By Prent Browning
Voice Staff Writer

It was standing room only at St. Mary Cathedral last Sunday as papal honors were bestowed on 37 South Floridians while another 63 Catholic lay leaders received the Archdiocesan Medal.

Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy conferred upon 18 laymen the Order of St. Gregory the Great, a pontifical knighthood reserved for persons distinguished by personal character and reputation, as well as notable accomplishments.

Receiving the St. Gregory Medal from the Archbishop were: Frank Mackle, Joseph Robbie, Joseph Fogarty, Eugenio Abello, James Kindelan, Donald Myers, Francis McDonough, Ferdinand Mahfood, Dan McCarthy, The Honorable Peter Fay, James Ward, Earl Quattlebaum, James McCaughan, David Walters, The Honorable Eugene Spellman, Frederick Hartnett, Armando Alexandria, Hendrik Huguet, and Horacio Aguirre.

The Pro Ecclesia Et Pontifice Medal (for the Church and for the Pontiff) was presented to 16 women and 2 men and is the highest award given by the Vatican to the laity.

It is awarded in recognition of service to the Church and the papacy, and is cruciform in shape and attached to a ribbon of the papal colors, yellow and white.

RECEIVING this medal were: Marjorie Fillyaw Donohue, Marie Palmer, Ruth McCarthy, Carrie Mastrouardi, Delia Bertha Gonzalez, Florence Davis Hodapp, Joyce Masso, Alicia Marrill, Lloydine Fogarty, Eugenio Abello, James Kin delan, Donald Myers, Francis McDonough, Ferdinand Mahfood, Dan McCarthy, The Honorable Peter Fay, James Ward, Earl Quattlebaum, James McCaughan, David Walters, The Honorable Eugene Spellman, Frederick Hartnett, Armando Alexandria, Hendrik Huguet, and Horacio Aguirre.

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Alicia Marrill, one of 18 lay Catholics who received papal Pro Ecclesia Medal at ceremonies in the Cathedral last Sunday, rejoice with her parents after the presentation. Marrill was honored for her work as founder of Amor en Accion, a group that aids the poor in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. (Voice photo/Prent Browning)

NATIONAL CONDEMNATION

Reaction to anti-Catholic bigotry

By Marjorie L. Donohue
Archdiocese Bureau of Information

Condemnation of the anti-Catholic pamphlets being distributed in Florida and across the nation by the Tony Alamo Foundation continued to increase this week as the National Conference of Christians and Jews in New York called on its 76 offices around the country to mobilize and counteract this newest wave of anti-Catholicism.

Jacqueline G. Wesler, NCCJ president in New York, said the "libelous and irrational attacks" on the Catholic Church are too widespread to ignore.

"NONE OF THE charges in this scurrilous material could withstand the most minimal testaments of history or scholarship," she said. "As non-sensical as the charges are the activities of this Alamo Foundation may stir anti-Catholic sentiments still present in some parts of American society.

A similar statement had been issued by Frank Magrath of the Florida Regional Office of the NCCJ when the pamphlets, "The Pope's Secrets," first appeared in South Florida last month. His statement was supported by leading Protestant and Jewish clergymen in Dade County.

Meanwhile during a radio talk show here on May 22, Alamo failed to justify a claim made in his pamphlets that the Bible refers to the Catholic Church as "a prostitute, the great whore, a cult."

During a half-hour interview by talk show host, Bev Smith, on WGBS, which reaches some 30,000 listeners, Alamo said the charges are in several chapters of the Book of Revelations. When Smith, formerly an investigative reporter in Pittsburgh, pressed him to cite a Bible passage to support his claim, he said, "No other church on the face of this earth even comes close to the description that Revelations gives to the anti-Church."

Noting that Alamo charges in the pamphlet that the Vatican owns billions of dollars, Smith queried him about his own assets, which she stated were about $25 million. Smith said these are listed in the name of Alamo and his deceased wife, and not in the name of the foundation.

"THESE ARE figures released by federal government agencies run by the Vatican," Alamo replied, adding that he did not know the value of his holdings. "If so, it's for our people. Our people live well, above average. Our people live a lot better than those people have a right to live. They are estimated by the states of Arkansas and California to be about $25 million. Smith said these are listed in the name of Alamo and his deceased wife, and not in the name of the foundation.

Alamo had refused to participate in an on-the-air debate with Miamian Henry Ferro, president of the South Look for full coverage of Pope John Paul II's trip to Switzerland in the next issue of The Voice. (Continued on page 6)
**Cardinal Krol backs anti-porn campaign**

NEW YORK (NC) — Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia has called on Catholics to join an ecumenical campaign launched by a Presbyterian minister to combat pornography.

Religious leaders must give the issue increased attention, he said, because the “merchants of pornography” who formerly ignored moral principles are now directly “attacking religious authority, religious teaching and the whole anti-pornography agency, Morality in Media.

About 160 people representing various religious groups and diocesan offices opposed plans to build a new shopping mall near the Knights of Columbus as early as possible. They were asked to help the anti-pornography movement in coordination with the National Consultation on Pornography and Obscenity.

This movement grew out of an initiative by the Rev. Jerry Kirk, pastor of College Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. He chairs a 15-member leadership group that is seeking to gather 1,000 Christian leaders in Cincinnati Sept. 6-7 to unite the Christian community in combatting pornography.


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**Supreme Court upholds immigration standards**

WASHINGTON (NC) — The Supreme Court June 5 unanimously upheld strict standards for refugees who cite fear of persecution as grounds for seeking deportation. The court ruled that an alien must prove “a clear probability” that he would be singled out for persecution if he were deported to the country of his origin.

**Pontifical academy announces advances in leprosy treatment**

VATICAN CITY (NC) — New advances in the treatment of leprosy, including an experimental vaccine and techniques which could add to the understanding of cancer and other diseases, were announced by the Pontifical Academy of Sciences June 4. The vaccine, which faces up to 10 years of testing and evaluation, was developed by Venezuelan Dr. Jacinto Convit, who worked with animals infected with the vaccine-infected, is especially vital to research because the bacteria that cause the disease cannot be cultivated in the laboratory.

**Divisions among churches damage evangelistic efforts, Pope says**

VATICAN CITY (NC) — Divisions among Christian churches “damage efforts to spread the Gospel to each person,” Pope John Paul II told 10 young Orthodox students June 4. During a Vatican audience with the students, who were in Rome to study Catholicism, the pope urged work and prayer for full union among Christians.

“This diversity, which touches fundamental questions, can divide and ruin the church,” he said, adding that the church has divisions which not only do not openly contradict the will of Christ, but also are a scandal to the world and damage efforts to spread the Gospel to each person,” he said.

**Pope says leaves Koreans with positive church image**

VATICAN CITY (NC) — Pope John Paul II left May 24 non-Catholic South Koreans with a better image of the church than they had before, said a South Korean priest who helped arrange the pope’s May 3-7 visit. But now the pope, he said, is “in the prime of his life,” and his visit may “too beautiful,” said Father John Chang, 50. “Before, the pope was an authority symbol,” Father Chang said. “But now people in my country have seen him as a personality, a good man with the heart of a pastor.”

**Social standards hostile to family life, archaeologist says**

MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich. (NC) — Americans live in an atmosphere of social standards which are becoming increasingly hostile and threatening to family life, Archbishop Edmund C. Sorka of Detroit told a state meeting on the Knights of Columbus. Speaking on the convention theme, “Family, Soul of Society,” in his homily at an opening Mass, the archbishop listed several reasons why family life is being eroded. He said he was proud of the Knights of Columbus for their long-standing support of family life.

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**News at a Glance**

**Fr. Bryce urges anti-abortion funding clause**

WASHINGTON (NC) — Father Edward M. Bryce, director of the Bishops’ Committee for Pro-Life Activities, has urged the Senate to retain an anti-abortion funding clause in the defense spending authorization bill. As approved by the Senate’s Armed Services Committee, the legislation contains a clause saying “funds available to the Department of Defense may not be used to perform abortions except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to the term.”

**Church still active in labor issues bishop**

NEW YORK (NC) — Church concern for labor issues is as great today as in past decades when some bishops and “labor priests” held greater prominence as supporters of the union movement, Bishop Thomas J. Murphy of Great Falls-Billings, Mont., said in an interview June 3. He said issues were “more simply identified then,” but that church response has been equally apparent in recent situations such as the closing of the steel plant in Youngstown, Ohio, and the resulting unemployment and suffering for the community at large. Bishop Murphy said Catholic interest in labor issues also had been shown by widespread attention given to Pope John Paul II’s 1981 encyclical “Laborum Exercens.”

**Pennsylvania Catholics unhappy with abortion ruling**

(UNDATED) (NC) — The Pennsylvania Catholic Conference has expressed disappointment at a ruling by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, Philadelphia, striking down parts of Pennsylvania’s Abortion Control Act. On May 31, the court knocked down requirements which allowed higher state employee insurance rates for abortions, called for doctors to provide detailed information on the condition of the fetus, provided for a 34-hour waiting period before abortion and demanded that a second physician be present to try to save the aborted baby. But the court also upheld the requirement that a child born alive through an abortion be protected, a demand that abortion clinics provide public reports of ownership, and a requirement that a minor get the consent of a parent, or a court order, to obtain an abortion.

**British bishops ask government to protest apartheid**

LONDON (NC) — British Catholic bishops asked their government to protest apartheid, white-ruled South Africa’s system of racial segregation, during a June 2 visit to Great Britain by South African Prime Minister P. W. Botha.

