

**Sarah Child**



All in the Family

**In Training To Be a Mother-in-Law**

A little of this and some of that...

• All sign writers should be required to own a dictionary — and to consult it from time to time. The newest additions to my collection of misspelled signs include one in a State Street hardware window informing customers of a new device to keep out BURGULARS. Plastered on the side of an Anderson Avenue saloon was the establishment's name: BARRELL of Fun. The same sign over the front entrance was minus an L. (Now that I've mentioned spelling, watch the gremlins go to work in this space.)

• On the other hand why pick on the poor sign writers? A video terminal in the Brown University Admissions office containing information about the institution misspelled accessible three times.

• Literature from the

University of Pennsylvania used the word who when it should have been whom. A third prestigious school employed farther when it meant further. Normally I'm not all that uptight about grammar but these are the places that are charging \$12,500 a year to educate young minds.

• Sarah's Holiday Law I: The earlier you start your Christmas shopping, the more money you spend.

• Sarah's Holiday Law II: The longer you leave the shopping, the greater the frantic quotient.

• A new acquaintance said when she first started reading this column she got a picture of the author as "the perfect woman." Subsequent readings and she's not so sure. (I can't imagine what column she read first.) She was right the first time. I am perfect — a perfect nagger, procrastinator, daydreamer etc. And the other day the 12-year-old opined nastily that 10 years hence I'll also be the perfect mother-in-law.

**Cursillo Leaders Clarify Apostolate**

A recent article regarding activities of a group of Cursillistas (people who have made Cursillo) at the Auburn Correctional Facility has prompted several comments from diocesan Cursillo leaders.

Father Eugene Weis, diocesan spiritual director of the movement, said last week, "While we applaud the work of our brothers among the prisoners throughout the diocese, Cursillo cannot claim — nor wishes — credit for their excellent efforts."

According to Thomas

Frantz, diocesan lay director of the group, "The primary goal of the Cursillo Movement is to teach and motivate lay leaders to be apostles of Christ and His Church in their existing neighborhoods, parishes and work situations."

In a joint statement, the two said:

"The leaders of the REC weekend had all made a Cursillo at one time or another during the past decade and had discerned the prison as an environment where they could serve the Lord by bringing

His word and love to those inmates who would hear them.

"We ask that the prayers of all join ours in wishing for the continued success and perseverance of both prisoners and those working with them that the presence of the Lord may continue to be felt within the walls at Auburn."

The area directors further explained that the Rochester Cursillo Movement has held almost 100 Cursillo weekends throughout the diocese during the past 15 years. In that time, they said, two bishops, more than 100 priests, about 75 Sisters and more than 2,000 laypersons have made the three-day program. The weekend seeks to present a method of living the Christian life as modern apostles, they said.

"Through a series of talks, given by lay and spiritual directors, and various group dynamics, the Cursillo (from the Spanish, meaning "Short Course in Christian Living") presents participants with a method of personal piety and study in the Christian faith which leads them into apostolic action for the Lord

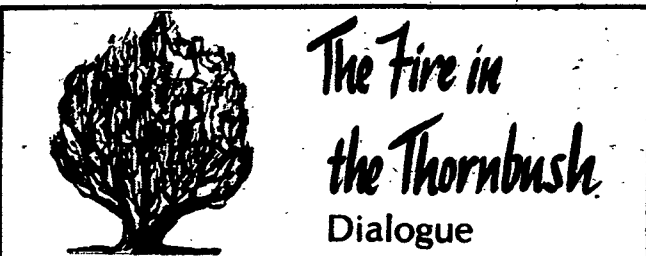
with His Church where they can be most effective," they said.

"The candidates on the weekends are encouraged to take notes of the talks and group dynamic so it is natural that some of the ideas and format have been adapted to other occasions.

"Locally, Marriage Encounter, R&R Weekends, Teen Seminar and now REC have liberally borrowed ideas learned on Cursillo — and all for good purpose. Cursillo has also found its way into other faith communities as Protestant expressions of the movement have sprung up locally and nationally," they said.

"With Cursillos planned throughout 1983, the directors ask for continuing prayerful support for their work in the Diocese of Rochester," they concluded.

Further information on the movement is available by contacting Father Weis, spiritual director, (315) 597-4571; Frantz, lay director, (716) 889-9768; or Joseph Kane, deputy lay director, (716) 889-1807.



**Parenting IS A Career**

By Margaret Joynt

No. 4: "Women and their spouses and families deal with new questions ... Is the choice to work at home at the loving service of a husband and children a dreary, unenlightened one? Is the choice to pursue a career selfish and somehow suspect and dangerous?"

Young women in the Catholic Church today are part of a society which bombards them with questions about choosing a career or marriage, a career or children, or how to combine all three.

These questions are irritating to many loving mothers because they know and will be happy to attest that mothering is a career. It is a career that takes all of the creativity, patience, work and study that a human being can summon.

