



### Oktoberfest

Photo by Susan McKinney

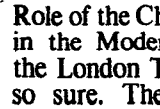
Bishop Matthew Clark will open this year's annual Oktoberfest when he celebrates a special Oktoberfest Mass at St. Mary's Church on Sunday, August 26 at 4 p.m. Father Winfried Kellner, pastor of St. Boniface Church and a native of Germany will deliver a homily in German. Shown above dressed in native Bavarian garb are (front) John and Mayme Gardner and (back) Vitus and Arline Stuhler who will present the gifts during the Mass. They are members of the Bavarian Society "Alpengruen".

## The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

### A Sure Cure for Insomnia

I thought until recently that the theme chosen for the 1978 Synod of Bishops — the family — was a providential opportunity for the church. But having read the preliminary position paper ("The Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World") in the London Tablet, I'm not so sure. The family is a critical issue in every country in the world and the church has enormous resources at its disposal with which to reply to current family problems. However, we have not done enough groundwork either in the theology or the social science of the family to be able to respond to the present opportunities — not if one is to judge by the pedestrian working paper; the Tablet called it quite correctly a bland restatement of the obvious.



If the bishops of the world are not going to come up with anything better than the working document, they ought to either stay at home or recommend a change in the subject of the conference. I'm in basic agreement with the values for which the paper stands — fidelity, chastity, fecundity. I am also in favor of virtue and against sin, too. Unfortunately, with the exception of some pop sociological analysis of the "changes" in the last 15 years (which miss the point), the document could just as well have been written a century or even a millennium ago.

There's nothing "wrong" with it, but nothing much "right" with it either. It will not drive anyone away from the church, but neither will it attract anyone to begin listening again to what the

church has to say about family life. Whoever drafted the document knows very little about the problems most families experience and has made little attempt to explore the resources of the church's traditional resources to find illumination for men and women who suffer in the ambiguities of contemporary family life.

Most people, surely most Catholics, still accept values of fidelity, chastity and fecundity, though they might not interpret these values in quite the same way the official church does. Admittedly, there is an increasing component of the younger population which purports to reject all three. However, these young hedonists will not be listening to the bishops (or anyone else for that matter) and the working paper provides no help for those who might listen and who might, with some illumination from the church, provide young people an alternative to hedonistic paganism.

I am not complaining about stands on specific issues; the working paper is very cautious indeed about its reassertion of the teaching of "Humanæ Vitæ." I am, rather, criticizing the abstract, dull and triumphalistic style of the document and its lack of new insights, new understandings and new explanations.

The curial bureaucrats who wrote it were communicating with each other and not with the family people or the parish priests of the world. They have said nothing much that is bad, but nothing much that is good either. They have managed this feat by saying nothing much at all.

Let me cite a few sentences chosen by just picking up the pages of the Tablet: "We must . . . consider the influence had by the character and customs of modern society on the family; the way in which the family is able to fulfill its role

effectively depends partly on this influence, which also at times does damage to the integrity of the family."

What character? What customs? What influence? What roles? What kind of damage? What aspect of its integrity?

The document is made up almost entirely of such sentences. The world will give a massive yawn and mutter "so what" if the bishops are not able to do considerably better than that. One is reminded of the old seminary bull, "aperiens os suum, nihil dixit" — opening his mouth, he said nothing.

A meeting like the Synod depends to a very considerable extent on the effectiveness of its staff work. The Vatican Council was a success mostly because the European theologians who were the "periti" provided superb staffing.

Now most of them have flaked out and become "liberation theologians" regurgitating vulgar Marxism. The bishops are left with the curial pen-pushers to draft documents.

They may come up with one of the best cures for insomnia since sheep.

### Life Party To Announce Endorsements

A local branch of the Right to Life party plans to announce endorsement of candidates for political office at a meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 25, at the Ramada Inn, 1273 Chili Ave.

The local party, chaired by James Donahue, sent out about 200 questionnaires to candidates and interviews were set up with those who returned the forms. The questionnaire was designed to determine the candidates' position on abortion and the endorsements hinge on the results of the questionnaires and interviews.