“We must deplore with the utmost clarity the manifest injustices of the present regime in South Africa,” the bishops of England and Wales said in a May 31 statement. They asked the government to tell Prime Minister Botha that many British felt “moral revision” toward those injustices.

**Bishops oppose gay discrimination bill**

BOSTON (NC) — The Catholic bishops of Massachusetts have opposed a bill which seeks to eliminate “certain discrimination on the basis of sexual preference.” In a statement on the bill, which has been filed in both houses of the state Legislature, the bishops said “experience has shown that the passage of legislation of this type will be seen by many as a step toward legal approval of the homosexual lifestyle.” The bishops emphasized the distinction between what they called “unjust discrimination (the arbitrary limitation of human rights)” and the “necessary limitation placed on the exercise of human rights” when they would interfere with the rights of others in society.
By Prent Browning
Voice Staff Writer

Calling them a sign of the “spirit moving in the Church” Archbishop McCarthy commissioned 27 new Ecclesiastical Lay Ministers at a special Mass recently at St. Mary Cathedral.

The ceremony also included the admission of lay ministry candidates into the two-year program and the renewal of commitment of formerly commissioned Ecclesiastical Lay Ministers.

Dr. Mercedes Scopetta who is retiring after seven years as volunteer director of Lay Ministry for the Archdiocese was recognized for her service by the Archbishop.

The Candidates, divided into two groups, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, came forward to the altar area where they each received a candle and then formed two lines in the cathedral’s central aisle.

Next was their pastor or the person sponsoring their ministry stood behind them the Ecclesiastical Lay Ministers were commissioned.

The Archbishop formally asked for their willingness to commit themselves and the willingness of their sponsors to support their ministry and then led in a prayer to the Holy Spirit.

Twenty-seven persons were commissioned altogether from 15 different parishes. Twenty persons were commissioned from St. Rose of Lima parish in Miami Shores.

The lay ministry program which is being expanded to three years includes classes in theology, scripture, and some practical ministry experience.

They are sometimes the butt of controversy and criticism but last Sunday police and firemen from all over South Florida gathered at St. Mary’s Cathedral to receive a “thank you” for their sacrifices and services.

Judge Peter Fay expressed their gratitude and acknowledged their service.

In an impassioned voice he said, will forever bear the imprint of “her imagination, creativity, sensitivity and spirituality.”

“She and those around her have conceived formation as being not only by word but by practice, witness, and experience of the kingdom so alive in their hearts.”

The Archbishop has appointed Zoila Diaz of the Lay Ministry Office to become the new director, charging her to continue “to form God’s people with the unique talents God has given you.”

Following the ceremony the congregation was invited to a buffet reception in Dr. Scopetta’s honor at the Pastoral Center.

“The Lay Ministry program,” he said, “is not something that is outside of our lives, he said, and those involved in the Catholic Church have a unique advantage.

“You are no ordinary policeman or firefighter. You are baptized, you are confirmed, you are anointed. You are different.”

THE HOLY SPIRIT is not something that is outside of our lives, he said, and those involved in the Catholic Church have a unique advantage.

“You are no ordinary policeman or firefighter. You are baptized, you are confirmed, you are anointed. You are different.”

Thank you’ to police and firemen

Policemen and fire fighters in front rows at Cathedral called ‘Good Samaritans’ by Archbishop, (Voice photo by Laurie osteeni.

Lay ministers receive a candle at altar during commissioning ceremonies at the Cathedral. (Voice photo by Prent Browning).

IN ADDITION 24 Ecclesiastical Lay Ministers renewed their five year commitment at the ceremony.

The Archbishop congratulated the newly commissioned Lay Ministers following the liturgy, saying that their commitment was a sign of “the Spirit moving in the Church.”

“It is their commitment,” he said, “is the realization that the Catholic’s first profession, first career, is not to be a businessman, a housewife, a carpenter, a secretary or whatever — it is to be a herald of the Lord…”

The Archbishop also complemented Dr. Scopetta for her years of service.

THE LAY MINISTRY program, the Holy Spirit...
By Liz Armstrong
WASHINGTON (NC) — U.S. Surgeon General Dr. C. Everett Koop, the nation’s top health officer, has crusaded against what he sees as the unhealthy phenomenon of violent video games and TV shows.

"Now, he is campaigning against smoking and what he believes are its dangers, not only to smokers themselves (he estimates that some 50,000 deaths in 1983 were caused by smoking) but to their families and co-workers as well."

The issue of smoking is not new to Americans — or Catholics. For example, in their 1981 pastoral letter on health, the U.S. Bishops urged rejection of smoking along with overeating and abusing drugs and alcohol. And cigarette packages have long contained warnings about smoking.

Some theologians have said smoking should be considered a sin since it involves an addictive drug, nicotine, abuses the body, foreshortens most smokers’ lives, is offensive to others and gives bad example, especially in the case of clergy and religious who counsel others to use self-restraint and control in their lives.

Like drunk driving — under new attack by citizens’ groups and the bishops of New York state — smoking is becoming a target of public sentiment.

"We estimate that between 80 and 90 percent of chronic lung disease in this country is directly attributable to cigarette smoking," Koop said in May announcing his latest findings.

"Cigarette smoking is causally related to chronic obstructive lung disease, just as it is to cancer and coronary heart disease," according to the surgeon general, a respected pro-life leader before being named to his government post.

Koop also had some strong words about the effects of smoking on non-smokers.

"The evidence is very solid" that non-smokers exposed to smoke suffer lung disease as well, Koop said.

It can be a moral question... not just in regard to one’s own health. You have a consideration of altruism, too.

His report likewise cautions parents:

"An association exists between parental smoking in the home and an increased rate of respiratory symptoms among children."

An article in the New England Journal of Medicine reported earlier this spring that children of smokers have higher levels of nicotine in their bodies than their counterparts in non-smokers’ households; researchers also discovered that nicotine levels in babies of smokers were equal to those of adult light-smokers.

The Tobacco Institute discounted the Koop report, citing information from another social dilemma: drunk driving.

"There is strong evidence that such a law will not only directly reduce the harm now caused to youngsters who drink and drive but it will also prevent a great deal of suffering and loss felt as a result of accidents caused by the drunken driver," said J. Alan Davitt, executive director of the New York Catholic Conference, representing the Bishops. The U.S. bishops’ health care pastoral has some succinct advice for society as it deals with such concerns:

"Out of gratitude and reverence for the unique sanctity that is ours, we must choose life and health, not death and sickness."

St. Vincent Hall opens outreach clinic

We are pleased to announce that the St. Vincent Hall Outreach Clinic for expectant mothers is once again open for services. Those interested should call our office (ph: 584-0414) for details between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Our services include, but are not limited to counseling, medical/ prenatal care, nutrition counseling and delivery at Mercy Hospital.

"Blessed are the clean of heart; they shall see God."
We face each other across my desk casually, relaxed while I carefully arranged my face and my eyes and my mind, so that nothing I said or did or thought or felt for the next 20 or 30 minutes was considered. He is profoundly, with the practical skill that needed no explanation considered, inspecting me, studying me, every single inch of me, and that's really a lot of God talk. It's enough if he knows you do this. Why do you do it? This kid's needs were simple enough—a place to live, some safety, some food. What complicated it all was our "no strings" love. He wanted to pay for it. That's what he always had to do. That's how the game is played. 

FATHERLY SUPPORT — Two-year-old Abby Larr gets a little support from her dad, Mike, as they enjoy an afternoon in Franklin Park in Plainfield, Ind. Many dads will enjoy a day with their children this Sunday as Americans observe Father's Day. (NC photo)
Corpus Christi celebrates 25th

Corpus Christi parish will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the church on Corpus Christi day, Sunday, June 24 at 10:30 a.m. Mass. All former members of the parish and former pastors and priests are invited to attend the special Mass to be concelebrated by Archbishop McCarthy, Msgr. Joseph O'Shea, parish priest, and other priests.

After Mass will be a family picnic with prizes, American and Spanish food, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the church, 3220 NW 7 Ave., Miami.

Reaction to anti-Catholic bigotry

Ferro pointed out that Alamo "is very careful who he defames. He perpetuates his own ideas of what he feels as facts. All his references are to books written by him or those with similar feelings. In Alma they have basically taken over a town. Alamo followers are not allowed contact with outsiders other than to witness," he stated.

According to Ferro, an attorney, the Holy Father has no legal access to the courts in this country.

"WITHIN THE legal system of the U.S. the theory behind group defamation or group slander is not recognized within the laws," Ferro continued. "The Catholic League plans to introduce legislation in every state that will create a form of civil action providing legal recourse for group defamation, libel or slander," Ferro declared.

Mass for Fr. LaCerra's mother

A Mass of Resurrection was concelebrated on June 2 in St. Mary Cathedral for Mrs. Laverene LaCerra, mother of Father Gerard LaCerra, Chancellor and Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Miami. Father LaCerra, also rector of the Cathedral, was the principal celebrant of the funeral Mass for his mother who died unexpectedly on May 31 at St. Joseph Towers, Lauderdale Lakes. She was 69.

Archbishop Edward A. McCarthy presided at the Mass concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishops John J. Nevin and Agustin Roman and 80 priests of South Florida.

Mrs. LaCerra's three other children, George and Donald of Fort Lauderdale and Mrs. Arlene Gallie of Tampa presented the Offertory gifts. Scripture readers were Mrs. Stephanie LaCerra and Thomas Burns.

Music during the Mass was sung by the Cathedral choir under the direction of Sister Mary Tindel, O.P. parish music director.

