



Photo by Joan M. Smith

Joining the Team

Father Thomas Valente, director of the diocesan Vocational Team Ministry, welcomes new member Brother William Clifford while Sister Kathy O'Connell looks on. Brother Clifford is a teacher at Cardinal Mooney High School where the team recently presented a Day of Ministry which introduced interested students to religious vocations. The team's program is not only available to Catholic high schools but is made available to parish schools and youth groups. For further information contact the diocesan office, 328-3210.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Christ's Death A Matter Of Focus

Dear Father Hohman,

I know you are a patient, considerate and open person. That is why I turn to you with my problem. It may seem irreverently stated but I don't in any way intend it that way.

I have never been able to understand the great amount of adulation paid to Jesus Christ — in Liturgy, prayer, etc. — because he gave up his human life for us. I know this sounds harsh and disrespectful — but how many, many others have died for us as well.

Read the annals of the Congressional Medal of Honor and see the reports of those who have willingly died for us. And these are only the ones recognized for their deeds. Consider the countless others known but to God who have willingly given up their lives. I realize that wars may be suspect but the motives of those who pay the price of war are generally above reproach.

Perhaps more to the point, what about all the martyrs who accepted death willingly? They range from the brilliant (Thomas More) to the uneducated, to the very young. Many times their deaths were equally or even more brutally accomplished than the Lord's. Again, there are thousands known but to God who have suffered ignominious and unknown martyrdom who go unhonored and unremembered.

I think you get the point. Thousands upon thousands, without the assurance Christ had, have equaled his great sacrifice. Why the so much to do over the human element of his crucifixion — which sometimes verges on the maudlin.

Again, may I assure you that I ask this with all respect.

A sincere albeit bumbling Christian, J.F.

Dear J.F.,

An honest inquiry is not irreverent. And the answer to your question is one of focus and emphasis rather than contrary fact.

I must read between the lines, but what I think your starting point is devotional practices which emphasize the bloody and painful nature of the crucifixion as though that were its great virtue: the idea of Jesus "suffering so much." While that is not necessarily a wrong approach when it arouses a sense of Jesus' love

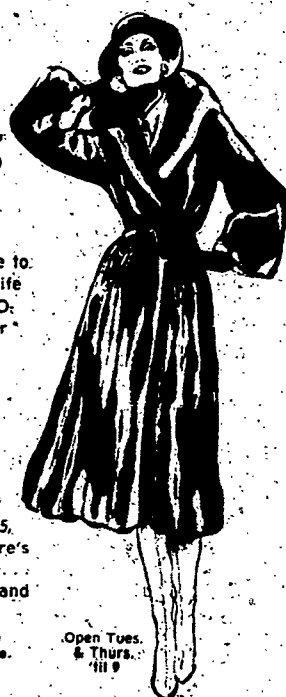
for us, it can distort the reality.

I think that reality is best expressed in Phil. 2, the liturgical hymn which describes and defines the saving act of Jesus Christ. "Though he was in the form of God he did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather he emptied himself and took the form of a slave being born in the likeness of man." So the first thing important about the saving act of Jesus Christ is that it is an act of God and his love for sinful humans. The idea that God would thus lower himself for our sake is of itself incomprehensible — a profound mystery.

The passage in Philippians goes on, "He humbled himself, obediently accepting death, death on a cross." The total humbling of Jesus and the total obedience to the Father's will was an infinitely greater act than any human could achieve. The idea that one so great could love so much as to become so little and so obedient should call forth from each of us the joyful proclamation, "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

The Warmest Holiday Feeling of All.

Gentlemen, now's the perfect time to buy a beautiful fur for your lovely wife or for your favorite girl, from HELD-PROJANSKY. Just lay it away for Christmas and we'll gift wrap it for you... free of charge! Imagine the thrill she'll have when she opens a package and sees an exquisite fur, from HELD-PROJANSKY... what a treasured Christmas gift it will be! See the tremendous selection of furs... from Rabbit starting at \$295, or a Mink Cape starting at \$850. There's one just right for your favorite girl... find the fur-cool of her dreams and wrap her in luxury this Christmas. All furs labeled to show country of origin.



Rochester's Leading Fashion Furrier
Held-Projansky Inc.
Euclid at Atlas near Midtown 546-5454

Nun to Head RIJM

Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, president of the Diocesan Sisters Council, has been named executive director of Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry. She replaces Robert Bonn who resigned recently to take a position in fund development for the Catholic Youth Organization.

The Religious Sister of Mercy served as pastoral assistant at St. Monica's parish for the past eight years. Prior to that post, she taught at Ben Franklin High School.

Woman to hold the post in the 10-year history of the organization.

Sister Moore is the first

Divorced Catholics

The St. Charles Divorced Catholics Group will celebrate Mass at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, at St. Charles Church, 3003 Dewey Ave. Refreshments will be served in the school library after the Mass.

A Carmelite Sister of the Divine Heart of Jesus

Serves GOD the CHURCH and her NEIGHBOR through the APOSTOLATES of Prayer — Reparation and Active Charity caring for the aging and children



Life in Carmel D.C.J. is a life of Love and Service... we enjoy a close Community Life, praying, dining, recreating and planning in common — as a Family, headed by our respective Superiors.

TO SERVE GOD TO ENRICH YOUR LIFE
Write to:
VOCATIONAL DIRECTRESS
CENTRAL PROVINCE
10341 MANCHESTER RD.
ST. LOUIS, MO. 63122

COMPLETE HOBBY & CRAFT CENTER
PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE
50% OFF ENTIRE INVENTORY
Games, Macrame, Dollhouse Furniture Kits, Models, Jewelry Findings, Craft Kits, Paint-by-Numbers, Matchbox, String Art, Candle-Making Supplies, Craft Books and Supplies, Rockets and Engines, AFX and Tyco Race Sets, Tools. Sale Excludes Train-Related Items.
612 STONE ROAD 865-4260 ROCHESTER

HOLIDAY SPECIAL
PIZZA WITH THIS AD 50¢ OFF
ON OUR \$1.99 PIZZA
With Pepperoni and Mozzarella. No Limit! Serves 8 Pieces. Offer Good 'til Dec. 31st, 1980.
Large Selection of Cookies and Butter Cookies
Since 1902, Specialists in Oven Fresh Italian and French Breads, Rolls. All Baked With a Master Baker's Touch. Let Us Make Your Pizza for Parties, Weddings, Any Affair.
LIPANI'S BAKERY
532 Plymouth Ave. North (at Jay)
546-8548
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
LOOK FOR OUR BREAD AT YOUR FAVORITE STORE

THE PERFECT GIFTS

M-65 FIELD JACKETS \$39 ⁹⁵ REMOVABLE LINER \$14 ⁹⁹	A-2 LEATHER FLIGHT JACKETS Warm Fleece Lined SALE PRICED \$89 ⁹⁵
OFFICIAL SWISS ARMY KNIVES by VICTORINOX	VELOUR SHIRTS COTTON, ACETATE \$8 ⁹⁹ to \$19 ⁹⁵
VESTS DOWN, FIBERFIL SHERPA LINED	CAMPING ITEMS MESS-KITS PACKS ETC.

Levi's SALE STILL IN PROGRESS
\$12⁹⁹ BASIC JEANS
Your one stop Christmas Store
9-9 Mon. thru Sat.
the Outdoor store
226 Monroe Ave. 232-5259