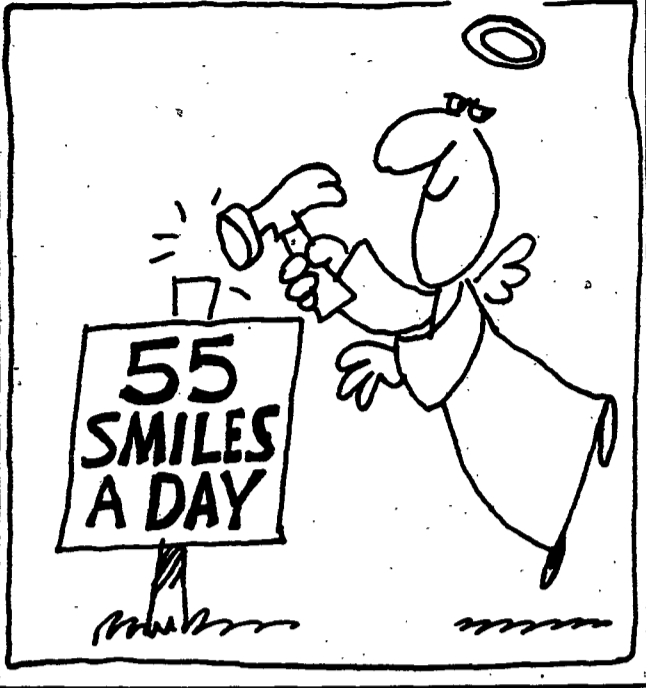


Gabriel



300 Join Drive In AI's Appeal

Brockport — More than 300 members of the Newman Community at State University of New York here sent letters last weekend on behalf of a 23-year-old Bogota, Colombia, student, whose disappearance last August has been published by Amnesty International.

The chaplains to the

community, Father Terry Fleming and Sister Sheila Briody, SSJ, commented that it was an "unprecedented response."

The letter-writing was done at all four Masses and was part of a special effort to acquaint students with AI's Urgent Action Network.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Why Fuss About Singing?

Why is all this fuss being made about music in the church? It seems as though at Mass we are being asked to sing all the time although I don't like to sing. I prefer to say my prayers and it is very difficult to do so when there are all those distractions.

This may come as a shock to you but "your prayers" as such are entirely out of place in what we call liturgy. (Except during times of silence and after Holy Communion.) Liturgy is public worship and the assumption is that you are worshipping with other people, so you should be praying in conjunction with other people. That is why the Church has official liturgies for Sundays, with practically all of the prayers being the prayers of the Church (assembly) itself.

As for music, I think it was St. Augustine who said, "He who sings, prays twice." Why should this be? When we speak we can bring truth into play and eternal truth at that; we can bring goodness to what we do by the way in which we do it; but the best way of bringing beauty to bear in public worship is through music, which is a much higher form of communication than the mere spoken word.

Music also has certain psychological advantages which we don't often think of. It tends to bring us into union with the people

around us in a way that simply speaking words together can not. Music also tends to create positive emotions within us as well as releasing negative ones. The net result is that we can come to a deeper perception of what we are saying and a deeper feeling for it when we sing than we could through merely speaking it. For me, the Lord's Prayer is a very special example of that truth.

I think it should be quite obvious that in those rare cases when the music itself becomes more important than that for which it is a vehicle, it is distracting and somewhat out of place. That need never happen where the leaders of public worship are primarily concerned about getting people "into" worship and are only secondarily concerned about the music as such. But it also is important to remember that the quality of the music will have a direct effect upon those who are participating and the meaning of what they're doing.

It is a known fact that all Catholics were born with incredibly bad voices and all Protestants were born with very lovely voices and that is why the quality of music in a Protestant church is so very superior to that in Catholic churches. I would like to see us give much more attention in the lower grades of our schools and of our religious education programs to teaching children not just to sing but to enjoy singing and maybe the next generation around will feel somewhat differently about it than many of the present generation do.

Sister Miriam Therese To Address Global Issues

Sister Miriam Therese, a member of Global Education Associates, will lead a day-long program, "Toward a More Human World Order," starting at 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 23, at the Strong Auditorium of Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

The event is sponsored by the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission. In addition, a special introductory session has been slated for Catholics, 7-9:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 22, also at the Strong Auditorium. The Friday event is free, and a \$5 donation is asked for the Saturday program.

Sister Miriam Therese's program will explore the links among national security,



SR. MIRIAM THERESE

military buildup, economics and resource scarcity, a commission release stated.

Career Workshop Set

"Managing Two-Career Marriages" will be the topic of a three-session workshop at St. John Fisher College. The sessions will held 7:30-10 p.m. on consecutive Tuesdays beginning Nov. 2 and concluding Nov. 16. The workshop, co-sponsored by Fisher's Office of Continuing Education and the Women's

Career Center, Inc., is designed to help couples manage jobs and family responsibilities.

Deadline for registration is Tuesday, Oct. 26. Fee is \$60 per couple or \$45 per person. For further information contact Office of Continuing Education, 586-4140, ext. 365.



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