A resident of Fort Lauderdale since 1944 Mrs. LaCerra was formerly a member of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs parish where she was a religious education instructor. She had been employed at the Broward County Juvenile Detention Center and at the Broward County Schools Testing Center. Illness two years ago had forced her to curtail her activities, which had in earlier years included the St. Anthony Home and School Assn.

Archbishop McCarthy, who gave the final blessing, expressed the sympathy of the Archdiocese of Miami to the LaCerra family and quoting from Scripture described Mrs. LaCerra as "a valiant woman" pointing out that her mother had been extended to many of the Archdiocesan priests.

Burial was in Our Lady Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Fort Lauderdale.
A visit to colorful Ireland

The Ordination
My dearly beloved:

I am in the air again. Appropriately, this time on Ascension Thursday. I am aboard an Air Lingus 747 over the scattered, cotton-like clouds and the white caps on the blue ocean 33,000 feet below. The aircraft has a little silver table at the entry indicating it is the flagship on which our Holy Father flew to Ireland and then to the United States in 1979.

I am returning from the happy experience of ordaining a new priest for our Archdiocese, visiting the seminaries where six young Irishmen are preparing to become Miami priests, and seeking to enlist additional candidates to help us meet our shortage of 900 priests.

The young man I ordained is Sean Hyland who, after July 2, will be the new Associate Pastor at St. Patrick’s, Miami Beach. He studied at St. Peter’s Seminary in Westminster, where we have two other seminarians, Frs. Cronin and Martin Pinder. I brought both of them tickets to come to the States this summer. Wehave found it important to give the Irish seminarians an opportunity to become familiar with American ways.

As an alumnus of the seminary at Westminster, Father Hyland follows the footsteps of a number of distinguished alumni now serving in our Archdiocese, including Monsignor Noel Fogarty and Fathers Joseph Currid, Seamus Doyle, Richard Murphy, Gabriel O’Reilly and Seamus O’Suhaughnessy.

The ceremony was held at Father Hyland’s home parish of St. Senan’s, in Enniscorthy, near Vinegar Hill where many an Irishman shed blood for his faith and country. The street where the church is located was festooned with colorful flags and banners. The church was comparatively small, which gave me the impression it is the flagship on this earth.

I was reminded of my first visit to Ireland, my relative in County Wexford. The part of this country I visited was a place of great historical events and sites of pilgrimage where the faithful go to seek inspiration, comfort and peace.

I was told that among the stories which Father P. J. Nolan told me was the one about a dockhand who was a member of the same family as Michael Collins. This dockhand was a young Irishman who had been killed by the British. There are countless such stories about the Irish who gave their lives for their country.

After the ceremony, there was a joyous reception and dinner at a nearby Catholic girls high school.

Visit seminaries
I used the occasion to visit the seminaries where we have young Irish candidates for the priesthood. There are a number of such seminaries, old and new. Some are attached to religious institutions, such as the one for priests to serve in Ireland, but to prepare thousands of Irish priests for countries where Irish Catholics are in the majority.

Among the portraits of the graduates hanging in the corridors of these institutions, I found the photo of many of the priests who are now serving in our Archdiocese as I visited all Halloys in Dublin, St. Patrick’s in Carlow, St. Kieran’s (Kilkenny), St. Patrick’s (Thurles), St. John’s (Waterford), and St. Peter’s (Wexford). I visited as well the renowned St. Patrick’s in Marymoor that primarily serves the Irish dioceses but currently is also educating a seminarian for us.

I was proud to read in “The Carlowian,” Carlow’s magazine, of a report on the visit of their Rector, Father Matthew Kelly, to the United States. Referring to our St. Vincent Seminary, he says, “We met the Rector who was proud to show us what must be the nearest thing to the perfect Seminary on this earth.” I also put in touch with three young men who may be interested in studying for the priesthood.

I was able to visit him at the institution where he is confined in Ireland. This institution is the nearest thing to the perfect Seminary on this earth.

I was reminded of my first visit to Ireland. “So this is God’s country,” I said to a dockhand. “Yes, Father,” he replied, “I have the devil’s own people.” And when I thought I had traced my relative in County Wexford, I was told with a grin, “Father, sometimes it is best to let dead dogs lie.”

A sign of suffering for God and country is everywhere. There are plaques and memorials on many homes saying that there, in modern times, a man had been killed by the British. There are the nine stones that mark the site where Our Lady of Knock was invoked in the 19th century. There are the ruins of medieval churches.

There are stories which Father P. J. insists are true — the long driveway we viewed that had to be abandoned because it is covered with grass that cannot be removed. Whatever is done, it is the grass grows back the next year. This is how it happened after a Protestant father shot his convert son the day he was ordained as a Catholic priest.

There was the man who had

(Continued on page 8)
Catholics here get papal honors

(Continued from page 1)

Winters, Georgia Ulseth, Dr. Mercedes Scopetta, Virginia Fogarty, Elizabeth Robbie, Susan Blum, Mimi Reilly, Margaret Robinson and Patricia Fay.

The Primum Regnum Dei medal of the Archdiocese was initiated by the late Archbishop Coleman F. Carroll in 1956 in recognition of "meritorious service" to the Archdiocese of Miami.

The 63 persons who received the medal this year are:

John Percetti, Boynton, Miami; Claudio Mendoza, Little Flower, Coral Gables; Bernard Grall, St. Ann, West Palm Beach; Juan R. Rois, St. John Bosco, Miami; Margaret Robinson, St. Louis, Miami; Kathy Eiland, St. Louis, Miami; Arthur Wiles, San Pablo, Marathon; Thomas E. Woolbright, St. Vincent Ferrer, Delray Beach; James Gates, St. Vincent, Margate; Alice Falconer, St. Vincent; Margate; Ann Swink, St. Raymond, Miami; Albert Faulkner, St. Peter, Naples; Rose Venetia, St. Luke, Lake Worth, Joseph Grammatteo, St. Kieran, Miami; Albert Fowler, St. John Fisher, West Palm Beach; Anne Sorrelle, St. John Fisher, West Palm Beach; Robert Sorrelle, St. John Fisher, West Palm Beach; Anigential Missions Work; Francis B. Geary, St. John Fisher, West Palm Beach;

continued from page 7

and he said he is by some, but treated as a quack by others. Some doctors actually come to him for treatment. There are other such na
tive healers, many using potions made from plants to specialize in the diseases they care, e.g. external cancer, hemorroids, etc.

Reagan's visit

At the time of my visit, there was much discussion of President Rea
gan's visit. Apparently, the concern over our President's support of Cen
tral American governments that have been abusive of civil rights is

fed by the outspoken criticism of Bishop Casey, who has visited Cen
tral America, and of some Irish mis

sioners working in those countries. I commented that with all this is

lied upon the issue, they seem to see it as less black and white after the other Irish examples of replacing governments in Cuba and Nicaragua, when totalitarian Com

munist governments were posted, and the last state in many ways became wor
der than the first.

The Irish also gave much attention to an Irish priest, Father O'Brien, who had been condemned to death in the Philippines and for whom they were hoping President Reagan would intervene.

I suppose the greatest impact of my trip is that I came home with a new appreciation and admiration of Ireland as a land of faith. I am con

cerned when I see Irish TV carrying many American programs which I feel, and the Irish agree, are pre

ventious Christian values. But it is a powerful faith experience to walk on the land that has been reddened for centuries with the blood of valiant

tary, to see the signs of faith not only in the monasteries and churches of past ages, but in the

ways through centuries and the current of ad

which adorn modern homes, to hear the utterances of faith in the frequent, almost inadvertent references to God, His Blessed Mother and the Saints in ordinary conversation.

God bless you!

Devotedly yours in Christ,

Edward A. McCarthy
Archbishop of Miami

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a) tonsillectomy
b) appendectomy
c) abortion

The most frequently performed surgical procedure is abortion.

Why is this possible? In a country that claims to be 90% Chris
tian? Because we fail to see this which defines the killing of pre-born children as "termination of pregnan-
tion? Because we fail to see through abortionists rhetoric which

c) abortion

a) tonsillectomy
b) appendectomy
c) abortion

The correct answer is "c". Over 1.6 million abortions are performed each year. No other surgical procedure is performed more frequent
ly.

Why is this possible? In a country that claims to be 90% Chris
tian? Because we fail to see this which defines the killing of pre-born children as "termination of pregnan-
tion? Because we fail to see through abortionists rhetoric which

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**Black and Indian Catholics need special assistance**

Dear Friends in Christ:

Each year we appeal to your generosity to support the developing Church among Black Catholics and American Indian Catholics. Christ intended that His Church would embrace all peoples. The word “Catholic” means universal, for all peoples, for all times.

Your continued support of this appeal assists the Archdiocese in providing educational and social service programs in the Black Communities through South Florida.

The Annual Collection for the benefit of Missions among Black Catholics and American Indian Catholics will be held this Sunday, June 17, throughout the Archdiocese. I encourage your continued generosity to this appeal.

With personal regards and best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Edward A. McCarthy
Archbishop of Miami

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**YOUR CATHEDRAL NEEDS YOUR HELP**

**THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. MARY**, the personal church of the Archbishop, serves as the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Miami. Although a parish like any other parish, the Cathedral also belongs to all the people of South Florida since it is through the Archbishop that we have our unity with the Pope and Catholics throughout the world.

The Cathedral of St. Mary, situated between Little River and Liberty City, serves people of many ethnic and economic groups. At a time when many people are cursing the darkness, the Cathedral is a shining light which brings hope to those in despair, faith to those in doubt, and God's love to all people.

