



A Seton Spring

The 14th annual Seton Fashion Show and Luncheon will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 31 at Oak Hill Country Club. This year's theme is "That Certain Woman," and will feature fashions by Sibley's. Proceeds from the show will be directed to the modernization program at St. Mary's Hospital. Reservations and further information may be obtained by calling the Volunteer Office, 464-3255. Committee members (sitting) are Mary Jean Herberger, Mary Ellen Mount, Anne Huber, chairperson, and Dorothy Wegman. Standing, Ida Graafeiland and Ida Strobino.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

When Lent Hid Easter

When I was growing up, Lent seemed a time of deprivation rather than of preparation.

I moaned and groaned my way through the six weeks prior to Easter as did my brothers and sisters and our friends.

We fasted and we abstained, turning up our noses at the salmon casseroles, the fried fish and the tuna and spaghetti which were staples during that period.

Movies and high school dances and most forms of entertainment were nonos. And there was no question as to whether or not we would watch television. We didn't have a set.

Wednesday and Friday nights we spent at church. The only acceptable excuse was a newly broken leg or a 104 degree temperature.

There were few things I disliked more than going to church at night at St. Elizabeth's, the interior of which managed to be austere and gothic at the same time. The lights were dim and sparse and I interpreted the mood as eerie rather than spiritual.

Saying the stations of the cross was the worst of all. Always one who lived via the senses as opposed to the intellect, I found the Lenten church with its purple-shrouded statues and flickering candles a desolation akin to going to a family funeral.

By the time Father had led us through the stations with the vivid depiction, carved in word and wood, of the scourging, the crowning and the penetration of the nails, I was overcome.

I would leave the church drained, the scent of incense not only in my nostrils but in my blood, the fresh knowledge of man's inhumanity to man shivering my insides. Barely waiting until Fa-

ther disappeared into the sacristy, we would escape to the outside where the light burning over the heavy wooden doors and the brush of snowflakes and cold air against the face was proof of our return to the here and now.

Deprivation was also underscored in the tradition of Lenten sacrifices. "Whatareyagivinup?" was the opening gambit of any conversation among one's friends during the first week.

Some wag would always answer, "Watermelon." Or baked Alaska or skinnydipping.

Mostly we gave up candy and/or desserts and then divided ourselves as to whether we would forsake without lapsing from Ash Wednesday to Easter or were among the group who indulged on Sundays. The latter, objects of our scorn, consumed enough sugar on the Sabbath to make them too sick to want any the other six days of the week.

If I found the stations difficult to sit through, Good Friday was a day of singular depression. I would awake with the heaviness already sitting on my chest. The sun never shone on Good Friday. Grandma B had told us, and even if the rays broke through we knew the light was but a mockery of the day's true sadness. We spent the hours from noon to 3 p.m. in the church, conscious that the unpadded wooden kneelers were not even a pinprick compared to what He had endured.

Holy Saturday would rush by in a haze of preparation. Grandma C's Easter bread, twisted and frosted in the shape of beribboned babies would arrive. Finery would be trotted out. Relatives would appear.

And then, accompanied by snow, rain, or unnaturally mild temperatures, Easter would gloriously dawn.

Miscarriages Topic Of 'Resolve' Meeting

Resolve for Rochester, an infertility support group, will present "Luteal Phase Defect," by Dr. Koi-En Huang, MD, at 8 p.m., Monday, March 19, at Helen Wood Hall, U. of R. School of Nursing, 255 Crittenden Blvd. The meeting is free and open to the public.

According to Resolve, 35 percent of recurrent miscarriages are caused by luteal phase defect. The luteal phase is the latter half of the menstrual cycle, occurring after ovulation. Impaired hormonal function after ovulation inadequately prepares the uterus lining, thus preventing implantation of a fertilized egg, according to Resolve.

Dr. Huang, assistant pro-

fessor OB/GYN at the U. of R. School of Medicine, is associate director of the university's Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility. Further information is available from Resolve for Rochester, 385-1628.

Diocesan Choir Plans Concert

The Diocesan Festival Choir, celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, will perform the Passion and Resurrection sections of Handel's "The Messiah" under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, S.S.I., on Sunday, April 1 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 4095 East Ave.

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