

Father Hesburgh ND Dinner Guest

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, will be the guest of honor Monday, March 19, at the Notre Dame Club of Rochester's Universal Notre Dame Night at Logan's Party House.

Father Hesburgh has served as president of the University of Notre Dame since 1952, a term longer than that of any other major university executive in the nation.

Presidents and popes have called on him to direct many public service projects, including civil and human rights, academic freedom, nuclear disarmament, amnesty for Vietnam offenders, immigration and refugee policy, world hunger and others.

He is the author of several major commentaries on issues confronting America, especially concerning young citizens. Academic institutions seek his counsel and he



FATHER HESBURGH

is approaching a total of 100 honorary degrees, more than any other American in history.

The Universal Notre Dame Night Dinner is an annual event sponsored by the Notre Dame Club of Rochester.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Questions On Sex, Sin

Dear Father,
Would you please state in your column the seriousness of masturbation -- venial or mortal sin and why; oral sex, the same thing; going all the way -- I assume this is a mortal sin -- is this any more serious than oral sex? This would be with one person who was special as opposed to people who sleep with everyone.

C.M.

I am an over-50 person.

Dear C.M.,

The questions you ask look devastatingly simple but they are far from that. Let's take the first thing you mention -- masturbation. If your question really means "Is a person who commits masturbation guilty of mortal or venial sin?" I couldn't possibly give an answer. Rome has recently addressed the matter of masturbation and has said it is "a grave disorder." Taken totally in the abstract I suppose that is rather easy to see if one specifically ordains all sexual activity toward procreation. Today, many experts regard masturbation as a simple reaction to situations involving negative emotions. In that context, we are still speaking of a kind of disorder but it is not a moral disorder. It is a grave disorder to be unable to cope with normal situations because of a serious phobia (fear). We do not call that a moral disorder. In the same way, masturbation can very easily be a disorder which is not, however, a moral one.

I choose not to deal with your question on oral sex because I'm not all that sure we would be understanding the same thing. Therefore, I would like to deal simply with your question about "going all the way" and whether or not it would be

less wrong if it were with one person who was very special.

Let me quote from a book by Eugene Kennedy, "What a Modern Catholic Believes about Sex": "The favorite line used to justify these relationships in a sort of general way goes something like this: 'Love is the sole rule of morality. Where true love is present, moral good is also present, despite the objective nature of the action.' This is the kind of logic used in what is known as situation ethics and it is a highly popular, if not deeply inspected, line of reasoning. The difficulty is in understanding whether the individuals who invoke love this way really grasp its meaning or its consequent set of responsibilities. All too often this is not the case. What is called love is merely some sort of subtle exploitation which may harm rather than help either partner. The same goes for the slogan which says, 'As long as we don't hurt anybody else, it is okay.' It is difficult to measure hurt or to be sure that no one is really being harmed by what occurs in premarital sex. If there is exploitation there can be considerable hurt. This cannot be shrugged off. We know from psychological studies that premarital sex can have many meanings for young people. In some, it is surely a sign of their close and developing love for each other. In others, however, it is used defensively to prevent intimacy rather than to enlarge it. This is so because sexual intimacy can be given quickly in order to forestall any possibility that the two persons will really get close to one another. If the only bond they have is sex, than it is a thin and crumbling kind of union at best. And that, unfortunately, is the only kind of sex which some undeveloped people do experience." (Pp. 67-68)

Cenacle Hosts 'Family Afternoon'

A "Family Afternoon," will be hosted by the Cenacle Renewal Center, 3-6 p.m., Sunday, April 1.

The event will feature a "Clown Workshop and Liturgy," led by Father David Mura.

According to Carolyn Schulte, Cenacle spokesperson, "All members of the family, young and old, are invited." She also noted that singles are welcome to

the event "as we travel through the Gospels focusing on Christ's humanity and His gift of laughter."

The afternoon program is precisely ordered, she said; and it is necessary to attend the entire three-hour program, because each part is vital to an appreciation of the whole.

There is no admission cost or reservations needed. However, no one will be admitted after 3 p.m.

4th Degree Planned May 19 by Knights

Raymond P. Pfeifer, master, Fifth New York District, will hold an Exemplification of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus to begin at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 19, at the Holiday Inn in downtown Rochester. The class will be named in honor of Raymond L. Nary of Rochester, former master of the fifth district. Following the degree, a Mass will take place at Our Lady of Victory Church and festivities will end with a formal dinner and Exemplification Ball.

Members of the Knights of Columbus who would like to receive the honor of the Fourth Degree and those Fourth Degree members who want to make reservations for the dinner-dance should contact the following faithful navigators: Henry Adamowicz, West Morris Street, Bath; Frank Bonacci, East Elisha Street, Waterloo; Santo Chiodo, Route 89, Romulus; Bernard DiDuro, White Springs Road, Geneva; Edmund Doyle, Pebble Hill Road, Fairport; Gordon Furlong, Lakeview Drive, Auburn; Neil Harkenrider, Shortsville; Thomas Kock, Adset Street, Hornell; Dr. James Palmeri, East Avenue, Newark;



RAYMOND PFEIFER

Irish Dance Set

St. Augustine's School is presenting a St. Patrick's 50s Dance at 7 p.m., Friday, March 16 in the school hall. The newsrelease stated "Bringing a dish...and wear your green!" Proceeds will go to the Matt Talbot Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization helping chemically dependent people and their families. Donation \$3.50 per person.

St. Philip Neri

The women's club of St. Philip Neri Church is sponsoring a St. Joseph's Table, 1-3 p.m., Sunday, March 18 in the school hall. Persons wishing to donate pastries or finger foods of their own choice are asked to bring donations to the hall 3-5 p.m., Saturday, March 17. Chairperson of the event is Kay Barchello. Further information is available from the rectory, 482-2400.

William Reckenwald, RD 4, Dansville; Fred Stanchi, First Street, Ithaca; and Richard Wilson, Lake Street, Elmira.

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