We need your help in our effort to continue to preach the Gospel of Jesus to all people. Friends of the Cathedral, Inc., is an organization that allows people to respond to God's generosity to them by helping the Cathedral continue its mission as the Mother Church of South Florida.

As a friend of the Cathedral, you will be remembered at the celebration of Easter each day. In addition, you will receive a special invitation to attend all celebrations which take place at the Cathedral throughout the year.
Unemployment myths

By Betty Kennedy
Voice Staff Writer

People have finally begun to dispel myths about the unemployed in America and "the old generous spirit to feed the hungry has been rekindled," said Fr. Tom Harvey, executive director of the National Conference of Catholic Charities based in Washington, D.C.

In an interview with The Voice, Fr. Harvey said that stereotyped images of the unemployed as unreliable, lazy and dependent people are no longer believed.

"When your brother-in-law or someone else close to you who has worked for 30 years suddenly gets fired and asks for help, you realize the extent of the problem.

"Structural unemployment has reached staggering proportions, vic

In regional reports which Fr. Harvey reviews in his work, he has found that many of the Catholics who lost their jobs used to be the Church's most generous contributors. Now in their fifties and sixties, they are confused and humiliated. The same charities they once supported have now become their salvation.

High expectations

After a lifetime of honest work in factories the door to their futures has literally been shut in their faces. Driven by desperation and misleading reports of a booming job market, they then migrate to the sunbelt (Florida, Texas, Arizona), where "the Catholic presence is small and their expectations are high."

They find themselves in a place that might be only 1.4 percent Catholic with a small charities agency and are disillusioned when they can't find more help, he explained.

After unemployment, financial woes often fall like an avalanche. "While the unemployed person feels down and out he may turn to suicide rate among the unemployed is 30 times higher than any other group. The need for emergency shelters for the families of the unemployed is recognized by Catholic Charities. In Galveston Island in Houston, Texas, charities there found it necessary to take over a large warehouse to serve as an emergency shelter for scores of northern 'transplants' who arrived en masse and could not find suitable work.

"These people had metal or auto industry jobs and they ended up in a place where the only good jobs are in computer science or technology."

A group of selected charities agencies monitored throughout the 1970s revealed a rise from 3,700 families given shelter to 82,000 families — in just one year. Surveying that same group, the number of meals distributed increased from 70,000 daily to 8.8 million — also in one year.

Urbanization

Eliminating the causes of unemployment is almost impossible, said Fr. Harvey, because the country is changing so rapidly — metal industry jobs become more mechanized and computerized, depleting a need for manpower and the nation's powerful auto industry has failed to keep up with the demands of the consumer.

Urban areas are changing too fast, spreading out and overshadowing tractable farmland. The traditional family farm may soon be outmoded altogether, by the year 2000 may exist only in museums as a nostalgic structure of the past. In Fr. Harvey's own parish of 500 families, a rural community north of Pittsburgh, there are only 15 family farms that remain and 95 of all of them only one family has no income outside of the farm.

Another cause of unemployment can be traced to the major corporations in America. They buy up tracts of land for development, pushing out small landowners. Minerals are depleted, a quick economy is built and a dependent class is formed.

Although it would seem that many in the work force could help relieve part of this burden, Fr. Harvey said, "Only 4 percent of women today are making $30,000 a year. And although 33 percent of all workers are female, many who prefer to be with their children take on part time jobs. Others can't afford the cost of child care when they take less demanding jobs."

The task that lies ahead in serving the unemployed must be tackled by both government and Catholic Charities, said Fr. Harvey. In their regional studies, Catholic Charities continually assess their role.

"What we have to ask is, how do we get social services to meet the needs of the unemployed and the poor? How do we enter into a dialogue? All of these issues are inter-related and I'm hearing them all across the country."
Unified help for children of war-torn Lebanon

By PRENT BROWNING
Voice Staff Writer

It is a fact of war that it is often cruel in the heart of the bystanders. Perhaps no more innocent in war-torn Lebanon are the crippled children who find the normal difficulties of their handicap infinitely compounded by war and lack of good medical facilities.

Not only do they have to suffer the horrors of serious injury or disease, often war-related, but sometimes they are victims of combat a second time while recovering in hospitals.

This was the case last year for many patients of the College du Liban Pour Les Handicaps, a children's hospital in Beirut, who were hit in early September by a Druze shelling. Lebanese Siham Ibrahim, president of the newly formed American Lebanese Christian Women's Society, was in Miami pleading for involvement in her organization which is helping to raise funds for a new operating room for the hospital.

Although they call themselves a Christian organization, Ibrahim is quick to emphasize that they are non-denominational and non-political.

The benefit $50 a plate dinner was organized locally by an Egyptian, Simonne Zontine, and attended by Moslem, Syrians, Palestinians, Jews, and Lebanese, all putting aside political differences for a common humanitarian cause.

THE RELIEF benefit was held at St. Jude Melkite Church which along with Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church sponsored the event.

The Chicago-based organization, in addition to raising funds for surgical facilities that are expected to cost $225,000, has also reached out in a more personal way to the handicapped children overseas.

Ibrahim recently made contact with the Lebanese parents who had saved everything to bring their 11-year-old son, needing eye surgery for glaucoma, to Chicago. Through her efforts they were able to admit him to an area hospital free.

The surgery, without which he would have lost his sight in two years, appears at this moment to have been successful.

The society president will soon be returning to Lebanon for the first time in 18 years to escort a nine-year-old paraplegic girl back to the United States. The parents of the girl, who was injured by an incendiary bomb, are both blind, Ibrahim told the benefit audience.

"IF WE ARE United in all the United States," she said of the small organization, "we could be big, big when we go to ask for help for these children. When we demand help we could get it."

(Anyone interested in becoming involved can write to the American Lebanese Christian Women's Society, P.O. Box 3874, Oak Brook, Ill.)

The dinner was highlighted by Lebanese music and the well-known Middle Eastern singer "Kahraman" who donated her talents on short notice to the cause.

The closing speaker, Anthony Abraham, Honorary Counsel to Lebanon and former owner of Abraham Chevrolet, spoke of the responsibility of Americans to do what they can to ease the hardships of the Lebanese.

"HERE WE SIT in peace and harmony," he said, "not a fear in our hearts of a bomb falling or a shell... We hold in our hands each of us the faith of the weary, the wounded, the crippled, and the innocent children of our heritage."

"Tonight we can show these victims that there is a love across the ocean."

POPE ON LEBANON

Asks to pray, Lebanese to renounce

From Voice wire reports

In messages to the Lebanese people and to all the bishops of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II has urged a renewed spirit of reconciliation and dialogue in Lebanon and a resolve to "conquer evil with good."

The Pope spoke of the solidarity of Christians throughout the world who share the suffering of the Lebanese people.

In a letter to his bishops he said: "I invite you to pray and to ask for prayers for our Christian Lebanese brothers and sisters: that they may have the courage to believe in the future and then to gather ever more closely around their bishops in order as a Church to bring God's name to their fellow citizens. In a Lebanon that is still prey to divisions and exclusivism of every kind, it is of utmost importance that the Christian community be seen as a leaven of unity and reconciliation."

In a separate message to the Lebanese people he urged: "Everyone must be ready to make an examination of conscience, to renounce something, to enter into discussion, so that the values shared by everyone can prevail: moral rectitude, concern for truth, the meaning of man, true solidarity, the defence of freedoms and respect for traditions."

The Pope sees the worldwide Christian community as taking a lead in inspiring and praying for a spirit of peace and compromise in that conflict-torn country.

"They must know that we are spiritually sharing their lot with the awareness of our belonging to the one same family. We are not forgetting them. More, rather: we are counting on them and on their presence in a democratic Lebanon, open to others, in dialogue with cultures and religions, which only in this way is capable of surviving and guaranteeing their existence in freedom and dignity."

THE POPE also urged that the Lebanese people not "lose confidence in Lebanon itself."

He spoke of the role that the area has played in the history of civilization itself as a center for the Phoenicians and as a crossroads of religion and East-West cultural dialogue.

The pope hopes that the earlier spirit of "openness" and pluralism can be rediscovered and create the basis for the future of Lebanon.

"I know well that the unleashing of violence in these recent years has created a climate of doubt and suspicion that sometimes causes anathemas to be hurled against someone who does not think as you do or does not share the same religious faith. But I am likewise convinced that it is not too late to overcome this situation: to accept rediscovers oneself among men, to look upon each other as brothers and sisters, is already to be on the way to a solution. This means that one cannot give into failure."

"The Lebanese are believers, and therefore they know that the Creator has entrusted their land to them to make it habitable and receptive for everyone!"

Siham Ibrahim

Local
The Rev.'s' Recipe for success

Brother/chef stirs in kindness and respect for troubled kids

By Betsy Kennedy
Voice Staff Writer

In Brother Ron Picarski's cooking class at McArthur High School South, students learn that "man does not live on bread alone;" (Matthew 4:4).

"I try to give them a recipe for healthy and productive living. We discuss everything from black history to human sexuality," said the likeable Franciscan friar, who is a nationally recognized and prize-winning chef and a devout vegetarian.

His students are 9th through 12th graders who attend classes at McArthur public school in the Kendall area of Dade County because they aren't able to adjust to regular public school life.

"Most of these kids just couldn't survive because of learning disabilities, poor attention span or in some cases, teachers just got tired of them and threw them out the door..." said Brother Picarski.

