

Sarah Child



All in the Family

A Letter From Home

The instructions are clear: Write a letter to your pastor stating whether or not you believe your child is ready to receive the sacrament of Confirmation. Send it with the child on the day of his interview. It is the day of his interview. I sit down and write the letter.

All that is necessary is that I answer either affirmatively or negatively and give my reasons why. But, as usual, I go off on tangents. My lower lip firmly between my teeth I type (double spaced) nearly a whole page of paper.

Then, being a rewriter, I rewrite it, transposing, eliminating, condensing, sharpening, polishing. Not for nothing have I been in the writing business for 25 years. I am making a point.

At the bottom I sign my name and then sit back and read it.

To say that I am amazed, nay, astounded, by what I have written is the understatement of the year. Perhaps I had better let it sit for an hour or two and come back to it.

An hour later it reads the same. Our son, who in 13 years has brought us on intimate terms with more teachers, counselors, and principals than I can now recall, is a paragon. At least that's what it says on the paper in front of me.

I go over it. It's all true. He has demonstrated a love for, and commitment to his

faith in his years as altar server. He did come home genuinely enthused from the group study sessions — thanks to the husband and wife team of confirmation leaders. He did approach the service project — three trips to the senior citizens home — with the same gusto usually reserved for soccer games. He is a loving and giving person, I conclude.

True, all true.

And if there is more to the boy than the above panegyric, this letter, after all, is not the place to detail a wall-to-wall bedroom floor of wet towels and discarded clothing, a trail of candy papers and dirty dishes from the TV set to the refrigerator or a path of mud from front door to back — all in his sneaker sole pattern.

And it is certainly of little consequence here that upon bursting through the door he kisses the dog first and then his mother; shortens k.p. duty by stowing dirty pots in the oven; interrupts his sister's phone conversations using the upstairs extension.

No, I decide — what I have put on paper are the important things. The essence. The others are nonessential; the intrinsic versus the accidental.

Satisfied, I fold the letter and slip it into the envelope. Then I roll more paper into the typewriter. I am going to pretend similar letters on his sisters are required.

I think a little, chew on my lower lip and begin to write. Even before I finish the first sentence I can tell I am going to be surprised — and pleased.



Guadalupe

In honor of the 450th anniversary of the first appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Father Patrick Magnier displayed a banner of the image at Our Lady of Victory Church. He explained to the congregation that the golden tassels on the banner would serve to remind devotees of Pope John Paul II's recent Asian pilgrimage and spur them to prayer for his safe return, much in the same manner that yellow ribbons were affixed to trees during the recent hostage crisis.

WALT DISNEY WORLD EASTER RECESS — 2 Departures \$471 per adult, based on dbl. occupancy \$297 per child, 12 to 17 years \$229 per child, 2 through 11 years Includes AIR-HOTEL-CAR-WDW BOOKS-SEA WORLD BONAPARTE THE TRAVEL EXPERTS (716) 454-3001 101 FIRST FEDERAL PLAZA, ROCHESTER, NY 14614

Middle East To Be Topic

The Mission Interpretation Committee of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and the Committee on Middle East Concerns will co-sponsor a presentation and discussion on the Middle East at noon, Monday, March 16.

Rev. Stephen Mickie, 342-4242, or Rev. Frank Snow, 275-4321.

POLISH COOK BOOK \$4.95 Each Postpaid

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For further information those interested may contact

CAMP STELLA MARIS

1981

OUR 55th YEAR

of childrens resident camping experience

FOR BOYS

- ages 7 to 14 years A. June 28 to July 4 B. July 5 to July 18 C. July 19 to July 25

FOR GIRLS

- ages 7 to 14 years D. Aug. 2 to Aug. 8 E. Aug. 9 to Aug. 22 F. Aug. 23 to Aug. 29

Co-Ed — ages 7-14 - July 26-Aug. 1

PARENTS — Register Early — Avoid the disappointment of your child not being able to attend.

OPEN HOUSE

All Parents are invited to Camp Stella Maris June 7, 1981 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. You may tour our facilities and meet the staff of both boys and girls encampments. Some refreshments will be available. Parents may also register their children that day for camp.

For Further Information Contact the Secretary CAMP STELLA MARIS 3052 East Lake Rd. Livonia, N.Y. 14487 716-346-2243 AN ACCEPTED CAMP OF THE AMERICAN CAMPING ASSOCIATION

Deaths

Sister Catherine Joseph Krenzer

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Sister Catherine Joseph Krenzer, SSJ, on Feb. 23, in the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse chapel. Sister Catherine Joseph died after a long illness at the age of 88, Saturday, Feb. 21, 1981.

She retired from teaching in 1963 and for several years worked in the altar bread department of the motherhouse. She retired to the infirmary in 1969.

Sister Catherine Joseph entered the congregation in 1919. She taught in parochial schools of the diocese for 42 years. Her assignments were Our Lady of Perpetual Help, St. Francis Xavier, Rochester; St. Stephen's, Geneva; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls; St. Anthony of Padua, Rochester and St. Aloysius, Auburn.

