

# Nuke Teleconference Slated

Rochesterians will have the opportunity to participate in "Breaking the Stalemate," a national teleconference on exploring solutions for the nuclear arms race scheduled from 8 to 10:30 p.m., Mon-

day, Oct. 15, over Cable Station 25. The teleconference is being produced by the Union of Concerned Scientists and presented by that group locally along with the

Lawyer's Alliance for Nuclear Arms Control and Physicians for Social Responsibility through the facilities of WXXI and American Cablevision.

Taking part in the teleconference will be Admiral Noel Gayler, former commander of all U.S. forces in the Pacific; Dr. Anne Cahn, executive director of the Committee for National Security; Victor Weisskopf, former director of Theoretical Physics, the Manhattan Project; Randall Kehler, director of the Nuclear Freeze Campaign, and representatives of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Arms

Control and Disarmament Agency.

Viewers will be able to question the panelists by telephone and judge the panelists' proposed solutions to the arms race. Interspersed throughout the program will be live musical performances and short films.

The teleconference may be viewed at home or with a group audience at Brighton School, South Winton Road; Irondequoit High School, 260 Cooper Road, Room 107, or the diocesan pastoral center, 1150 Buffalo Road, Room 309.

Further information is available from Mary Cronin, 328-3210.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

## Irreconcilable Differences?

Hearing about the new movie, "Irreconcilable Differences," I began to reflect on the meaning of that phrase. It has become well-known in our time and yet if one thinks about it a bit there is a kind of finality which needs to be examined.

Considering the number of divorce cases in which there are "irreconcilable differences" between spouses, it seems as though the word irreconcilable is being taken somewhat lightly. What is the point at which differences between spouses become irreconcilable, that is, no longer able to be changed?

My own experience, and the experience of many others in pastoral ministry, indicates that in far too many situations, the word irreconcilable is injected into the situation long before it should be. More often than not, I believe, what the spouses mean is that what they regard as reasonable simply is not acceptable to the other, and since reason is impossible, the difference is irreconcilable.

In a "left lobe" confrontation, there supposedly is a right and wrong. If either or both spouses think that they are right, then it follows necessarily that the other must be wrong.

The trouble is that in normal relationships we are not dealing primarily with a logical or rational difference between the spouses. We are dealing with feelings which are simply facts, and therefore do not have the qualities of right or wrong with no "in between."

If one deals with a hurt simply in terms of an intellectual process which terms it morally right or morally wrong, then it is likely that no resolution to the conflict can be achieved at that level. But if one deals with a hurt in terms of runaway emotions and feelings

which can be dealt with, and as I said, modified, then the situation is not irreconcilable, but rather subject to change at the deepest level.

The problem in many situations is that individuals either do not know how or are unwilling to face up to their own feelings and to deal with the feelings of the other. The net result is that there is a retreat to the level of logic with a determination that a solution is impossible. If more couples would be patient with the process of counseling and listen more carefully with their hearts rather than with their heads, there would be, I am certain, far fewer irreconcilable differences.

What is required here is a whole new set of approaches to overcoming differences between spouses. For one thing, the idea of sitting in judgment upon one another, declaring the other wrong and oneself right, needs to be eliminated entirely from any kind of consideration of differences.

The second necessity is that both parties enter as deeply as they can into the real feelings of the other so that there will not be simply a clinical observation but rather a real empathy leading to understanding.

Because of the intensity of the emotions involved it is often impossible to do this by one's self and therefore outside help is needed.

Counselors do not have solutions to problems, but they create a climate in which the people involved can see the situation more clearly and at least possibly come to a mutual understanding which would resolve or diminish the difference.

We give up all too easily on human relationships because the maintenance of them is sometimes so very painful. If we are willing to accept the pain of entering more deeply into the heart of another, then we sometimes will obtain great rewards for that acceptance of pain.

# Congress Okays \$16 Million for Peace Institute

Washington (NC) -- Congress has voted \$16 million to establish a U.S. Institute of Peace to teach American and foreign leaders how to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence.

The measure, originally proposed as a "peace academy," was attached to a military authorization bill and approved by voice vote by a House-Senate conference committee Sept. 25. The House passed the bill Sept. 26 and the Senate passed it Sept. 27.

In June the Senate attached the peace academy amendment to its military authorization bill. The House version of the military bill did not include a similar amendment.

In a compromise reached by the House-Senate conference committee, the title peace academy was changed to institute and the concept of a central campus was dropped in favor of a de-

centralized institute. Opponents had said an academy would create too much of a bureaucracy. The committee also reduced funding for the institute by \$7.5 million.

