

Fr. Louis J. Hohman

The Open Window



Please give as thorough an explanation as possible.

(Signed) A.C.

Frankly, I have never heard of this particular theological (?) approach before. We know that when we are truly sorry for whatever sin and have a firm purpose of amendment that the sin is immediately forgiven by God

need only to confess those mortal sins which remain unconfessed since his last absolution."

Is this true? Is this some new teaching in the Church?

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a necessary

reconciliation with the faith community in a celebration of God's forgiveness. If one commits a serious sin, is sorry for the sin, has a firm purpose of amendment, seeks the sacrament, but subsequently commits the sin again, the reconciliation is obviously cancelled.

The state of alienation or serious rebellion against God is present and requires a new and definite return to the Lord (contrition) and a new firm purpose of amendment,

It would also therefore require a celebration of the union with the community and forgiveness from God.

It seem we might look at this in terms of alienation between two people. Let's say it is a matter of adultery. After committing the sin, the husband might go to his wife, tell her he is sorry and make a firm resolution to mend his ways. That would by no means make it okay to go out and commit subsequent adultery. Each time

he did so would require new reconciliation.

What this teacher possibly had in mind was a situation in which the individual was totally alienated from God through his sin, then returned to God, and without really departing from Him committed a series of acts which would not destroy the reorientation to God. I suppose theoretically that is possible, but in practical circumstances, I find it difficult to accept.

### Repentance, Intention, Confession

Dear Father Hohman,

My daughter had been talking to one of her teachers, a Catholic, about sin and Confession. The teacher gave an example similar to this one:

"John X had committed a mortal sin. After a thorough examination of his conscience he then went to Confession. In his confession he expressed his firm intention to do all he possibly could to avoid this sin in the future. The priest gave him absolution. John returned home with a clear conscience. After a certain period of time, he finds that once more he has committed this same sin again."

This is where I'm confused: "But, John need not return to confession to reconfess this particular sin. Rather he should consider his previous intention to avoid this sin, and try to fulfill it again, regardless of how many times he may fall into the same sin again. He



**MORALITY PLAN** — "Everyman," performed by National Technical Institute for the Deaf, 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, Saturday, April 2-4, NTID Theatre, Rochester Institute of Technology. Tickets \$3, senior citizens and students \$1. Reservations, information, 475-6254.

**FOLK ART** — Rochester Folk Art Guild Spring exhibition and sale, noon to 9 p.m., April 5; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., April 6; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., April 7. Admission, \$2.