In Brother Picarski's class they learn the basic tasks of working in a large kitchen and preparing foods for quantity service. After they graduate from McArthur, they are sufficiently trained to work in fast food chain restaurants or hotels until they can further their careers.

"McArthur is their last chance. Why is it that teachers just get tired of them?..." he had piled nearly 200 pounds on his 5'9" frame. He spent more than a decade cooking for robust brothers who thrived on meat and potatoes. In 1976 he attended a lecture by a famous health food doctor who discussed a mucous condition that Brother Picarski suffered from. "What have I got to lose, but weight?" he balled up his fist and nearly hit me, but I prevailed."

The brother's tough posture finally won him acceptance among the student leaders, "Bubba" "Squirrel" and "Cool Pipes." He knew he was one of them when they dubbed him "Rev."

Robust brothers
Yet winning respect from his students is only one of the many obstacles the gentle friar has had to overcome in his life. He once tended to over-indulge and go on junk food binges.

It all began when he got his first taste of the food business at the age of 12 at his family's friendly neighborhood restaurant in Petoskey, Mich. By the time he was appointed to St. Pachal's novitiate and retirement home in Oak Brook, Ill., he had piled nearly 200 pounds on his 5'9" frame. He spent more than a
he saw on food bills he gives to support a poor child through the month he saves on food bills he gives 8-hour day at McArthur. The $16 a

Foods companies are currently utilizing 30 Ph.D.'s to develop a sugar that it can eat well on a vegetarian diet, he recalled. But
defied the food giants and attempted to expand the possibilities of eliminating world hunger.

"We are the stewards of the earth's resources. How we handle our food will ultimately determine how we handle the universe."

He gets a great measure of success in life from teaching. Yet his visions stretch far beyond the classroom walls. He wants to teach people to use food wisely, to be healthy and to understand that food "affects us spiritually, socially and politically."

He is also certain that God has been directing his food ministry every step of the way, from his days of washing dishes at his family's restaurant to his stint at the elegant Turnberry Isle Yacht and Racquet Club in Miami and finally his work with the high school students.

He fasts four days a week, a regimen which he insists fuels him for his arduous schedule—he works several evenings a week at Robert Morgan Technical School after an 8-hour day at McArthur. The $16 a month he saves on food bills he gives to support a poor child through the World Vision organization. He even recommends that sick people fast.

"It is the body's natural process to flush out the wastes from diseases. Once the body is going through a critical stage of illness, it can't cope with both the digestion process and the illness."

Exploitation

If the U.S. government would concentrate more on the value of human life and less on the exploitation of food in under-developed countries for the sake of profit, hunger would not be the world-wide critical problem it is today, according to the now slender friar.

The food giants sour the problem further by placing improper emphasis on their food research projects. For instance, General Mills and General Foods companies are currently utilizing 30 Ph. D.'s to develop a sugar that won't cause cavities, instead of devising ways of controlling food consumption. "Sugar is the worst of all foods," he complained.

Instructor Malcolm Thomas and students crush ice old fashioned way. (Main photo by Betsy Kennedy)

Food for peace

In 1980, Brother Picarski won the International Culinary Olympics in Frankfurt, West Germany, for his vegetable pate, all-natural appetizers and pastries. He was the only natural foods chef in the competition. He plans to enter the 1984 competition, using the theme "Foods for Peace."

The food will be displayed in a model of an official NATO Alliance bomber plane. Since he wants to show "the crucifix can overcome the sword," a crucifix will be displayed in the cockpit. Light poached foods such as hippen shells (made from a mixture of almond paste and lecithin) will be presented. He will also feature "sitan," a meat substitute made of wheat gluten. Through foods for peace he hopes to expand the possibilities of eliminating world hunger.

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Either way Soviets lose.

Abraham Lincoln, of course, was right. "You can't fool all of the people all the time."

Most recent case in point: Russian authorities' tortured squirreling and withering under the pressure of world opinion in the case of Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov. The physicist's outspoken denunciation of human rights abuses committed by the leaders of the much propagated "people's paradise" earned him the title of dissident, and in 1980, the authorities banished him and his wife to Gorky, a city where foreign journalists are not permitted to go.

The Russian logic was clear: If you can't silence the man by inhumane abuse, make sure no one is around to hear his message and pass it on.

The Russians were in a bind. Expelling Sakharov from their country would leave him free to shatter, before the rest of the world, Communism's fragile but carefully well-crafted image of itself as Utopia. The Western press even reported that Sakharov had died, to which TASS, the government-controlled news agency, somewhat incredibly replied: "Sakharov feels well, is eating regularly and is leading an active way of life."

Once more, the Russians are caught in their own web of deceit: Let the press see Sakharov, and his accusations reach the front page of every newspaper in the globe. Let no one see Sakharov, and his name remains on those front pages, a daily reminder that the Soviet Union, while portraying itself as magnanimous, freedom-loving defender of human rights, does its brutal best to squash any dissent on the subject.

We pray that the truth about Sakharov's fate will somehow come out. And we pray it will be good news.

But in a way, this courageous scientist already has brought to light, through his own suffering and, in no small measure, with the unwitting help of those who persecute him, the truth he has been prevented from speaking.

The truth about the inhumanity of the Soviet state is embodied in Andrei Sakharov.

EDITORIAL

the well-guarded image.

But despite Russian authorities' "Gorky solution" to the "Sakharov problem," the physicist has remained in the mind of the free world. This May, he reportedly began a hunger strike, and Russian authorities' refusal to allow his wife to travel outside Russia for medical treatment.

The inquisitiveness of the world press heightened, the Russians tightened their grip, hoping to silence all discussion of Sakharov's situation. Neither the 63-year old physicist nor his wife has been seen by anyone for a number of weeks.

Of course, this "disappearing" act does not play well in the media. Speculation about Sakharov's fate continues, as does pressure from diplomatic sources, pressure which angers the Russians to no end.

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We pray that the truth about Sakharov's fate will somehow come out. And we pray it will be good news.
During the sixties I participated in a conference on sexuality at the secular Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. One of the speakers, an older man, Dr. Max Levin, a psychiatrist and clinical professor of neurology at New York City's Medical College, rather strongly supported the values of premarital chastity and marital fidelity.

Later, in an introduction to a book for young people on sex, love and marriage, Levin reiterated his position. He wrote that moral codes serve the felt needs of our society and that our traditional Judeo-Christian ethic, far from being an arbitrary, autocratic edict, "can stand on its own inherent psychological sense and possesses its own sociological wisdom."

In effect the psychiatrist maintained that chastity looked over heaven's human beings, marriages stronger, families healthier and the world in general better.

But Dr. Levin stood as a voice crying in the wilderness and a leader bucking the trend of our times. At that conference, for example, a well known international anthropologist ridiculed his views and snidely attributed them to Levin's senility and his narrowmindedness.

The sexual revolution was in full force then and one man's arguments could hardly plug the dike and it is a slender philosophy to date that revolt between 1965 and 1975 and cite various surveys to document within this period a shift toward more permissive attitudes about sex and the "sexual function" and "every genital act must be within the framework of marriage." "A Declaration on Sexual Ethics" made this point in 1975, and more recently, a document in 1983 from Rome containing outlines for sex education taught that "relationships of sexual intimacy are reserved to marriage."

The sexual revolution, however, persisted with its doctrine, insisting there are certain unchangeable and universal values or rules, one of which is that the "sexual function" and "every genital act must be within the framework of marriage." "A Declaration on Sexual Ethics" made this point in 1975, and more recently, a document in 1983 from Rome containing outlines for sex education taught that "relationships of sexual intimacy are reserved to marriage."


deficit and deafness.

Dr. Max Levin's book was released. He was both surprised and pleased that "The Last Western" was so well received by the rest. Before "The Last Western" was off the presses, I was shouting its praises wherever I could.

It was a giant volume, 559 pages, but it read so easily that the only difficulty with it was putting it down. It is as modern as the Pepsi Cola jingle a little boy sings as a hymn and as universal as man's search for peace in the world.

WHEN I WROTE about it 10 years ago, I said I believed it would become a classic among college age young people. It has achieved this in only some countries, and in the country, it is a still a work beloved and of great interest.

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Faith and illness

It's taken medicine a long time to catch up with religion but it has happened. At the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Los Angeles, the professionals came out and said it straight: Faith and hope have a role to play in preventing and curing physical illness.

One researcher was quoted as saying, "Hope represents a significant medical factor. Not only is there a physiological response to hope, but it can be objectively measured."

A study done at an Eastern Pennsylvania hospital was cited. Patients known to have greater feelings of "hopefulness" required less pain medication and they recovered sooner than patients with less hope.

The greater therapeutic results were recorded in patients both with psychosomatic illnesses and physical medical problems — like arthritis, cancer and heart disease.

THE RELATIONSHIP between faith, hope and health is startling enough to justify bringing this to the attention of medical students early in their training, the researchers said.

A doctor stated: "So far there's been insufficient recognition of this mind-body connection. This needs to be addressed in the first year of medical school."

For people raised to take Jesus seriously, those admissions should come as no surprise. I was taught as a child that Jesus was the "divine physician." And if we listened to his words and teachings, the title made sense.

If we followed the blueprint he gave us for mature living, the end product would be peace — a good sign of health.

Medicine now acknowledges that living in a way that lessens fears, anxieties and stress can increase good health. Scientists have found a link between stress and the body's immune system.

THEY THINK they can show how negative feelings, loss, helplessness, despair, depression and stress trigger a suppression of the immune system, leaving the person victim to a host of complications.

