

Billings Featured At NFP Conference

New York — A conference on Natural Family Planning here, slated for May 28-31, will feature Drs. John and Lyn Billings, the Australian physicians who were the major promoters of the sympto-thermic method for determining the onset of ovulation.

The conference, sponsored by the World Organization of

the Ovulation Method-Billings, U.S.A. (WOOMB-USA), will be held at Manhattan College, 242nd St. and Manhattan College Parkway in Riverdale.

Persons interested in attending the event have been asked to contact Anne Senson, 60 Southern Hills Circle, Henrietta, N.Y. 14467; (716) 334-6099.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Worthwhile Investment

What's this 80 percent Courier-Journal campaign being pushed on the parishes?

"Pushed?" Bishop Clark has sent a letter to all pastors strongly encouraging greater coverage so the Courier will reach most of the families in our diocese. He considers the diocesan paper the center of communications to his people, giving local diocesan news and information, and national and international religious news. He thinks it essential to the cooperative concern of the people of the diocese to be well informed. The civil government can steam-roll demands through law, but the Church must depend on the good will of the people. And there is great good will toward our Bishop, both from the clergy and the laity. But the cost is great to the parish.

An individual subscription is \$10 a year. The parish rate is only \$7.80. A call for 50 cents a month shouldn't shake the faith or emotions of the people, and I think good management would collect most of the money by calm and candid presentation. We hear that "some people" don't even want it sent. Have you ever thought of what is meant by "some people"? Some people don't even want the Penny Saver put in their box. But isn't that the rare exception? I heard a man at a gathering vehemently declare, "I never read the Courier." Within ten minutes I heard him quote something he had read in the Courier only a few days before. Excepting the TV and radio, do you know a better communicator to the general public than the press: secular or religious?

Are you perfectly satisfied with the Courier?

Of course not. I'm perfectly satisfied only with God, Our Lady and St. Joseph. If I were the Bishop I would gather other wise persons who have expertise in journalism and fidelity to the Church (these need not be combined in each individual but in the group) with the Episcopal Moderator, Father Hohman, and editors Costello and Viglucci, to discuss improvements. Everything can stand improvement. That's why we have confession and retreats and parish renewals and the like. Regarding the columns, many people get great profit from Father Shamon's

scriptural meditations. Many find comfort in Sarah Child's homey articles. Those who find OTRSide an inspiration usually find Father Hohman's Open Window a puzzle, and sometimes an outrage. Those who identify Father Hohman with the Holy Spirit often consider OTRSide incredibly opaque. But both columns keep people stimulated. In all justice, Father Hohman frequently takes gray areas which are not precisely black or white. This bothers people who want a clear answer to a topic which often is not itself clear. I myself usually take positions which are clearly within the context of magisterial teaching and the directions of the Holy See.

Do people read your column?

Oh, yes. Some with much satisfaction. Some with chagrin. It is a comfort to me to move throughout the diocese and have so many people step forward and say: "I read your column every week, and love it. Keep up the good work." In the hospitals many people salute me because of the weekly picture with the column. However, the more obsessed liberals do not read the column at all, because these are quite one-tracked people, and few consider me a stereotype liberal, hence not worth reading. I always loved the response to a man who asked his progressive friend, "Did you read Father Cuddy's column last week?" He snorted: "I wouldn't read him if it were the last piece of paper in the world." Better still was an introduction at Holy Rosary a long time ago. The pastor, Father Meng, presented me to a trim, bright woman of about 40, saying: "This is Father C. He writes a column for the Courier. Probably you have read it." She nodded at me curtly and replied: "Oh, I read it occasionally and always disagree with it."

Do you think the Bishop's request for 80 per cent coverage will be met?

Our diocese has a long tradition of cooperation with our bishops, and I think this will be no exception. However, I do think it healthy for people to express their thoughts and feelings, to help our bishops know the sentiments of the diocese. The Letters to the Editor column is probably the most read section of any paper. I read once that of the people who read any part of a newspaper, 85 percent read the Letters to the Editor.



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