



MARGIT ERICKSON

## Courtesy counts at supermarket

We all usually do it at least once a week, some more often, some less, some people dread it, others find it a challenge, and still others simply enjoy it. Since we are all in the habit of eating, it is a definite must and an obvious necessity: Food shopping at the supermarket.

So we head out with our lists in our hot little hands, our coupons all sorted out, sales items checked out and merrily dancing around in our heads. You pull into the parking lot and find a space right by the door, but it's a handicapped spot. Since you do not qualify, do you park there anyway because "other people do it all the time?"

As I tell my students in our seminars: "Just because someone else does it is not a good enough reason for you to do it, too, especially when you know it is wrong. You need to park elsewhere and leave that space for those who really need it."

Once in the market, you select a cart and down the aisle you go. You notice a package of noodles (or whatever) on the floor, perhaps left there by a selfish person who knocked it off the shelf and didn't bother to return it, or maybe it unknowingly fell out of someone's cart - do you stop and pick it up and put it back on the shelf? It certainly is the mark of a gracious, thoughtful person, if you do.

Small children should not be allowed to grab merchandise off shelves or throw items on the floor. Also, if you allow your child to open a package and eat from it, be sure you pay for that item at the checkout counter.

Most markets have a "12 items or less" checkout cashier, however, it sometimes is closed, so if you happen to have a heavy load of groceries and see the person behind you with only one or two items, wave him or her ahead of you. It's a "do unto others as you would have others do unto you" kind of thing.

However, if there are several short-order shoppers behind you, do not need to let more than one person go ahead of you.

If you shop regularly at the same market, you often meet friends or neighbors also shopping and stop for a chat. If this happens to you, be sure you push your carts to the side and out of the way of other shoppers trying to get past you.

Also, if you stop to read ingredients on items or are trying to decide which product to buy, push your cart toward the shelves so you are not blocking the way.

At some time or another, we all picked out an item off the shelf and put it into our carts only to later decide against buying it. When this happens, please be the nice person that you are and return it to the proper shelf, especially if it is a perishable product that would melt or spoil. Do not just put it on a shelf where you happen to be. Or, if you are in line, you can tell the cashier when checking out that you have decided against buying it.

At certain times, baggers may be short-handed at the checkout and the cashier has to check out your items, make change, collect your coupons and bag your groceries. Your mind-set may be "that's what they get paid to do." On the other hand, it certainly would be considerate to help bag your own groceries as you would be helping the cashier, you would get through faster, and the people behind would have a shorter wait. It's that "do unto others" thing again.

Lastly, you are out of the market, find your car, unlock your trunk and unload your groceries. What do you do with your empty cart? Just leaving it in the parking space next to you is not acceptable. The next shopper has to get out of the car to remove it in order to be able to park. It should be returned to the cart corral or where there are several other empty carts already gathered.

Wherever you go, do not leave your good manners at home. Whether you are aware of it or not, others are watching you and forming impressions. Let them be good ones!

Margit Erickson writes about etiquette for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

# God bless the motorcycles!

BY RENEE SROGLUND

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Why go Hell when you can come to St. Kenneth's? In years past, motorcyclists who wanted their bikes blessed would have to ride to Hell, Mich., every May for the Harley-Davidson annual blessing of the bikes. Not any more, dude.

At 11 a.m. Saturday, April 20, the Rev. Joe Mallia of St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth will conduct a "Blessing of the Bikes" ceremony in the church parking lot. The blessing is guaranteed for a one safe riding season - unless voided by a reckless rider.

"It gives me comfort knowing that my husband's bike has been blessed," said Annette McClellan, St. Kenneth's parish secretary. "It may be a Catholic thing, but we still have young kids, and I just feel better if he's been blessed."

McClellan's husband, Marty, got his Yamaha Virago four years ago when he turned 40. Admittedly, the bike may have been part of a mid-life crisis, but then there were those lingering memories of that 66 Norton he owned when he was 18.

"At that time it was a novel bike," he said of the Norton. "I had it three years. I wish I never sold it. It would be a collector's item."

## Ready to ride

The idea for the Blessing of the Bikes at St. Kenneth came from two parishioners: Marty McClellan and Kerri Sarb, who sometimes rides behind her husband, Dan, on his Harley-Dyna-Superbike.

Marty told Mallia, St. Kenneth's pastor, about the blessing in Hell. "At the time, it was the only bike blessing I knew about," he said. "I was interested in the whole concept of the blessing of the bikes. It wasn't that 'Hell' drove me to it. In fact, I was uncomfortable with the whole Hell theme."

Mallia told Marty it was his intention, not the destination, that mattered most in obtaining the blessing.