On the other hand, scientists have found that hope seems able to promote healthy cell production by suppressing cells which undermine the immune system.

More and more doctors are beginning to admit there is more to healing than drugs and knives. Dr. Bernard Siegel, a Yale surgeon who is a practicing Jew, says he now "brings God back into the operating room." He gives talks on how a physician he was "trained in the wrong direction" because no one spoke to him of love.

In a recent interview he said he had been attracted to the "miracles created by survivors." He added, "You can pick up literature on concentration camp survivors of conscience who's made it off a life raft or survived a catastrophic illness."

They all tell you the same thing: "I loved. I forgave. I accepted. I had faith and hope and I made it," Siegel said. He now leans heavily on these "tools that are outside the realm of medicine."

The relationship between faith, hope and health is startling enough to justify bringing this to the attention of medical students early in their training, the researchers said.

The message is not new.

(ANC News Service)

Making democracy work

Ways in which the individual can become involved in the political process are suggested by The Christophers in their latest issue of New Notes titled "Making Democracy Work."

"Good government depends on the willingness of each person — farmer and executive, cook and store owner, student and teacher, artist and artisan — to play his or her part in politics," News Notes states. The Christophers offer these suggestions:

— Register to vote — or re-register if you have moved since the last election.

— Procure an absentee ballot if you cannot get to the polls on election day.

— Instruct your children in the principles of citizenship.

— Vote in the primaries and on election day.

— Work on behalf of a candidate, a party or a cause.

— Contribute to the formation of public opinion.

BY FR. JOHN CATOIR

BY ANTOINETTE BOSCO

BY TOM LENNON

Too close for comfort sometimes

Q. How can I stop my parents from arguing so much? (New York) A. Many Americans dream of a perfect family life. They desperately want a loving home in which dwell a number of loving family members. A young college student, however, recently voiced an idea that may be closer to reality. This level-headed, well-adjusted young man said, "Too often family life is more like a crucible.

In case you're wondering what a "crucible" is, one of the definitions given in The Random House Dictionary is, "a severe test."

LET'S FACE IT: Family living often tests our patience and love to a severe degree. This is partly because it is long-term living. There's ample time to see not only the nice qualities of people but also the not-so-nice qualities. It is quite different from being with a group of people for only two or three days.

And so bitter fights can develop. Some family members may go for days without speaking to one another.

At other times it may be only an argument in which there is disagree-

ment but no hatred. It sounds like your parents have a need to argue at the present time. They need to air their disagreements. This may be very healthy and may prevent grudges from festering and blowing up into hatred.

Still, it's unpleasant for you. And it may be that you can do absolutely nothing at the present time to stop their frequent arguing.

On the other hand, maybe you can. Could you talk to each parent separately and tell them how and why their frequent arguments disturb and pain you?

SPEAK QUITELY, however, without hostility, without a tone of accusation and with the intent of letting them know how much you love them both.

Come right out and say, "I love you both so much, and I just hate to see you arguing so often." Then you might add, "Is there any way you can resolve your differences calmly and quietly?"

If you hesitate to initiate such a conversation, you might cut this column out of the newspaper and leave it on the kitchen table in the hope that one or both of your parents will see and read it.

Always hope that your situation will get better. But if it does not, keep on arguing to grow in patience and love of the love of both parents.

What's really happening in your crucial family life is that you are being given a tough challenge to mature in family loving.

If you can live through it in a positive way you will grow as a person and you will be much better equipped for the marriage you may enter one day.

(ANC News Service)
Dear Dr. Kenny: I will be getting married this summer to a wonderful woman. Our problem is that she has a 5-year-old daughter, Jana, who is beginning to show some signs of feeling left out.

During the two years we have dated, I have come to love this child as my own. I plan to adopt

BY DR. JAMES AND MARY KENNY

her legally as soon as we are married.

However, right now she seems to resent the time her mother and I spend together. She enjoys being with either of us alone, but she just doesn’t like to see us go off together. We plan to include her as ring bearer in the wedding. Any other suggestions? (Iowans)

You sound like a wise and kind man, anticipating problems your child might have. I hear so much today about how children interfere with the happiness of adults. When engaged couples have children from a previous marriage, they are often advised, “Remember, you are only marrying each other, not the whole family.”

While there is some truth in the above advice, I feel it is rather naive, especially when young children are concerned. Of course, you are not marrying the entire family. Nevertheless, you are establishing a significant and permanent relationship with all your spouse’s relatives. To be concerned right now about Jana’s feelings is a good beginning to your new career as a father.

First of all, you need to accept the fact that Jana is upset. While she is gaining a father, she is also getting competition for the attention of her mother. She will need time to adjust to this new situation. What can you do to ease her mind?

UNDERSTAND THAT Jana is upset, but don’t let her cause you to feel guilty about being alone together. You and your fiancée need time with each other. Jana will have to learn to accept this. She must learn that she cannot separate you.

Begin now to reach out to Jana as a couple. Take her places with you this spring, tour, zoos, museums, movies and dinners out. Let her learn that your love for each other only multiples your love for her and that your mutual affection is not a threat.

“THAT’S HOW IT all began. John came with

Dear Fr. J.B. Christensen in Halifax last year and discovered that this priest was presently legal guardian to his fourth ‘adopted’ son. When I asked him about his experience with me, he sent a six-page, single-spaced letter full of stories of parent-teacher conferences, police visits, and sleepless nights.

“What do you tell a boy whose mother is an alcoholic? About getting the most out of life, because he came home expecting to see her sober and find her soused to the gills and she doesn’t know what to do. And know that if he stays in that environment much longer, he’s going to turn out the same way.

“What can a priest living in a rectory with other men do? Well, here’s what I did in early July, 1977. I ‘adopted’ a 12-year-old parish, I’d adopt you myself!’ And it wasn’t more than two weeks later that the Archdiocesan called me in and asked if I would become parish priest in a seacoast town called Liverpool. My first parish. My OWN parish.

—Spontaneous Prayer

DOLORES CURRAN

BEING AN UNWED FATHER, as you refer me, has been a joy. Painful at times, but well worth the pain. My greatest reward has been rearing the boys mature. Seeing them become what they want to be. Sharing their happy times and their sad times.

“I have a tremendous bishop, as you already know. He has quietly supported me all the way. And this has helped me personally. It’s an experience I’d love to have for anything. I have received so much from my boys.”

Fr. Christensen didn’t make any appeal for funds but for those who might want to help, his address is P.O. Box 484, Amherst, Nova Scotia, Canada B4H 4A1.

(All Publishing Co.)
The validity of marriages

Q. I find two of your recent columns difficult to understand. In the first you included a statement that a Catholic must marry before a priest or deacon unless he has formally rejected his Catholic faith. However, in a later column there is no mention of rejecting this faith in order to be married by a justice of the peace. Is this correct?

A. The basic issue is: What marriages of Catholics or former Catholics are recognized as valid by the Catholic Church? If a Catholic joins another religious denomination, for example, he or she is simply not bound by the law that the Catholic Church would consider that union a true and valid marriage. A Catholic who has not formally rejected his faith is obliged to the Catholic form of marriage; that is, to be married by a qualified priest or deacon. Without the bishop's dispensation from that form, marriage of a Catholic to a non-Catholic is not a valid marriage according to the laws of the Catholic Church.

Q. Why does the church pay so little attention to the feast of the Annunciation? If the church recognizes that human life begins with conception, why is the feast of the Incarnation celebrated a few hundred years later?

A. First, let's clarify the question for those who may not be as familiar with Catholic feasts as you are. The feast of the Annunciation commemorates the event at which the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her of God's plan that Jesus should be born of her. Presumably it was at this time that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary. The feast is celebrated on March 25, exactly nine months before Christmas. You make a good and significant point. In light of the celebration of Christmas, I wonder how many Christians realize that it was on the day of the Annunciation, not on the day of Christ's birth, that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

Admitting this, however, there are several good reasons I believe for our traditional celebration of Christmas as the "day of Christ's coming" rather than the Annunciation. First, the feast of the Nativity is much older in the church than the feast of the Annunciation, which began a few hundred years later and was set on its date because of the celebration of the birth of our Lord on Dec. 25. I believe we can compare this with our own celebrations. We still celebrate birthdays, partly because it is much easier to nail down than the day of conception. A birthday is the day when we begin to exist, as it were, "visibly" in the world. By celebrating our children's birth day we are simply celebrating their existence. We do not insist on cloud or deny the fact that they were our living children before the act of birth.

Q. Our baby was recently baptized a Catholic. Her sponsors were a Protestant and a Catholic who is not practicing her faith. I feel both godparents would raise the child Catholic, but more than one sponsor must be practicing a Catholic. Is our baby validly baptized?

A. As if to dispel any mistaken ideas, I mention two of our living children before the act of birth. I suspect that the "fear" angle has something else behind it. If God were all-powerful and all-wise, why would "fear" enter into the equation at all? God is slow to anger and abounding in great kindness. It is up to us to live out our side of the covenant.
When Jerry Lewis coveted on stage for 20 hours during his Labor Day telethon, she sat quietly in the audience and supported him. When he joked in concerts about his six sons and how he was going to "think pink" to father a girl, she was the mom who stayed home and raised the boys.

When he split up with Dean Martin in one of the most widely-publicized professional severings in history (Roebuck never left Sears), she comforted him and encouraged his solo career.

But when they split up, there were no offers for her to make movies on her own. That's why Patti Lewis has found comfort in a support group for divorced women and encourages other ex-wives to do the same.

