus on her in worship and life. She is at once "the Church's model and excellent exemplar in faith and charity," (Vat. II) and the "model for all individual believers in a pilgrim church — called to go beyond her past, to ponder, to pray, to face the infinite. She is not just for children. She is for

that part in all of us that trembles before the Godhead and must learn to go through the terror into the smile." (US Catholic) "She is a pre-eminent and singular member of the Church."

The worshipping Church thus celebrates Mary for her participation in the Paschal Mystery and Salvation History, for her relationship to Christ, to you, to me. The Church, as Church, gathers on her Special Days in this cycle. "The Church at all times," John Paul II says, "has surrounded Mary with special veneration and invested special faith in her." Today we are reminded that "true devotion consists neither in fruitless and passing emotion, nor in a certain vain credulity;" (Vat II) neither does it "seek new gospels." Rather today's faith in and about Mary rests on the "Bible and the living word of the Church through her 19 centuries." Today's emphasis in the cult of Mary is on liturgy and sacrament rather than personal devotion. We think of her more as a symbol of, mother of, the Church, and perfect Christian, rather than Queen of May, or Lady of Fatima. This way we should more readily see "that the salvific influence of Mary" fosters rather than impedes "the immediate union of the faithful with Christ."

Mary's feasts today are feasts of the Church. Indeed Vatican II's treatise on Mary is placed in the Document of the Church. Mary is the complete fulfillment of the mystery of salvation — from the Immaculate Conception to the Assumption — and she continues to be the most effective in foretelling this mystery." (John Paul II) "We might get the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception and the Virgin Birth mixed up, but we knew what all their technical words were trying to point to: she shone." (US Catholic)

The General Church Calendar (today) then acknowledges the singular place of Mary in the Salvation Event, and in our Salvation event... (Paul VI).

In next week's column we will explore in depth, Marian Feasts as they appear in the General Church Calendar.

Business In the Diocese

Mrs. Helen T. Culian, RAA, former chief Medical Record Librarian of Park Avenue Hospital, and Medical Record Consultant for the Rochester Regional Hospital Council was the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award for 1979, from the Medical Record Association of New York State. The presentation was made to Mrs. Culian during the group's recent annual meeting.

Dr. Charles F. Coyle, Jr. has been elected president of the Monroe Division of the Podiatry Society of the State of New York. Dr. Coyle, his wife Suzanne and their four children live in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Irondequoit, where he has served as chairman of the Parish Council and of the recently completed Stewardship program.



FRANCIS J. RUSSO, director of fiscal and administrative operations of the Monroe County Department of Social Services, has been elected first vice president of the New York State Association of Public Welfare Accountants. Russo lives with his wife Donna and two sons in St. Helen's Parish, where he is active in Pre-Cana and Church Fair activities.

Portuguese Mass

Father John Drexel, OMI, the Rochester-born missionary to Brazil, will be the celebrant of a Mass in Portuguese this evening, the Feast of the Assumption, at 5:30 p.m. in

St. Augustine's Church. Organizers of the event for the Portuguese community have also asked persons attending to bring a dish to pass for a meal following the Mass.

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