

# Forum Scheduled May 21 On Young Adult Topics

The diocesan Commission on Young Adult Ministry, in conjunction with the University of Rochester Newman Community, is sponsoring an educational forum Saturday, May 21, at the university's Interfaith Chapel. The theme, "Young Adults: The Hidden Light," will be explored through talks, workshops, prayer and social interaction.

## NFP Elects Officers

Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester has elected new officers.

Tim Parsons of Hilton, director of Film Technical Services Division, Kodak, is the new president. Father Charles Lavery of St. John Fisher is chairman; Patricia Paprocki of Rochester, an occupational health nurse at Kodak, secretary, and Richard Rinehart of Rochester, director of the Center for Community/Junior College Relations at Rochester Institute of Technology, treasurer.

Eight board members were elected to two-year terms -- Greg Compton, Steve Heveron-Smith, Judi Neuderfer, Richard and Mary Rinehart and Richard and Mary Tickner, all of Rochester, and Paul Frommert of Webster.

Other board members are Sister Helen Edward Dodd, Dr. Ruth Lawrence and Dick and Mary Beth O'Hara, all of Rochester, and Rosalie Parsons, RN, of Hilton.

The schedule: 9 a.m., registration; 10, Get Acquainted/Exchange of Ideas and Vision; 11, "Young Adults: The Hidden Light," Father Ronald Bagley; noon, lunch (bring brown bag, beverages provided); 1 p.m., Workshops I (choice of one), a. "Spirituality and the Young Adult," Sister Joan Sobala, SSJ b. "Sexuality and the Young Adult," Msgr. William Shannon; 2:30, Workshops II (choice of one) a. "Choosing the Career You Want," Vic Bartolotto b. "War, Peace and Nuclear Arms," Mary Barringer and Michael Rae; 4, Prayer Service; 4:30, social hour.

Father Bagley, who is to deliver the keynote address, is the founder and director of the Young Adult Ministry Office in Buffalo, as well as the Northeastern Region's representative to the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association.

The four afternoon workshops will center around areas in which young adults have expressed interest. Sister Joan Sobala, who will conduct one of the workshops, is pastoral assistant at St. Mary's of Rochester and chaplain at the Eastman School of Music. Msgr. Shannon is professor of religious studies at Nazareth College.

Vic Bartolotto, who will conduct one of the second group of workshops, works at Mt. Carmel parish and has recently completed his second MA at St. Bernard's In-

stitute. Two members of the Jesuit Volunteer Corps working for the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, Mary Barringer and Michael Rae, will conduct the fourth workshop.

All between the ages of 18 and 35 and anyone who ministers to or works with them are invited at no charge. Participants are encouraged to stay the whole day but those able to spend only a part of the day are also welcome.

Babysitting services will be available but the commission must be notified by May 15 as to the number and ages of children coming. Pre-registration and further information is available from Commission on Young Adult Ministry, 59 Glen Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610. Any one writing should include name, address and phone number.

## Tioga RTL Distributes Carnations

Sayre, Pa. — More than 300 carnations were distributed on Mothers Day to residents of several area nursing homes and patients at the Robert Packer Hospital here.

The project was undertaken by the Tioga County Right to Life.

According to organization spokesperson Jean Saltisiak, the effort was undertaken to "uplift, and to show our respect for life from beginning to end."

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

## A Fading Value

It's surprising how quickly values, once seen as unquestionable, can fade from our sensitivity.

Recently, I've been wondering what ever happened to our ideal of personal honor.

Of course, there are people whose lives are, in fact, honorable; but I'm talking about a change in the way we, as a society, give explicit recognition to this quality.

Not too many years ago, most of those stories read by young children, stories which influenced our basic attitudes toward life, were built around the struggle to remain honorable under the pressure to cave in and compromise.

The stories used by grade school teachers, when they needed illustrations or just a way to recapture the attention of a classroom of restless kids, dealt with the same kind of conflicts and values.

Sure, some of the tales were pretty hard to take, even for grade school children. Some of the heroes and heroines were unconvincing, priggish rather than admirable. Still, in a cumulative way,

the value was communicated.

The human experience passed on to young people told us that a regard for one's personal honor was an unquestioned part of any good, decent life.

This value was never narrowly defined. Honor had to do with keeping one's word, living up to personal and social responsibilities, a decent regard for the needs and problems of others, enough consistency between ideals and behavior to allow for self-respect.

The problems encountered by those young people in the stories were much more dramatic than the challenges and temptations most of us faced. But all those fictional kids, in their struggle to preserve their honor under pressure, established a social and ethical expectation which helped me deal with the responsibilities and relationships of my disappointingly routine childhood.

In recent decades, however, I've heard very little talk about personal honor; I never hear it as a term of reference among the university students with whom I live. And I wonder what happened to it.

Perhaps the rhetoric

and the stories were overworked. Maybe our group experience led us to the conviction that most political appeals to our sense of honor were really efforts to manipulate us.

I'm sure that journalism's drive to expose the flaws in people who have been honored by the public contributed to the erosion of the value. It's hard to find inspiration and challenge in a life when we are led to believe that it's just a matter of time before some sordid aspect of it will be spread before the nation.

While I'm not familiar with the recent literature published for children, I suspect that it doesn't focus much on heroes and heroines. I would guess that there are few of those dramatic, lonely conflicts in which a young person decides to accept the frightening consequences of doing the right thing because it is the honorable thing to do.

It's sad to find cynicism among the young, an expectation that public respect always masks some private shame.

Our experience of life provides plenty of evidence of our own frailty, plenty of disappointment in our expectations of others. Living gives us evidence of the reality of sin.

But we also need to have deep within us the conviction that grace and graciousness are also possible, that God calls us to a life which can overcome the sin we find in ourselves and in our world.

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