As a sign of her commitment to that, she called me the other day to speak in support of a group called Displaced Homemakers, which seeks to aid women suddenly thrust into the world after years of being a wife and mother.

Mrs. Lewis knows the experience well. After more than 30 years as Jerry's wife, their marriage ended in divorce a few years ago. She then got a call from another ex-wife of a celebrity, Lynn Landon, who invited her to a meeting.

"They were all divorced wives of famous people," Mrs. Lewis told me. "I didn't know anyone when I joined, but now I have a wonderful feeling being with them. They are so positive. We're surviving.

Survival can be difficult when a woman faces the world for the first time after a divorce. Mrs. Lewis noted. When her group was - publicized, the women began to receive handwritten letters from people wondering what to do with their lives.

"We got so much mail that we felt we weren't qualified to answer," Mrs. Lewis told me. "So we search- ed out people who would know, like Displaced Homemakers. We refer the letters to them. The writers ask what they can do when their husbands have left them with no support, some talk about suicide."

Some letters ask less cataclysmic questions and Mrs. Lewis handles those on her own. She often spends late hours answering them "because I feel maybe I can ease a little pain if I do."

Mrs. Lewis recalls a more hectic time, when her husband were in the public eye.

"We could never go undisturbed when in public," she recalled. "We went shopping once for shoes and in minutes hundreds of people were outside. We had to fight our way to the car. It's frightening sometimes. There's no privacy at all."

Her heart goes out on the tour bus maps sold to Los Angeles visitors and she is still gawked at by people at all hours.

"I have to pick roses at 7 a.m. if I want to do it without being seen," Mrs. Lewis said.

A Catholic, she remains active in her parish and has no plans to seek an annulment.

"He'll always be my husband," she said. "We shared a lot of our lives and six sons. We grew up together. Religion has been a com-

The Lord is always there for you even when you feel empty.'

"We could never go undisturbed when in public," she recalled. "We went shopping once for shoes and in minutes hundreds of people were outside. We had to fight our way to the car. It's frightening sometimes. There's no privacy at all."

As for her relationship with Jerry, Mrs. Lewis said, "It's friendly. I call him. And I pray for him and his wife every day because that's the way I am. He'll always be my hus-

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**Sixteen Candles**—Lampoon style laughs

**THE BOUNTY — A-II, PG**

This is a review of the new film based on the HMS Bounty saga which portrays Lt. William Bligh (Anthony Hopkins) as a hero, albeit a slightly more humane Christian (Mel Gibson) as an unstable young man bewitched by a Tahitian beauty. The film is done with intelligence and visual flare and is marked by fine acting by Hopkins and Gibson and sure direction from Roger Donaldson. But the film suffers because Robert Bolt's script is too modernized, as, by a dose of foul language, a pervasive vulgarity, some de rigueur shower room nudity — modernized, as, by a dose of foul language, a pervasive vulgarity, some de rigueur shower room nudity — modernized, as, by a dose of foul language, a pervasive vulgarity, some de rigueur shower room nudity — modernized, as, by a dose of foul language, a pervasive vulgarity, some de rigueur shower room nudity — modernized, as, by a dose of foul language, a pervasive vulgarity, some de rigueur shower room nudity — modernized, as, by a dose of foul language, a pervasive vulgarity, some de rigueur shower room nudity.

"Turned Point," but this quickie movie done to cash in on the break-
dancing craze is innocuous, light entertainment. Lucinda Dickey, play-
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Ireland in September

Come with Helen Moyen of Sacred Heart Parish, Lake Worth for an exciting two weeks: Our driver-guide will be Terry Flynn of Lismore Tours, Ireland. Our itinerary includes Tralee, The Ring of Kerry, Blarney, Waterford & Glendalough. Next, Dublin, The Shrine at Knock, and Four Days in Connemara. Then, it's the Cliffs of Moher, The Medieval Banquet & home. Included are quality accommoda-

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**Surviving celebrity divorce**

**Jerry Lewis' wife shares her pain**

Jerry Lewis' wife shares her pain
New officers of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women were present for this mass which was concelebrated by Archbishop Thomas A. Wenski, left to right: Jackie Orlando, corresponding member; President; Dorothy Sacher, recording secretary; and Mary McNaney, treasurer.

The Serra Club of Miami held its Annual Essay Contest for the 5/6th -7/8th Grades and 9th Grades, CCD A high schools. The following winners will be honored at St. John Vianney Seminary 5 p.m. Mass in Chapel, this Saturday, June 16.

For 5/6th Grades (250 wds) Title - "What does Jesus want from me?" Tony Cocone, St. Joseph, M.B., Winner $100; Amanda Salter, Good Shepherd (CCD), Second $50; Kelly Hong Ting, Holy Family, Third $25.

For 7/8th Grades: (400) Title - "To Be A Christian Is To Be ..." Stefan Stryzak, Holy Rosary, Winner $100; Juan Tabazo, Episcopal School, Second $50; Christina Riviera, St. Kevin, Third $25.

For 9th Grades & High Schools (500) Title — "A God Who Calls": Monica M. Lasecki, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Winner $100; Margarita Grana, St. Brendan, Second $50; Suzette Burbank, Our Lady of Lourdes Academy, Third $25.

There will also be the installation of the officers for 1984-85 administration by Chaplain, Fr. Gus Miyara.

Following are the officers: President, J. Michael Fitzgerald; V.P. Programs, Frank G. Brennan; V.P. Membership, George E. Barket; V.P. Vocations, Patrick A. Assalone; Secretary, J. Patrick Fitzgerald; Treasurer, Frank Ferrer. Also awarded for years of religious instruction was Eileen Fitzgerald who received the St. Anne award.

The Rev. Francis Lechiara, former pastor of St. Augustine Church, Coral Gables, now serving as pastor of St. Thomas More Church, Boynton Beach, was honored by the Archdiocese for his service to the Archdiocese during noon Mass on Sunday, June 3 at St. Augustine Church.

The Lumen Christi (Light of Christ) award, an annual presentation of the Guild to someone who has distinguished themselves in the field of education was given to Father Lechiara, formerly an instructor at Miami-Dade Community College and the University of Miami.

A native of Bradford, Pa., who was ordained in 1959, Father Lechiara has

Children enjoy Safari

About seventy-five children from the Palm Beach and Belle-Clade Day Care Centers had the experience of a bus trip and day spent at Lion Country Safari. It was the first time that they were able to see live animals in captivity.

The children went in two groups on Tuesday and Thursday June 5 and 7th.

Arrangements were made by Pauline Long, President of the Palm Beach Day Nursery, and Catherine Flynn, Community Affairs Commissioner of the National Council of Catholic Women who funded the children. Transportation was by bus furnished by our Lady Queen of Peace Parish of Delray.

The North Dade Catholic Singles Club is sponsoring a "Long Hot Summer" dance at 8 p.m. on June 23 at St. James Church, 561 N.W. 225th St., Miami Gardens. Tickets are $5.90 at the door, $5.40 in advance. For more information call 941-5546.

The North Dade Catholic Widowers Club will hold a meeting social at 7:30 p.m. on June 22 at Visitation Church social hall at 1916 St. and North Miami Ave. Call 653-2689 or 653-2689. Refreshments.

The North Dade Catholic Widows and Divorced will hold a Wine and Divorced Catholics social at 7:30 p.m. on June 653-2689. Refreshments.

The North Dade Catholic Widows Club held a meeting social at 7:30 p.m. on June 22 at Visitation Church social hall at 1916 St. and North Miami Ave. Call 653-2689 or 653-2689. Refreshments.

The North Dade Catholic Widows Club will hold its next meeting on June 23 at the St. Bernard Parish center, 879 Sumner Street, Sunrise. Novices and inquirers formation lessons start at noon followed at 1 p.m. by regular meeting.

Mercy Hospital's patient Education Department is now accepting registration for couples interested in attending the workshop on June 14. He will speak about Sexuality. The program will begin at the St. Andrew's School at 8:00 p.m. For information call Nancy 732-0416.

St. Bernard Parish Franciscans will hold their next meeting on June 10 at the St. Bernard Parish center, 879 Sumner Street, Sunrise. Novices and inquirers formation lessons start at noon followed at 1 p.m. by regular meeting.

The North Dade Catholic Widowers Club, 7015 N.E. 19th Ave. Miami, has asked to hold a meeting at 7:30 p.m. on June 26 at the Northside Catholic Church, 5010 N.W. 12th Ave., Miami. For more information call 853-2046.

The North Dade Catholic Widows Club will hold a meeting and social at 7:30 p.m. on June 26 at the Northside Catholic Church, 5010 N.W. 12th Ave., Miami. For more information call 941-5546.

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"When one thinks of atheists, a stereotype may come to mind. We may think of an "atheistic communist" out to destroy Christian faith. But some people are atheists in practical terms. These people actually may go to Mass on Sunday and pray ... but they have a "god" of some material good such as money or power. Thus they are idol worshippers."

By John J. Castelot
NC News Service

"Well, father, I guess I am still a Catholic, sort of. But I really don't believe in God any more," the student said.

I have heard that seemingly contradictory statements many times in universities. It is a dramatic reminder that atheism is still a real possibility. It may take the form either of philosophical or practical atheism.

Some people relate scientific and technological developments to atheism's existence. Others cite the influence of philosophical, sociological and political thinkers who interpret religious belief in a negative light.

The experience of evil is one of the main factors leading a person to believe that there is no God. When people see innocent youths who are suffering, they may stand in admiration of it. Other people are amazed at the beauty of nature and try to control it with admiration and fear. They reacted to nature — totally other.

