

Program Available For Parents and Teens

The Parentship Resource Center is now seeking parishes that would be interested in sponsoring a "Seminar for parents of teens and preteens" for the Spring. Now in its fourth year, the parenting seminar has been conducted for 600 parents in 19 workshops held throughout the diocese. Developed under a grant from Xerox and supported

by the diocesan Family Life Office, the seminar focuses primarily on developing communication skills and closer family relationships within a Christian framework based on practical applications of unconditional love.

A weekend seminar will be held at St. Johns in Elmira, March 5-6, and the format of

a mother's retreat at the Cenacle in Rochester on March 25-27. The seminars are staffed by trained teams; Don and Rosemarie Schaeffer, Bill and Ollie McHugh, and Parentship founders Ron and Judy Platten of Fairport.

The Parentship Center also offers single evening presentations on specific parenting topic for teens and preteens. The Plattens are giving presentations on Feb. 24 at St. Louis, Pittsford; March 11 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help; March 20 at St. Ann's in Hornell, April 21 at Christ the King in Irondequoit, and April 24 at Assumption in Fairport.

"Since we are now providing parent leadership training and counseling full time," Judy Platten said, "parish people may feel free to contact us to arrange for single evening presentations as well as seminars."

"Parishes usually plan things six months to a year away," Ron explained, "yet the seminar for parents can be scheduled as quickly as six weeks before it is held. When so many parents and children are suffering from the pains of broken family relationships, it seems unfair to have them wait for a long time for help."

Parishes interested in sponsoring a seminar can call Parentship at 716-223-3639.

Rush Parish Schedules Mission

A Mission/Renewal will be conducted at St. Joseph's Church, 6105 Rush Lima Road, Rush, at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, March 12-18. Father Joseph Sedley, CPPS, from Holy Family Monastery, West Harford, Conn., and whose priesthood includes hospital chaplaincy, youth retreats, parish mission/renewals, marriage and crisis counseling, retreats for religious, clergy and lay people, will conduct the spiritual program.

Father Sedley, a native of Pittsburgh, Pa., was ordained in 1969. He has studied at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Boston College and Notre Dame University. He has also served in Passionist foreign missions in Jamaica.

The Mission/Renewal will begin at the weekend Masses on Saturday and Sunday, March 12-13. The public is invited.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Off We Go Into the Wild Blue of Smoke

At the most, I use airplanes once or twice a year. That is enough to remind me that the cattle car-claustrophobic atmosphere is not worth the end result unless you happen to be headed for Nice, Portofino or some other exotic spot.

Last week, a flight home reinforced this notion.

Two of the kids and myself were seated in the last row of the airplane when a stewardess asked, "Do you smoke?"

I shook my head, wondering how she had missed the announcement that the entire flight was a non-smoker due to large number of people requiring such accommodations.

Ten seconds after we took off, a woman in tight jeans and with the leathery face of a sun worshiper flew to the rear of the plane, propped herself on the jump sea used by the flight attendants, and began to smoke furiously.

At the same time, the blonde stewardess closed the curtains to the kitchen area and she and a red-haired fellow in the row in front of us disappeared behind them. I couldn't figure out what was going on until smoke began to filter out.

Shortly after, the stewardess explained to me — FAA rules be damned — she couldn't function without a cigarette. When I asked for coffee, she thrust, instead, a free bottle of wine in my hand "for being such a good sport."

About this time, several

more people from the middle of the plane arrived to smoke in the back. There was much movement as they jockeyed for position — against the doors to the toilets, the arm of my chair, etc. Furious dragging on the cigarette followed by exhaling had one of the kids reach up to adjust the air stream. The red-haired man, overweight, fiftyish, and sad-eyed, turned baleful eyes on us as if to say who would want fresh air if they could have second-hand fumes.

When we had just about given up hope of breathing, a flight attendant from first-class marched down the aisle, gave everybody the standard lecture in no uncertain terms and the smokers moved slowly back, one of them muttering, "We have our rights too."

For the remainder of the four hours, the blonde stewardess and the red-haired man enjoyed their cigarettes. The latter, a chain smoker, alternated his sites. The first smoke was in his seat, second in the kitchen, the third in the toilet, and so on.

At Philadelphia, both he and the blonde stewardess left the plane to smoke outside. It was then I heard the man's wife explain to another woman that he had been hospitalized twice very recently for his heart.

At the end of this trip, the kids and I moved forward slowly to meet my husband who had found a seat up front. As we walked down the terminal corridor to the gate we almost stumbled over a man bent over, oblivious to the throngs surging around him. It was the red-haired fellow — lighting up.

Pope Says State Should Support Catholic Education

By Nancy Frazier

does contribute to the support of Catholic and other church-related schools.

In his talk to school teachers, the pope stressed the need for a "harmonic collaboration between family and school" in the task of forming young men and women.

"You do not limit yourselves, in fact, to informing, through the transmission of knowledge, but rather you intend to integrally form persons in all aspects: intelligence, certainly, but also the will and in a completely special way, the conscience."

Pope John Paul told the teachers to assure that the teaching of religion not receive a "marginal or secondary post" in the Catholic school and that such religious teaching be truly "Catholic, stating integrally and with full fidelity the doctrine set out by the magisterium."

The pope closed his message to teachers with words of encouragement.

"I know the difficulties you meet each day," he said. "Do not be discouraged. It is worth the trouble to commit yourselves. On your efforts depends the formation of the protagonists of tomorrow's history."

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II backed the right of parents to choose Catholic schools for their children and said the state should contribute to the costs of that education.

The pope's comments came Jan. 29 during a meeting in the Paul VI Audience Hall with some 10,000 Catholic school teachers from the Rome area, marking the Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas, patron saint of Catholic schools.

"It is my sincere wish that the authentic and most valid public service rendered by the Catholic school, which must not lack the necessary assistance, also on the part of state organs, may be recognized, in order that all parents may effectively choose, according to their consciences, the school for their children," he said.

In Italy the national government does not directly subsidize Catholic schools, but some provincial and local governments pay the tuition of children from poorer families attending the Catholic schools. The public school system in Italy provides Catholic religious instruction, though attendance at such classes is not mandatory, and the salaries of priests or others teaching such courses are paid by the state.

In Britain, France and other countries in Europe and around the world, the state



MARY JO FERR

Director Named At Mercy

The Administration of Our Lady of Mercy High School has announced the hiring of Mary Jo Casey Ferr as director of development.

Ferr, an alumna of Mercy, and, along with husband John, a member of Blessed Sacrament parish, will begin her job on March 3. She has a BA in English from Niagara University and an MA in communications from St. Louis University. She was director of the Advanced College Credit Program and assistant to the registrar at St. Louis University. She has worked as assistant to the advertising director at Wolfe Publications and worked for "The Shopping Bag" in Penfield.

Her responsibilities as director of development will include coordinating fundraising for the school and publicity with the media. "I feel confident that I don't have to create for Mercy," she said, and explained, "Mercy has a lot going for it and I will promote what is already there."



Special Lecture

The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, as it appears on the cloak enshrined in the Mexico City basilica, is the subject of an illustrated lecture with slide-film documentary given at 2 p.m. each Sunday of Lent at the Church of Our Lady of Victory on Pleasant Street. The program is free.

Focus Rites

Father Charles Adams, OFM, will lead the rites for Focus on the Eucharist, beginning with evening prayer at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, March 3, at the Church of Christ the King, 445 Kings Highway S. The evening includes recitation of the rosary, Mass, meditation time and benediction. The public is invited.

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