The bill establishes a Randolph Program for International Peace, which will give scholarships, fellowships and stipends to American and foreign leaders. The program is named for Sen. Jennings Randolph, D-W. Va., who has supported the establishment of a national peace institution since 1945.

Martha Manning, a spokeswoman for the National Peace Academy Campaign, said Sept. 28 that in spite of the changes, "most of the amendment is intact and much of the function remains the same."

"We're delighted," Ms. Manning said of the compromise agreement. "The academy will still be able to carry out its functions."

## Ferraro's Standby: Baltimore Catechism

New York (NC) -- The Baltimore catechism sets forth "the basic Judeo-Christian principle" of the government's duty to help the needy, Democratic vice presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro said in an interview with The New York Times.

A Sept. 30 New York Times Magazine article on Ms. Ferraro's campaign noted that a reference by the candidate to the Baltimore catechism in her first press conference with presidential candidate Walter Mondale was one of the rare instances that she has mentioned ideas learned in books.

"It was a little blue book with a picture of our Lord. You got it when you were 5 or 6 and used it for first

Communion," Ms. Ferraro told The Times. "In dark print there was a question, 'Who made us?' and the answer, 'God made us.'"

The idea of the catechism, Ms. Ferraro said, was to "set forth the basic Judeo-Christian principle, which is taking care of the most vulnerable in our society. Visiting people in jail was something you learned was an act of mercy. One did that."

She added, "Feeding the hungry, clothing the naked. Those are the things you learn. Those things I've taught my children. You've got to be a little concerned about someone besides yourself because you have that obligation, because God has been good to you."

## St. Joseph's Schedules Open House

Elmira -- St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing will host an Open House from 2-4 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 21 at the Dunn Memorial Building.

Prospective students and their families are invited to attend. Career information and tours of the school and facilities will be provided.

Faculty members and students will also be on hand to answer any questions.

# Merton Group Sets Benet of Canfield Expert as Speaker

Benet of Canfield, a 17th century Capuchin, a mystic and spiritual writer, will be the subject of a special lecture by Etta Gullick, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16 at the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

The event is a meeting of the Merton Society.

Ms. Gullick, an Anglican and resident of the Isle of Man, lectures at St.

Stephen's College, Oxford, on spiritual writers and prayer.

At the suggestion of Abbot Christopher Butler of Downside Abbey, she translated Benet from French to English.

The monk wrote "Ways of Perfection," the last third of which was condemned by the Inquisition for promoting quietism, in its broadest sense, a doctrine stating "man's highest perfection consists in a sort of psychical self-annihilation and a consequent absorption of the soul into the Divine Essence even during the present life," according to the Catholic Encyclopedia (1911).

The program is free and open to the public. Further information is available from Mary E. Dedie, 235-7061.

## Dechant Is Re-Elected

Ottawa (NC) -- The Knights of Columbus Board of Directors elected Virgil C. Dechant to his ninth term as supreme knight of the 1.4 million-member society at a meeting in Ottawa.

A native of Kansas, Dechant was first elected supreme knight in 1977. The businessman and corporate administrator served as supreme secretary for the society for almost 10 years before his selection as chief executive officer.

Also re-elected were Supreme Chaplain Bishop Charles P. Greco, retired bishop of Alexandria, La.; Deputy Supreme Knight Ellis D. Flinn of McLean, Va.; Supreme Treasurer William J. Van Tassel of Beacon, N.Y.; and Supreme Advocate W. Patrick Donlin of Rothschild, Wis.

New posts went to Charles P. Riesbeck Jr. of St. Clairsville, Ohio, supreme secretary; Paul J. Staskey of Flagstaff, Ariz., supreme warden; and George R. Humphrey of New Britain, Conn., and Robert J. Lane of Hamden, Conn., both named assistant supreme secretaries.

## Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication.

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## Abortion Ruling

Continued from Page 1

choice in abortion, the court said. But protection of those rights does not in itself require the state to pay travel expenses, publication expenses or abortion expenses so that indigents may exercise those rights, it said.

MacPhail, who was also part of the seven-judge panel, was joined by Judge David W. Craig in dissenting from the court's majority ruling.

The full panel, with MacPhail and Craig concurring, agreed with MacPhail's original ruling in striking

down one portion of the law as unconstitutional.

That portion, which required reporting of rape or incest to proper authorities within specific time limits as a condition for receiving state funding for abortion in those cases, was an unconstitutional intrusion on rights of privacy, the court said.

On Oct. 2 Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania and other pro-abortion groups which had filed the original suit appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reverse those parts of the appellate court ruling which upheld abortion funding restrictions.

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