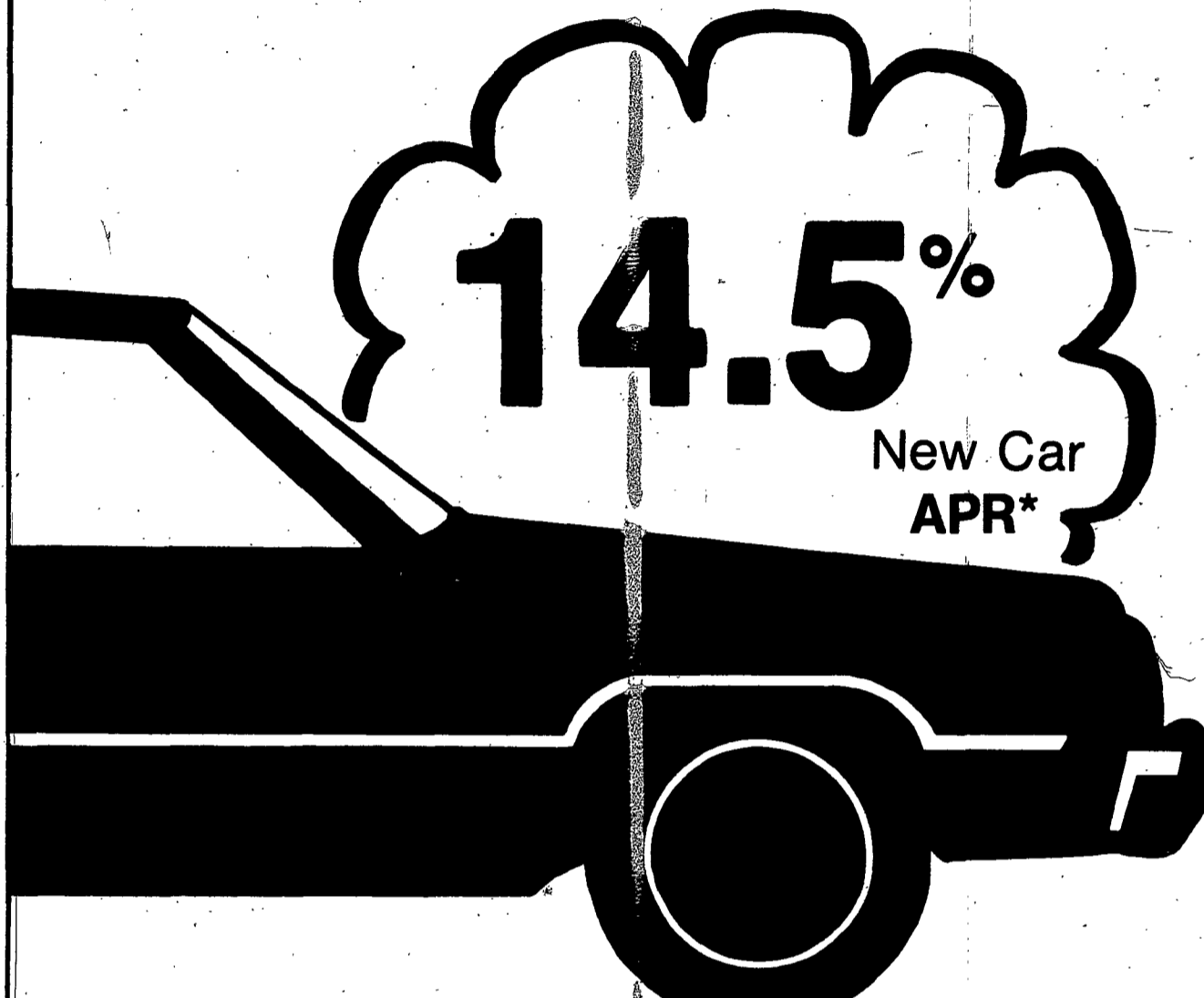
**BALLET** — Classical ballet and Ukrainian folk dances, Rochester Ballet Theatre, 3 p.m., April 5, Rochester Museum & Science Center, 657 East Ave. Tickets \$2.50, children under 12, \$1.50.

**OBERRAMMERSGAU** — "Passion Play at Oberammergau," slide-talk by Harold Odell, 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 1, Penfield Library.

**BOOK SALE** — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, April 4, Pittsford Library.

**SINGLES** — St. Thomas More Club (singles 18-35) Cabin Party, Ellison Park Creekside Park, 1-10 p.m., Sunday, April 5. Meal \$3.50, drinks only \$2.

**CHORAL CONCERT** — Diocesan Festival Choir, Easter season concert, under direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, 4 p.m., Sunday, April 5, Holy Spirit Church, Plank and Hatch Roads, Penfield. Tickets, \$3, at door or by calling 223-9006.



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6,000	48	169.00	8,112.00	14.5%
7,000	48	197.16	9,463.68	14.5%

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Amount of Loan	Number of Monthly Payments	Amount of Monthly Payments*	Total of Payments	Annual Percentage Rate
2,000	36	70.89	2,552.04	15.5%
2,500	36	88.62	3,190.32	15.5%
3,000	36	106.34	3,828.24	15.5%
3,500	36	124.07	4,466.52	15.5%

\*Includes Credit Life Insurance

\*Annual Percentage Rate

\*Includes Credit Life Insurance



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