

### Sociality Dance at St. Mary's

The Sociality of Our Lady, St. Mary's parish, Elmira, is sponsoring a dance to be held in the gymnasium auditorium on Friday evening, Feb. 8. Music will be provided by Tommy Stecher's orchestra.

Stephen Costello and Theresa Segurio are co-chairmen, assisted by John Connelly and Mary Moore, publicity; Shirley Smith and Virginia Rohr, post-ers; Mary Theresa Maltzer and Pat Callahan, chaperones; Francis Vanlander and Claire Kilcoyne, refreshments; Pat O'Brien and Mary Chas. Woodhouse, hood.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Vittorino and Mrs. and Mrs. Clarence Woodhouse will head a group of chaperones.

An invitation has been extended to all members of the parish and their friends.

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### In Memoriam of Three Elmira Friends

By MARY E. FITZGERALD  
Executive Director, Catholic Family Service

A sermon on death — the "Remember Man that Thou art dust" on Ash Wednesday — and even the obituary may still fail to bring us face to face with the reality of death.

When such rare moments occur, how quickly even the bravest among us turn deliberately to the distraction of this world. Death, regardless of its closeness to us, is seldom the subject of joyful meditation and is only chosen reluctantly as the subject of discourse.

New Year's morning in 1952, however, brought thousands of men, women and children face to face with the uncertainty of life and the glorious actuality of Heaven. Thoughtless youth and careless adults were shocked into a seriousness quite out of keeping with the gaily which had ushered in the New Year.

Congregations gasped, radio listeners were speechless and Elmira's New Year's tragedy was the common denominator in each conversational equation in every public place.

FOUR SOULS had gone home to their God. A 34-year-old mother and three children, made of the flesh and blood of that mother and their father, faced the Creator, in whose image and likeness they had been fashioned. The sympathy of people of every color and creed, went out to the husband and to the grief-stricken families and strange to say, quite contrary to the usual custom, people have not and will not forget — for many months to come.

Virginia Sheehan McNamara, arriving at the portals of Heaven with three of her own angels asking for "Room in that Inn" for herself and her little family. Those who knew her well and who loved her as she should have been loved, could add much to these lines, and to them I apologize for the inadequacy of my tribute.

Virginia — Wife, Mother, Daughter and Friend — of her only the warmest words of praise have been spoken in the past month. Virginia — as I knew her — always the same — kind, courteous, gentle and charitable in a sweet naturalness, which reflected the beauty of a soul, to whom baptismal water had meant a flowering so Christlike.

Virginia, when she was limited in her activities outside the home, because another little one was expected, offered not excuses, but finding ways to share by telephoning, taking hours of assignments, that would have been monotonous to another. Virginia — who always had time and never thought it was too much trouble to collect clothing and toys and bring them to the office of the Catholic Family Service.

Virginia — on one of the last occasions, when I saw her — after such an amount of charity — on her way down the stairs — pausing to talk about her brother, David. How proud, she was of

him, how happy in his success in the coveted field of writing, asking about extra copies of the magazines for which he was writing. Virginia — who has gone to prepare places for her loved ones — close to the throne of the God, she loved and served so well.

THEN — CAME a day — when another one was gone from our midst. Mrs. Margaret Gill a woman, who for years, was a leader in Civic, Church and Charitable circles. Hers was an indomitable will to live — a courage to carry on, a strength that was the envy of many a younger person.

When the Ladies of Charity sought those who were closely associated with volunteer Leadership and Charitable Societies, for the purpose of recognizing their accomplishments, we chose Mrs. Gill for an appointment as Honorary Vice President of the Ladies of Charity. May all those — to whom she brought material comfort and spiritual courage, welcome her and plead for her before the God of Charity.

And then — it was Dom Barnabas, — and the notice read "Unexpectedly." The personal loss was keen because as Bill Stovell and later as Dom Barnabas, we knew and loved him. Bill as a thoughtful, quiet lad, with only one horizon, the day of his ordination. Bill, haunted by physical ill, but over and above them facing the future with unwavering determination.

Bill — as we knew him — during his pre-ordination days — working closely, carefully, patiently with troubled men, women and children, who came to us during the days when Bill was with Catholic Charities — Bill, who never forgot — who always asked for each and every one of those "Patients in Christ."

THE DAY OF his ordination and then, his first Solemn High Mass — always a sad, but happy moment for the new priest and for each one who has had any share in leading him to the Altar of God, Dom Barnabas, a priest forever, serious about each solemn promise, eyes turned toward Heaven, while his feet traveled the way of earth. A devoted son, a loving brother and a loyal friend but first and always, one of God's anointed, a priestly priest.

In Memoriam, we feel guilty when our eyes fill with tears because they have returned to the God who loaned them to their loved ones — that they might know a little of Heaven on earth. In full confidence of the glorious destiny of these immortal souls, may we not picture them meeting the Son of God and hear Him say to them in the dear, loving voice whose golden tones echo His Divinity: "You need not tell me who you are. I know you well. Welcome to the Kingdom of My Father but you will, I know, continue to watch over your dear ones on earth. Let me know if you want anything for them."

**Weddings**  
Petro-Keach  
Celebrating — The marriage of Miss Mary Ann Petro, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Petro, 141 Front St., and John C. Keach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Keach, 61 Painted Post Rd., 1, 1006 place Saturday, Jan. 25, in St. Mary's Church. The Rev. John A. Smith, pastor, performed the ceremony.

Attending the bride as maid of honor was her sister, Miss Margaret Petro. Miss Ruth Ann Farrell and Miss Mary Purcell were bridesmaids. Meier Keach was best man and ushers were Douglas Keach and Earl Pearsall.

Following the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served at the Wilbridge Hotel. Later Mr. and Mrs. Keach left for a week's motor trip. Upon their return they will live at Gang Mills.

The bride, a graduate of St. Mary's School and Corning Free Academy, has been employed in the Order and Inventory department of Corning Glass Works. A veteran of two years service with the Army, Mr. Keach attended Painted Post Schools and Alfred University. He is employed at the Ingersoll-Rand Company in Painted Post.

**India Revises Holiday List**  
New Delhi, India — (NC) — The revised list of public holidays in India, announced here by the central government, includes three days of Catholic importance. They are: Good Friday, Christmas and August 15, the Feast of the Assumption. August 15 is Independence Day in India.

All Sundays have also been declared holidays. In recent times there have been sporadic attempts to declare Friday instead of Sunday as the legal holiday. Friday is the day held sacred by Moslems.

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