



Bishop's Report Dinner

At the recent Bishop's Report Dinner of the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey presented the St. George Emblem to nine laypersons for their contribution to youth through scouting, and the Bronze Pelican to two clergymen for their interest and dedication to scouting. Honored are (left to right), top row: Louis Ferratello, Gail McCarthy, Louis Massato, Nancy R. Taylor, Father Richard E. Thibreau, SVD; seated: Father Andrew F. Kalafsky, Hough R. McCarthy, (Bishop Hickey), John Reinhardt, Eugene J. Imhof, and Oscar Pero St. George.

St. Boniface School Readies 'Big Party' Alumni Reunion

Graduates from St. Boniface School are readying their first alumni reunion, billing it "The Big Party." Officers advertising the event indicate that at least one alumna from the class of 1911 will join the festivities for all graduates of the school. Mrs. Norman (Rose Ermer) Ritzenthaler is quoted as looking forward to being present at the event with her grandchildren, the last of whom graduated in 1972. The event will be held Saturday, May 26 at Mapledale Party House. Accommodations are limited to 1,200, and reservations are made by calling the rectory, (716) 473-4271, and asking for Rita Kramer.

Mt. Carmel's 75th is Set

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee on Oct. 7 and plans are being made to make the 75th anniversary a memorable one. In order to assure that the many former parishioners, graduates and friends of Mount Carmel hear about the celebration, Father James

Hewes, pastor and chairman of the jubilee committee, has sent requests to all pastors of the Rochester Diocese asking them to insert in their parish bulletins information regarding the date and how to get further information.

Letters are being sent to all those former parishioners and graduates whose names and addresses are already available.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

How Reconcile The Bible with New Teaching?

Dear Father Hohman, The Bible specifically demands capital punishment. By what manner of reasoning does Christianity reject it?

kinds of mental gymnastics to reconcile. For example, the image of God found in many places in the Bible is one of a vengeful, violent God as opposed to the gentle loving image of the New Testament. There are also doctrines or beliefs expressed in the Bible which are today considered unreconcilable with Christianity, such as the approval of slavery and the second-class position given to women.

Dear E.V. It is true that the Old Testament, in particular the Law of Moses, calls for the death penalty for a variety of crimes. Until fairly recent times the various manuals of moral theology defended the practice on the basis of the fact that the common good, the good of society, could be sufficient reason for taking the life of the criminal who by his very existence was a threat to that society.

The New Testament, however, gives no such approval to the practice. In a kind of evolutionary way we have come to regard capital punishment as a less than Christian practice. And therein lies the crux of the situation. If one starts with the premise that the Bible is literally (at its face value) the word of God, then we find all sorts of inconsistencies which require the most extraordinary

If we take the Bible simply as a handbook of God's rules for living we will be confounded by all sorts of inconsistency. But if we see the Bible as God speaking to us through the faith journeys of people and therefore through a series of developmental stages, then the picture can change from age to age without contradiction.

What was regarded as right and approved by God in regard to capital punishment 3,000 years ago, may be (and is) rejected today as inconsistent with the further revelations of God given through Jesus Christ.

To use the Bible as simply a compendium of proofs for various philosophical and theological positions is to misunderstand it completely.

Church Takes Lead Role In Care for Prostitutes

The diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph, the Catholic Family Center and several parishes have assumed leadership roles in the city's efforts to aid prostitutes find new lifestyles.

To date, there are three major programs under the general aegis of the Prostitution Task Force.

The first, Project Yes, is sponsored by the Rochester Police Department and is targeted for prostitutes 12-20 years old. The program title means "Project to Prevent Youths Being Exploited Sexually."

The second is Project More (More Options Really Exist) for women 21 and older. This is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph and Catholic Family Center.

The third is Better Way Community Outreach, a coalition of local churches offering housing and support to youths involved in prostitution.

Project More is headed by Sister Eileen Conheady, SSJ. The program offers free outreach, career counseling, educational counseling, crisis intervention and community awareness, according to a brochure available from Catholic Family Center.

She noted last week, "The Sisters of St. Joseph and the Catholic Family Center, plus some parishes which have

made donations, are really taking a leading role in this ministry to women who prostitute."

The More brochure asserts that 30-50 percent of women in jail and prison have been prostitutes; that 70 percent of the women in prison were first arrested for prostitution.

The brochure also says "Many women get into prostitution in their teens; most women get into prostitution for economic survival; some women prostitute for other reasons: love, habit, fear, a need for belonging."

In addition, the brochure

says that "Many women would like to change their life style, but need help to change."

It is that help which Project More provides. Persons may refer themselves to the program, or be referred by service agencies, the judicial system, churches, neighborhood groups and individuals. Further information is available by calling (716) 546-6206.

The project's slogan is, "At More, we realize it's hard to change, but we know it can be done. It can be a new life!"

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