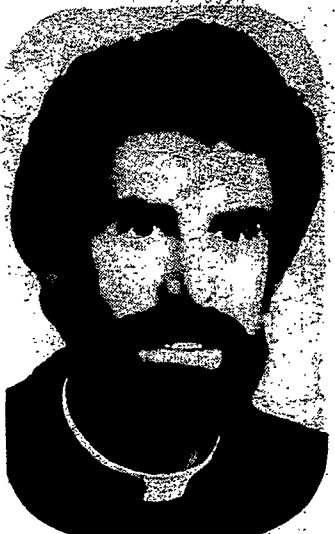
### Business In the Diocese

Three physicians have joined Family Health Associates, a private group affiliated St. Mary's Hospital. Joining the group are Dr. Gerald J. Fay, internal medicine; Dr. John R. Andolina, internal medicine, and Dr. Quentin A. Fisher, pediatric medicine.

Helen Pratt, a Dansville attorney, communicant at St. Mary's Church and member of the parish Human Development Committee, has been appointed delegate from Livingston County to the New York State Judicial Convention to select Supreme Court Justice candidates. The convention will be held Sept. 11.

## Br. Larrere Will Join Priesthood

John Larrere, CSC, former music director at Cardinal Mooney High School, will be ordained a deacon in the Congregation of Holy Cross on Sunday, Aug. 26 at Corpus Christi Church, South Bend, Indiana. Bishop William E. McManus, bishop of the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese, will preside.



BR. JOHN LARRERE

Brother Larrere began studies for the priesthood at the University of Notre Dame in 1977 and as deacon will serve the Corpus Christi parish in South Bend. Regarding his decision to join the priesthood, Brother noted that the stirrings of grace and the movement of the Spirit in one's life are difficult to describe. Through the years, he said, he came to see his talents for ministry more

evident in the sacramental and liturgical ministries.

"The Church from its beginning," he emphasized, "indicated that there are a variety of ministries in the Church. One ministry is not more important than another. The ministry of the Brother and the priest are both crucial for the Church in which we live."

Brother will be ordained a priest on June 14, 1980 at Holy Cross Church, South Easton, Mass.

### Make Today Count

The monthly meeting of Make Today Count, the organization of cancer patients, others with chronic diseases, their families, health professionals and others, will be held at the Brighton Presbyterian Church, 1775 East Ave., on Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7:30 p.m.



### Eagle Scout

Joseph Petrella, a member of Boy Scout Troop 222 received Scouting's highest honor, the rank of Eagle Scout, during recent ceremonies at Holy Cross School. His mother, Mrs. Rinaldo Petrella, pinned the Eagle Badge on her son who is an Aquinas Institute student and who also received the Ad Altare Dei award from Holy Cross Church where he is an altar server. During a separate Court of Awards, Terry Hancock was honored for fishing and camping; Paul Gilbert for hiking, and Matthew White for cooking.

**THE SKY IS CALLING.**

There's excitement in the air. Pilot-to-tower. Emergency "talk downs." Routine chatter. The Bearcat\* 220—tunes in the aircraft frequencies. And the marine bands. And hear police, fire and emergency calls, up to 20 frequencies that you've entered in the Bearcat 220's memory with the calculator-type keyboard. Seven band scanning—with no crystals to buy. No crystals to change. The incredible Bearcat 220. For all the action—land, sea, and sky.

**Bearcat 220**

ALL BEARCAT SCANNERS ON SALE

**ROC Communications**  
430 Ridge Rd. W  
West Ridge Plaza  
621-1888

**Moceodon cb center**  
West Wayne Plaza  
Rte. 31, Macedon  
315-764-3223 • 716-454-7548

**RETIRE IN FLORIDA'S**  
**FINEST MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY**

On Florida's Atlantic Coast there is beautiful lake country where you can retire on a sensible budget in an adult community of doublewide mobile homes.

Phone toll free 1-800/237-9494 for more information on how to get full enjoyment out of Florida retirement living. Or fill out the coupon.

**VILLAGE GREEN**  
of Distinctive Mobile Homes

MAIL TO: VILLAGE GREEN  
Dept. 2715 P.O. Box 6037  
Vero Beach, FL 32960.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

A STATEMENT AND OFFERING STATEMENT HAS BEEN FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK. THE FILING DOES NOT CONSTITUTE APPROVAL OF THE SALE OR LEASE OR OFFER FOR SALE OR LEASE BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE OR THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS IN ANY WAY PASSED UPON THE MERITS OF SUCH OFFERING. A COPY OF THE OFFERING STATEMENT IS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.