She is survived by one sister, Philippine Krenzer; her brother and sister-in-law, Fred and Marie Krenzer; a sister-in-law, Theresa Krenzer; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral rites were celebrated by Father James Hewes, Msgr. William H. Shannon, and Father Peter Bayer.

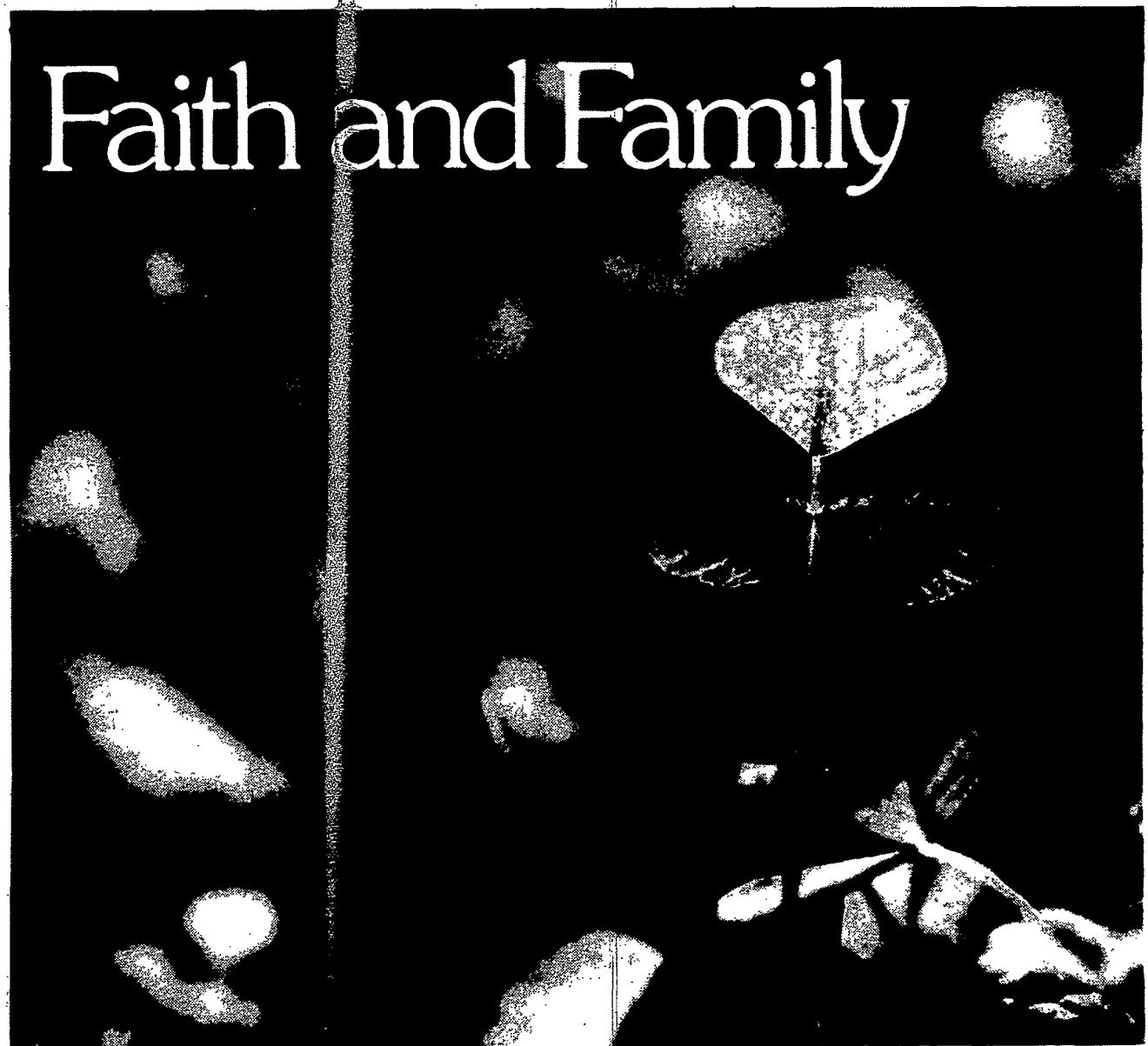
Laura M. Niebling

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Church on Feb. 21 for Laura M. Niebling who died Saturday, Feb. 14, 1981.

and the Third Order of St. Francis.

Miss Niebling was a member of the parish council of Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph's, a member of the Legion of Mary, the Queen of the Americas Guild, the Knights of St. John Ladies' Auxiliary

She was described by her friends Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Wargo, as "a devout Catholic, but never over-bearing or 'holier-than-thou'... She enjoyed life, trusting in God to see her through whatever loneliness or hardships she may have endured. She was a true saint, one who brought sunshine to many persons."



The Republican Party