



**Batman lives!**

Batman flew in to Video Plus in Georgetown Saturday to take a peek at the store's added movies. The caped crusader helped celebrate the store's November expansion from 811 to over 2,800 movies. (Herald photo)

**Window dedicated to Helen Schwartz**

By BETTY SOJKA  
Ballinafad Correspondent  
This past Sunday a special service was held at the United Church to dedicate a most beautiful stained glass window to the memory of Helen Schwartz. The Schwartz family had travelled from their new home in British Columbia for this special dedication service. Also attending were Mr. and Mrs. Bud Snow and many friends of the Schwartz. The design of the stained glass was very appropriate to Helen's memory. She was tragically killed in an automobile accident. Both the Junior and Senior Choirs sang adding their sweet sounding voices to the service. Ernie and Eileen McEnery along with Millie Smith contributed a wonderful song on instrumentals. A lunch followed the service where friends

and old neighbors were able to exchange news with the Schwartz family, who are enjoying their new home immensely.

Just a little time left to purchase tickets for the '50s and '60s dance on Saturday, Nov. 25 to be held at the Ballinafad Community Centre. Don't be disappointed and pick up your tickets at the Ballinafad General Store. You can shake, rattle and roll to tunes supplied by D.J. George and Shane. A reminder that the dance is pot luck, so bring your favorite dish.

What a terrific time was had by all who attended the craft sale on Sunday, Nov. 19. Many people were able to pick up very distinctive gifts for Christmas. The luncheon provided was very enjoyable. Many thanks to all who supported the craft sale.

**Society concerned with a "quick fix"**

By FR. JOSEPH DURKACZ  
Associate Pastor  
Holy Cross Roman Catholic Church, Georgetown

"What embitters the world is not excess of criticism, but absence of self-criticism." G.K. Chesterton

Isn't it interesting that when we look around us in the world that there is a growing erosion of personal responsibility. Many have been led to believe that "I can do no wrong" and "I can master my own destiny without the help of others." It may be cynical on my part to paint a picture of doom and gloom, but we are rapidly becoming a society which is only concerned with a "quick fix" to overcome any of life's difficulties. The problem with this type of thinking is that one does not adequately come to work out life's problems, but only temporarily put them on hold. What usually happens is that these unresolved problems eventually become back to haunt us in ways that we never anticipated and are no longer alleviated by the "quick fix." What are some of the "quick fix" solutions that we are being handed today?

We can start with a current topic of debate, that being abortion. The quick fix solution to an unwanted or unplanned pregnancy is abortion. However, one is not reminded that an innocent human life is being destroyed. We need also to remember that down the road that many women face a great deal of guilt over the realization that they allowed life to be taken from their child. It may seem to be the thing to do at the present moment, but is

it really the best decision? Why not kill our unwanted children?

At the other end of the spectrum we have the whole issue of mercy killing or euthanasia. Proponents of the quick fix solution will tell us that the terminally ill have the right to die. It is true that all of us have the right to die, it will eventually happen, but that decision is left to God, not you or me. Is it not more concise to speak of the right to kill when we consider what euthanasia is all about? Why not kill our unwanted human beings?

We are a society of pleasure seekers. Everyone wants to be happy and in a constant state of euphoria. We can get to this state through the quick fix approach to life. There are a variety of ways to get that quick fix - drugs and alcohol. The problem is that life in the fast lane does not last forever. We are able to see the havoc which drugs and alcohol cause in the lives of so many who are looking for simple solutions to some of the life's problems. It may be a temporary escape, but once one sobers up, the problems of life remain. The temptation for a quick fix affects us all no matter what age or walk of life we are from.

Basically, we can fall into the trap of wanting it all and wanting it now. The problem with this mentality is that all I am worrying about is "myself" and others really do not matter. People are used for my purposes and I do not care if

they get hurt as long as I get what I want out of life. Is this the sign of a civilized society? Quick fix solutions make us follow simple animal instincts, so that I may survive. So, we push for safe sex as opposed to talking about chastity. I get a divorce from marriage instead of trying to work things out with my spouse. I write off my kids because they are foolish and don't know what life is about; let them go out and find out what it is to survive in the world. The list is endless; I do not wish to depress you, but to take that critical look at your life - you might be surprised what you find.

If the following has sounded cynical, it was my intention to show how we are looking for simple solutions to life's problems. Life is hard, but it is an adventure that often leads us to places unknown. But, how can we cope with life? We need a guide, someone to direct us along the way. Who is that guide? The guide we need is God. Not a quick fix God. Not a God who is going to tell me that I'm OK just as I am. But, one who will walk with me through life's journeys to help me realize that life often thrusts a cross upon my shoulders whether I wish to carry it or not. Unfortunately, many wait till they hit rock bottom before they come to realize that they cannot manage life on their own. God will fix us up slowly, if we let Him - and besides, He sticks around afterwards!

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