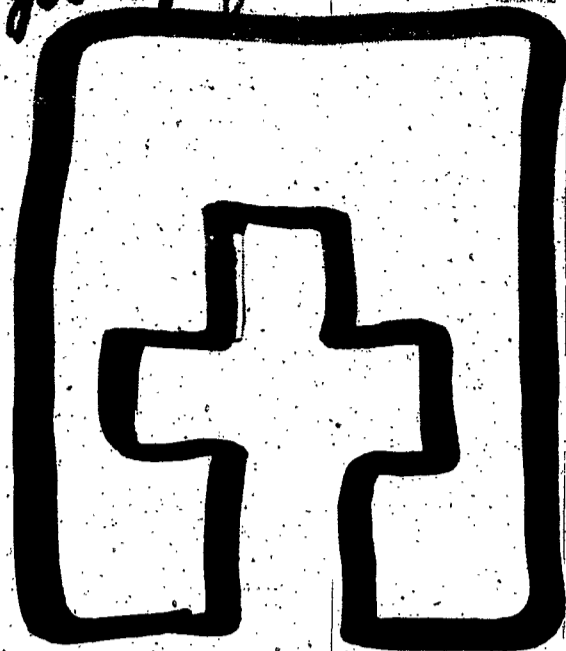


Your Kingdom Come!



1980 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Prayer Poster

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity opens next week, on Friday, Jan. 18. Posters like the one above have been appearing in churches and offices throughout the diocese to encourage prayer for the unity of Christendom.

The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

Parish Customs Vary

Dear Father Hohman,

I always enjoy reading your column — it is unfailingly calm, clear and rational.



My question is probably trivial but is something that has puzzled me. Fr. Hohman frequently, what should someone do when attending Mass away from one's home parish and the "ceremony" for receiving the host is different?

Two examples will illustrate. In our home parish we all receive the host between thumb and forefinger of one hand with the other hand cupped beneath, in case the host is dropped. Last year my family attended Mass at the cathedral in Chicago. When my family went up to receive communion our eight-year-old son was first in line. The priest slapped my son's upper hand and whispered harshly, "Put your hand flat!" By then we had noticed that other people were receiving the host with both hands together, flat, palms up. Obviously, "When in Rome do as the Romans do." But are there any general rules to cover this situation?

The other situation we face is more difficult. Frequently we visit relatives in a small Mississippi town. There is only one Catholic church in the town. This pastor refuses to give communion in the hand at all. He has denounced the practice from the pulpit as disrespectful, etc. What should one do in this situation? I simply will not allow him to feed me as if I were a baby! Frankly, this priest, a vigorous man of about 45 years, always puts me in such a rage that on the

last two occasions I have simply not attended Mass. A half-hour of quiet meditation is the substitute I find preferable. Could you comment?

(Signed) J.W.

Dear J.W.,

There is an authorized way of receiving communion in the hand and I suppose it was authorized so that complications could be eliminated. The authorized way is to place one hand above the other both with palms up and the host is placed in the palm of the upper hand and received then with the lower hand. You are right about "When in Rome do as the Romans do" and perhaps it would be wise to observe the persons in front of you and the manner in which they receive the host. That could be helpful in many situations.

However, at the risk of being disloyal to other members of my "profession," I would like to say how much it distresses me when priests make a big thing or a sad thing out of such a trivial matter. To slap someone's hand on the occasion of reception of Holy Communion and to be harsh is to be absolutely out of order, regardless of who does it. That is no time for such a thing since it is the love of the Lord Jesus which is being made evident in the reception of the Sacrament. Nor do I think that a priest has the right to restrict the law. If the law allows for reception in the hand it is up to him to allow it, even though he himself doesn't like it. As I pointed out in a column several weeks ago, this business of priests taking a proprietary view of the church and of their Mass is one of the most harmful things that I know of in our church, and I wish there were some way of doing away with it once for all. Only they can do something about it and it has to be a matter of personal conscience.

Permanent Diaconate Accepting Candidates

Applications are being distributed to diocesan men who are more than 30 years old and interested in the ministry of the permanent deacon.

Msgr. George Cocuzzi, director of the diocesan Permanent Diaconate Program, said that inquiries may be directed to the Office of the Permanent Diaconate, 2260 Lake Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14612.

second year, has 47 men enrolled in studies leading to ordination to the diaconate. "The deacon is an assistant to the bishop in the function of ordained pastoral leadership," Msgr. Cocuzzi said. "The deacon exercises ordained pastoral leadership chiefly and characteristically through ministries of charity and justice, sharing with bishops and priests in ministries of Word, Sacrament and Liturgy."

single men may apply. The numbers for future classes are limited, however." He also encouraged interested

prospective candidates to act prior to Feb. 1 in order to obtain the necessary information for enrollment.

The program, now in its He said that "married or

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Later Asked, Later Fulfilled

Somewhere this past week I read that it is good to make New Year's resolutions even if you don't keep them. I can't remember what the reason given was, but I suppose it had something to do with being positive or purposeful or acquiring a certain mind set.



Reading the piece made me try to think of past resolutions I had made over the years. The only one that came to mind was the one I made when all three kids were under five and I vowed to keep the kitchen floor shining and bright. About the time they stopped spilling most of their meals on the floor, however, we got a dog and nothing much came of that idea.

My sister says though that in the beginning of 1963 I vowed to end my bachelorhood and 11 months later the head of the house and I were married. That one is sort of scary since I thought the nuptials were the result of moonlight

and roses and other such nebulous items instead of coldblooded resolve made while drinking coffee in my sister's kitchen.

I began then thinking about other resolutions I wished I'd made way back then.

A lot of people don't realize that a resolution made sincerely and firmly and often enough may not always "take" when you want it to but six or eight or even ten years later the habit or virtue you wished most assiduously to cultivate is yours.

For example, I can't remember how many times I gave up cigarettes, only to start again but in the last 14 years the only thing I've smoked is two small cigars so I guess it is fair to say I've broken the habit.

Just think if when I was in my 20s I'd vowed to write a best seller, live on a mountaintop overlooking the sea, take up archaeology and invent dewrinkling cream how fulfilling my 40s might be.

On the other hand, my 60s could be very sweet.

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Charismatics Set Diocesan-Wide Celebration

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be principal celebrant of a Mass for the charismatic community of the diocese on Friday night, Jan. 25, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. All priests and deacons are invited to take part.

The celebration, which begins at 7:30, is the first event arranged by the new diocesan Catholic Charismatic Service Committee. Members of the committee will be installed that night, Father James Connolly, SJ, announced. He said that all prayer groups registered with the committee had been invited.

Charismatics

The Glory of Yahweh Christian Fellowship has slated two talks by Rev. Elwyn Bingham for Jan. 14 and Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Name of Jesus Church. The group has also slated a healing service, to be led by Father James Connolly, SJ, at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 21.

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