The Open Window

The Question

Of Salvation

Dear Father Hohman,

same question.

I understand the concern

of T.R. in the 1-28-81 edition

of the Courier-Journal, for I

was once an unsaved

Catholic confronted with the

Perhaps many priests like

ourself don't realize that

most Catholics never take

step 4, which you state as

willingly giving our lives over

to Jesus' control. Without

taking this voluntary,

deliberate step, they remain

unsaved, no matter how well

they keep the Commandments. They wrongly

assume that they are saved

and are children of God



because they belong to the Catholic denomination.

I disliked intensely being questioned about my salvation, yet that question was the catalyst that led me to giving my life over to Jesus and to knowingly and willingly accepting Him as my Savior and my Lord.

Sincerely, A.G.

Dear A.G.,

I cannot imagine a priest in active pastoral ministry who would not realize that many Catholics never take step 4. We are painfully aware that for many people Christianity is a very superficial element in their lives. However, for you to make the statement "most" is unwarranted since you

have no facts or figures to establish that.

I think you need to know this — that salvation is from God and the way He acts in one person may or may not be the same as He acts in another person. You are making your own experience the criterion for every other person's experience. God can and does save people who never even have an explicit knowledge of Himself. This is a doctrine of the Church and is one which you are not free to contradict.

I don't blame you for disliking intensely being asked about your salvation since no one has any right whatsoever to sit in judgment upon your response.

It is a very beautiful thing to have the grace to explicitly give your life over to the Lord Jesus and to live that out from day to day. That in itself is the beginning of heaven and is a grace for which you should be deeply thankful.

Parents Retreat March 6

A retreat for parents of teens is scheduled at the Cenacle Renewal Center, 693 East Ave. Father Paul Hansen, a Redemptorist priest from Toronto, will conduct the three-day event, starting at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 6. The retreat will conclude on Sunday, March 8. For reservations or more information those interested in the retreat may call the Cenacle, (716) 271-8755.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the annual inspection for the 1980-81 for the Diocese of Rochester Elementary and Secondary Schools for fire hazards which might endanger the lives of students, teachers and employees therein, has been completed and the report is available at the office of the individual school for inspection by all interested persons.

MONDAY NGHT

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St. Ann's/Heritage Residents Study Fire Safety

Residents of St. Anne's Home and the Heritage took part in a Fire Safety program recently. The program, directed by William Ouweleen, assistant administrator, covered the residents' responsibilities in a fire situation.

The program included building safety features, building fire alarm systems, staff responsibilities and training and the role residents must play in a fire situation.

Ouweleen emphasized that the residents need not worry if they cannot remember what to do because it is the primary responsibility of professional firemen and staff to come to their aid. He pointed out that the main thing to remember is to keep calm and obey



Residents of St. Anne's and the Heritage listen to presentation during the fire safety seminar.

directions given by staff or firemen.

A St. Anne's release reported that "many of the

residents said that they had witnessed the quick response of staff and firemen and expressed gratitude for the protection."

Holy Cross Eleventh Annual

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