The career of motherhood requires the knowledge of a nutritionist, psychologist, horticulturist, theologian, psychologist, sheriff, secretary, efficiency engineer, secretary, standup comedian and a limitless number of other progressions.

Many women today work, not from choice, but from economic necessity. These mothers are being the best mothers they can be while putting food on the table.

If the young woman chooses the career of motherhood, rearing children, she chooses a demanding, 24-hour-a-day, lifetime job, one from which there is no retirement. She chooses one with the greatest job satisfaction of all. There is no career more needed in our society today.

In 1980, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Health and Welfare, 700,000 children are living outside of their own home. Most had been placed out of their homes by the decision of judges acting in place of parents. Courts have to act when mothers and fathers are not taking their careers of rearing children seriously or are not coping successfully.

Times may change, but the

Margaret Joynt is a mother and a law guardian representing children in abuse and neglect custody cases.

importance of parenting skills will never change.

As a lawyer representing children in abuse, neglect and custody cases, it is my firm belief that once the career of motherhood has been chosen, the family must come first. Without that clear priority, the children suffer and our society pays the price in many ways.

The young woman who chooses to be the parent who stays at home, not working for pay, because in her best judgment this takes all of her emotional and physical energy, must have the courage of her convictions and be proud of her choice. She will be subjected to such comments as "How boring!" and "When are you going back to work?"

Many women in the Church feel that it has put them into 19th Century slots: father does the working for pay, mother does the parenting. In reality, many mothers are working for pay outside of their homes and many fathers are giving many, many more hours to parenting than their fathers and grandfathers did. Both mothers and fathers are doing this with great success.

Church leaders must recognize that now young parents are choosing and enjoying many options in the ways in which they earn a living and do household chores. Some male writers work at home while their professional wives bring home most of the income. Some couples who both must work outside of the home take turns with caring for children and doing the housework.

The Church is blessed to have intelligent, generous, contributing women who stay at home when that is best for their children or work for pay if that is what is best for their children and also an integral part of their Church community.

Whatever the lifestyle, children must come first. Parenting is a most challenging and satisfying career. It is not for everyone. Once chosen, it must be done well.

**Fr. Paul J. Cuddy**



On the Right Side

**Worship In the Orient**

From Shanghai we flew to Hong Kong, the British Crown colony, a distance of 900 miles. By noon we were ensconced in the famous Mandarin Hotel. Lunch, a quick tour of the city, and most of our group fanned out for their endless shopping. Since the next day was Saturday I thought, "Better find a church and have our people go to evening Mass with the local people instead of in the hotel room." I found St. Joseph's Church for English speaking worshippers. An Italian PIME Father who had spent 10 years in New Mexico was in the church office reading "Homiletic and Pastoral Review." He invited me to concelebrate at the 6 p. m. Mass Saturday. Three cabs took us to St. Joseph's Saturday, where Maryknoll Father Malone, associate in the parish, welcomed us. He knows Rochester and is a friend of Maryknoller James O'Halloran of Corpus Christi Parish, who is now head librarian at Maryknoll Motherhouse in Ossining. Mass was just like in the states, including a well sung Folk Mass. The congregation was international, with many devout Philippino women who have come to Hong Kong for domestic work.

On Sunday while our people went out again to shop, I took a cab to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception to concelebrate at the 11 a.m. Mass in English, but went early to share in the Cantonese Chinese Mass at 9:30. Except for the readings and orations, the Ordinary of the

Mass is easily followed: Confiteor, Sanctus, etc. The Chinese pastor escorted me to the sacristy. A Jesuit Father Russell from Dublin had come to celebrate Mass, substituting for a priest away. He is about 50, a kind of house-father for 120 Hong Kong students at the university. He is also a university chaplain and teaches at the Seminary where vocations are few, but the lacunae are filled by lay people and Sisters taking religion courses.

At the Cathedral there are four Sunday Masses: three in Cantonese Chinese and one in English. The choir was good, though the congregation did little participating. The hymns certainly were eclectic: "Amazing Grace," "O Lord, I am not Worthy," "The Lord's Prayer" from Philip Green's Irish Mass of St. Francis; a couple of "pop" songs. I was disturbed at no hymn in honor of Our Blessed Mother until the concluding hymn boomed out the traditional "Lourdes Hymn." Women took up the collection. Two women in choir robes read the scriptures. Father Russell preached on love with too much emphasis on self-esteem, a notion advocated today beyond the Gospel sense. Lots of people are esteeming themselves grandly when they should be like the man whom Our Lord praised for his humility. "But the publican stood at a distance and would not even raise his face to heaven, but beat his breast and said: 'O God, have pity on me a sinner. Everyone who makes himself great shall be humbled; and everyone who humbles himself will be made great.'" (Luke 18)

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