A world without God was simplistic. Living close to nature, many ancient peoples were caught up in its recurring cycles. They stood in admiration of it, sometimes in fear. They reacted to God in the same ways they reacted to nature — with admiration and fear.

Many people identified nature with God and tried to control it through various religious rites. The Egyptians did not go this far. God may have controlled nature. But for them God was distinct from nature — totally other.

GOD MAY have made the sun to shine and the rains to fall. But neither the sun nor the rain were God. They were God's creatures. It is true that after the Israelis entered the Promised Land they were strongly attracted to the nature worship and fertility cults of their neighbors. But they learned that this kind of infidelity brought about trouble.
Leading the young back to God

By Joe Michael Feint

Fresh out of high school and in his first year of college, the young man started to stay away from Sunday liturgies more and more often. Some he ceased to attend at all. Mass and the sacraments just didn't seem to matter. This pattern continued after he joined the Army and served in Europe.

He would later say that he didn't stop believing in God. It was, as he described it, a "crisis of faith," a period of doubting and searching that lasted for about three years.

Then one day in Salt Lake City, the young man was drawn most inexplicably, to the cathedral. The bishop's homily had such an impact that the crisis ended. He returned to the church of his youth.

The young man, who had struggled with his faith, eventually entered the seminary and was ordained. Today he is Bishop Rene Gracida of Corpus Christi, Texas.

According to Father Joseph Kenna, stories such as Bishop Gracida's are quite common. Father Kenna is the representative for Campus and Young Adult Ministry in the Education Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference in Washington, D.C.

The skepticism experienced by so many young people, said Father Kenna, is part of the common process of "rejecting, of cleaning house, of then pulling things back in that fit.

In fact, such people can be on a "profound spiritual journey," said Father Kenna, who served as associate parish minister in the state of Washington for 14 years. After a few years, many young adults tend to come back to the faith of their childhood. But, he noted, they come back as adults, not children.

The Camden priest said that he is called on occasionally to help people as they struggle with questions about God. He indicated that it is not uncommon for Catholics to flirt with atheism for a time.

Frequently it happens when a person is confronted for the first time personally with the presence of evil, he said.

Atheists often throw the existence of evil in the face of believers as the reason for rejecting a divine being. Asked how he handles that situation, Father McGrath said he gently points out that God doesn't plan the tragedies that occur in human life.

The doubting person must be led to recognize that human beings are imperfect and so is the world we live in. Evil things happen — but that doesn't mean we must conclude that God can't exist, he said.

In his experience, people who confront such questions often become fuller believers in the long run.

Evil, God and unbelief

By Katherine Bird

The God many atheists reject "is not God as he really is at all," said Father Roger McGrath, director of evangelization for the Diocese of Camden, N.J.

Many atheists draw God in narrow strokes of the pen, Father McGrath thinks. They paint him as "a petty God, a scorekeeper and punisher.

Other times atheists cast God in a "distortion of a father image" and reject it, Father McGrath commented, adding that "I'd have no part of such a God either.

The Camden priest said that he is called on occasionally to help people as they struggle with questions about God. He indicated that it is not uncommon for Catholics to flirt with atheism for a time. Frequently it happens when a person is confronted for the first time personally with the presence of evil, he said.

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Atheism and Catholics

Atheism was a topic explored by the Second Vatican Council. In its 1965 document, the "Constitution on the Church in the Modern World," the ecumenical council explained that the word "atheism" refers to complex situations. It is not "to signify things that differ considerably from one another.

- Some people expressly deny God's existence.
- Some maintain that humanity has nothing to say about God.
- Some are more prone to affirm humanity than to deny God.
- Still others have a faulty notion of God. What they disown is not the God of the Gospels.

In light of this last point, atheism exerts a kind of pressure on the church's people, the council suggested. It is a problem for believers as the reason who God is, so that others can see the God of the Gospels in the lives of Christians.

Here is what the council said about this:

Believers often share some responsibility for atheism. "To the extent that they are careless about their instruction in the faith, or present its teaching falsely, or even fail in their religious, moral or social life, they will be said to conceal rather than to reveal the true nature of God and of religion."

The council said atheism should be countered through teaching and through the example of people's lives.

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The council said atheism should be countered through teaching and through the example of people's lives. What does most to show others God's presence, the council said, is the visible love of the church's people. It is the task of the church to manifest God, and this is done chiefly by the witness of faith that is alive and mature.

Some atheists are concerned that belief in God robs human beings of their freedom and dignity. Others think believers will not take life in this world as seriously as it needs to be taken. Both of these concerns were addressed by the council.

The church holds that to acknowledge God is in now way to oppose the dignity of humanity, said the council. For this dignity is grounded and brought to perfection in God, who created the human person as an intelligent and free being.

Furthermore, the council stated, the church teaches that hope in life after death does not take away from the importance of tasks that need to be done in this world, but adds to their importance. (Council quotes from "The Documents of Vatican II." Austin P. Flannery, ed. Herder.)
Does this girl have psychic power?

'The better theologians would recognize that the mind has powers far beyond what we have been able to explain.'

—Fr. Walter Burghardt, S.J.

By NC News Service

A mysterious "force" that drew worldwide attention to a family in Columbus, Ohio — including comments by a Catholic newspaper editor — has been identified as psychokinetic energy, or the brain power of a 14-year-old family member.

Some had attributed the events — such as lights turning on and off, lamps, picture and candle moving and glass shattering — to a poltergeist, a "noisy" and "mischievous" ghost. Others claimed the episodes were part of an elaborate hoax.

As a result of studying and testing the teen-ager, Tina Resch, at the Physical Research Foundation in Chapel Hill, N.C., doctors determined she was "quite psychic" and had certain healing powers, the girl's adoptive mother, Joan Resch, told NC News.

MRS. RESCH said William Roll, director of the foundation, said the mysterious events were the results of recurrent spontaneous psychokinesis, or RSPK.

Jesuit Father Walter Burghardt, theologian-in-residence at the Georgetown University in Washington, said May 29 he did not know of any official church position on RSPK.

However, he said, "The better theologians would recognize that the mind has powers far beyond what we have been able to explain."

Attention surrounding the girl grew in March when Fred Shannon, a photographer for the Columbus Dispatch, photographed a telephone flying through the air near Tina. In an interview with Edgar V. Barmann, editor of the Catholic Universe Bulletin, Cleveland diocesan newspaper, Shannon said he witnessed a "force," "third party" or "Spirit" doing the destructive work.

Barmann and Shannon once worked together at a newspaper. Shannon is a member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Columbus.

Shannon said he was scared when he first entered the Resch house. "I feared that it might be a satanic force," Shannon told Barmann.

"But in relying on my strong faith, I felt I had the upper hand."

The photographer described for Barmann what he saw:

"I saw two candlesticks fly through the air. One struck the door, and another made a 90-degree turn and went down the hall. I saw a sofa pivot and scoot toward Tina. A box went swish, flew through the air and landed on a table eight feet away. The dining room was in shambles, the chandelier messed up and long stems and wine glasses broken. I saw the last wine glass break and metal coasters go through the air and make a lot of noise. The 'force' dabbled a picture. A chair chased Tina out of the room."

Barmann said he believed Shannon, who described as "one of the top news photographers in the nation...a person of unimpeachable character—conscientious, stable and truthful."

The Catholic newspaper editor said Shannon's account was so vivid that he called Father William Padavick at Barned College of Ohio in Wickliffe. Father Padavick is one of three priests to whom the Cleveland Diocese refers calls about reported activities of evil spirits.

The priest said he was skeptical about the case, since the activities would not be to the devil's advantage. "But the universe is rather big," Father Padavick told Barmann, "and there could be a lot of junk around that we don't know about."

In his column, published before the diagnosis of RSPK, Barmann said the events could be a hoax, psychological powers or the work of the devil, "whose power in today's secular society is underestimated, dismissed or scorned."

"In the knowledge explosion which has occurred in the past 50 years, we marvel at cures, inventions, the harnessing of energy and space exploration, but when a telephone, a box of Kleenex or an afghan moves unaided, we are baffled and are reminded how little we really do know," he said.

Mrs. Resch told NC News that Roll did not give the family complete details of Tina's case because he wants to present it to a conference of parapsychologists in Texas in August.

Camp Fire blues

By Hilda Young
NC News Service

My husband asked what I thought about taking the kids camping over an upcoming three-day weekend. That's like asking Margaret Thatcher if she'd like a vacation on the Falkland Islands.

"Oh, I don't know," I said casually. "How would you feel about volunteering you to run the Dad's Club paper drive?"

"You just don't like camping, do you?" he said deceptively.

"If I was meant to live over as a tiny green stone balanced on a big rock, God would have given me asbestos knuckles and a hinge in the middle of my back," I told him.

"Think about discovering a moldy swimming suit under the front seat two weeks from now, sleeping in a one person sleeping bag with a 5-year-old who is afraid of bats and has potato salad breath, about horns in the mayonnaise, about cleaning fish..."

"What about the camp fire songs, counting shooting stars, the memories," he interrupted.

"Don't forget sand in the toothpaste, sitting on fishing hooks, flaming marshmallows dropped on your bare feet," I added.

His eyes narrowed. "How about if I cook all the breakfasts and you get the good air mattress?"

"No salamanders, pet snakes, or other creatures near the tent?" I negotiated.

"I'll warn the kids," he said, holding one arm in the air and putting his hand over his heart. "It's a deal," I smiled.

I'll wait until we get back to tell him I wasn't kidding about the Dad's Club paper drive.