

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Put Mysterious And the Occult In Perspective

Dear Father Hohman,

Something called an ESP Psychic Fair took place last weekend in Rochester (June 6-8). It was advertised in the Democrat and Chronicle as

featuring Super Brain and the Professor.

It said 50 psychic readers were to be available. It promoted "an adventure into the subconscious." Admission was \$3 but seniors and "children under 12" were half price. I, and many of my friends, feel that such shows are the work of the devil. Very often, scripture condemns such "psychic" experiments as

the work of Satan. Is there some way we could get every Catholic in the diocese aware that all such "occult" delving is forbidden by God as the work of the devil?

Sincerely, J.F.

Dear J.F.:

I did not actually see the ad to which you referred nor did I have any direct connection with the performance that was advertised. I do think it is very important to make distinctions between those things which are mysterious, that is, unknown to us at the present time, and those things which are occult in the sense of being related to evil spirits. It is very easy for us to think that just because something is beyond the bounds of our present ex-

perience that it is by that reason related to spirits of another world. ESP refers to Extrasensory Perception and is a most probable reality. It merely means that certain people are able to give and receive messages without direct use of the senses. It is just as possible to emit waves from the brain as it is to have air waves carrying the messages of radio and television. Therefore, we simply cannot out of hand discount the reality of something which is scientifically possible and perhaps someday provable. The same thing would be true of other psychic phenomenon such as mind over matter. We have no idea at this stage in history what are the outer limits of the human mind.

On the other hand, if we have phenomena which are evil in themselves or lead to evil, then we can at least have a very deep suspicion that they might have their origin in evil spirits. Another item which comes under the heading of unreal, and as a matter of fact is morally wrong, is fortune telling. There is no way of telling the future which involves the use of free will on the part of human beings. Only God knows the future because He has the ability to look from eternity into time. No one here on earth has that ability and so fortune telling is out of the question. That does not include the

prediction of physical phenomenon which are not dependent on free will, such as the weather.

We must be careful that we do not lump very different things into one category and either dismiss or condemn them all. I don't know what elements of the performance you speak of have bad characteristics and what elements have good characteristics. Each wrong would have to be judged on its own merits. As far as how it sounds is concerned, the whole thing has a theatrical ring and maybe was not meant to be taken all that seriously.

At Your Parish . . .

St. Anthony of Padua

Lisa Fratta, a student at St. Anthony of Padua School, will receive this year's Father Bennett Award tonight at graduation ceremonies in the Church on Lorimer Street.

The Father Bennett award was established in 1974 as a living memorial to Rev. Charles A. Bennett who had been pastor at the church for several years.

The Father Bennett award is given by the school each year to a student who "demonstrates by behavior the qualities of friendship and Christian service." Lisa, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Fratta, was chosen unanimously by faculty members at the school.



LISA FRATTA

St. Charles Borromeo

An American Flag was presented to St. Charles Borromeo School by Congressman Barber Conable during Flag Day ceremonies last week. The flag flew over the Capitol building in Washington. The Greece Elks conducted the ceremony and students who wrote the best essay on "What My Flag Means to Me" received

awards. In other St. Charles news students Kelli Probst, Marc Stevens, Amy Siciliano and Michael LoBiondo have been chosen to represent the school on the Kodak 1980 Birthday Party Float at the annual Barnard Fireman's Carnival Parade on Wednesday, July 9.

St. Thomas the Apostle

St. Thomas the Apostle parish has scheduled its annual Summer Festival for June 20-21. The festival will feature food, entertainment, and a Craft Shop, with a variety of hand made items open from 12 noon to 11 p.m. both days according to a

parish release. On Saturday, June 21, Officer Hank the Magician will perform his magic show for the children from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. A chicken dinner will kick off this year's festivities on Friday, from 5-8 p.m.

St. Leo, Hilton

The tenth annual Summer Festival at St. Leo's, Hilton is scheduled for June 19-21 this year and will feature music by the Monroe County Parks Band and Country Strings Unlimited. Free pony rides for the children will be given on Saturday.

St. Leo's is located in the village of Hilton, 167 Lake Ave. The parish invites all those interested to attend the celebration.

Good Shepherd

Officers were recently installed to the Altar and Rosary Society at Good Shepherd parish in Henrietta. The officers for the coming year are: Anne Seleski, president; Gail Ammon, vice president; Sidney Long, secretary; and Pat Quigley, treasurer.



Book Party

Fourth grade students took part in a special book report program recently at St. Salome's parish. Each student read a biography of a well known person and gave a report to parents and faculty by portraying that individual. Above, Rita Laforce portrays Sacagawea while Rebecca Denk (right) gives her version of Florence Nightingale. Below, Sister Annette poses with the Book Party participants.



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