Kerri convinced Mallia that a St. Kenneth version of the bike blessing would be cool. Besides, Dan was always too busy working at their restaurant, Harvey's Old Village Deli in Plymouth, to go to Hell, she said. (Sorry readers, no pun intended.)

Mallia had a quick reply: "You organize it and I'll be there."

"We have a simple rule at St. Kenneth," said Mallia. "If people come up with an idea that's good, we'll respond to it in a way that is healthy. Every aspect of people's lives is important. Celebrating that in the context of



Biker family: Kerri Sarb often sits beside her husband, Dan, when they head out on their Harley. Their dog, Mattie, who has her own leather Harley cap, longs for a ride. Unfortunately her legs are too short for the pedals.

faith is important, and if that includes riding bikes, great."

Marty knows that bikers are a hungry bunch, so he's planning to sell doughnuts and coffee at Saturday's event with proceeds going to a local charity. After all, a blessing may have some spiritual calories, but it won't fill hungry stomachs. Next year, he'll go big time and serve pancakes and sausage, just like they do in Hell.

Meanwhile, he's busy making helmet stickers with a picture of a bike, St. Kenneth's name, and the words "I've been blessed." Bikers like to mark special events and rides with official stickers, he said. Next year, who knows? Besides stickers, there may be T-shirts and water bottles.

## No easy rider

Even though her husband's bike will be blessed, Annette McClellan

doesn't plan to ride into the wild blue yonder with him. She's no "biker babe."

"Heck no, not me!" she said. "I've been on the bike twice. I just feel nervous. I feel like I'm standing in the street."

However, if she isn't going to ride, she and Kerri are determined that Mallia does. They've been kidding him for weeks about getting on the back seat of a big Harley driven by a beautiful blonde.

"But she has to be married or we won't let him do it," said Annette.

Mallia said he might hitch a short ride with Marty or Dan if asked, "depending on the weather. Fortunately - or unfortunately - the weather report predicts blue skies and balmy breezes for Saturday. Vroom, vroom, Rev. Mallia."

"Whether he likes it or not we're going to get a picture of him on a bike. I'm going to have it blown up and put in the church bulletin," said Kerri.

For more information on the Blessing of the Bikes, call St. Kenneth Catholic Church at (734) 420-0288.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL  
Revving up: The Rev. Joe Mallia, pastor of St. Kenneth might take a ride on this Yamaha Virago, borrowed from a parishioner.

## Seniors' paintings interpret the great masters

BY RENEE SROGLUND

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They call themselves "copiers," but the accurate term for the senior student artists in Carl Angevine's art class at the Redford Community Center is "interpreters." Their brushes give a personal spin to photographs, calendar and magazine pictures, even to masters like Vincent Van Gogh.

"It's kind of fun, the interpretations everybody does," said Kitty Flynn, who works in acrylics and is a fan of Van Gogh.

"I don't know why I like him. There's something about his colors and his lines. They're all curves, and his paintings are vibrant and his skies are wild. I like the bright colors."

It wasn't difficult to miss Flynn's paintings at the "Senior Students of Mr. Carl Angevine" art exhibit at the Redford Township Library last weekend, the second year for the event. The shimmering blues and yellows in Flynn's landscapes were a compliment to Van Gogh. In fact, all the paintings on display for three days - a colorful collection of oils, acrylics and water colors - made the library's interior as vibrant as the outdoors.

Unlike many of his fellow students, Barney Marnon's paintings are original compositions. He paints from his own photographs. Two of the paintings he entered in the exhibit, which was judged by the viewing public, won awards.

Marnon's first-place harbor scene presents its objects so large and up close the viewer could step right onto the dock. The painting took Marnon months to complete, and the dock required several washes to give it just the right sheen.

Marnon is still getting used to his new identity as an artist. He was surprised so many people at the exhibit wanted to talk to him about his paintings. Until he retired from General Motors eight years ago, he didn't even have time to paint.

"I always wanted to paint, but I had too many kids, five daughters and one son. Now I try to paint a little bit every day. If I'm watching television I keep a sketchbook handy."

As an artist, Shehrebano Moiz of Redford likes challenges. A week before the exhibition she was putting the finishing touches on a Japanese-style still life of a black vase with orchids and magnolias. Its background is a soft mottling of deep gray, green and black. She copied the painting from a calendar.

"I felt the background and object were so 'close.' I thought it would be a challenge if I could achieve that," she said.

Moiz, who has been painting almost six years, still ponders the gift of creativity.

"All the time I had the feeling, 'Could the hands



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JACKELLS  
Interpreting: Student Shehrebano Moiz of Redford accentuates a flower on her still life. Moiz, a student in Carl Angevine's art class at the Redford Community Center, interpreted her painting from a calendar.

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