

Weekend Of Prayer, Meditation

Retreats Are For Everyone

By FRANK KELLY

Who makes a retreat?

The answer is simple — everyone, according to Father Thomas L. Fallon, C.S.S.R., head of Rochester's Notre Dame Retreat House, 216 Alexander St.

"We get retreatants from every walk of life," Father Fallon said. "This includes professional people such as doctors, lawyers as well as the white collar worker and the ordinary mechanic."

STRANGE AS IT may seem, he said, the Retreat House retreat house for men also gets about 50 non-Catholics each year, to near 3-day weekend retreats.

"This is due primarily to the members of the Laymen's Retreat League who go out and preach the retreat movement to everyone they know. Usually, the non-Catholics come as a result of the good example given by these men in furthering the cause of the lay apostolate," Father Fallon said.

"As to its result, I know of four conversions that are directly due to the getting of these non-Catholics on retreat," he added.

But what do these men get out of a retreat?

From his files, Father Fallon pulled several letters sent to him by various retreatants.

FROM A DOCTOR: "Given the opportunity to sit alone before the Blessed Sacrament, I could gaze into my own soul and see it just as God sees it. It gives me the opportunity to straighten out my life and for that reason I'll never miss a doctor's retreat again."

Other retreatants make similar statements.

"The retreat changed the course of my whole life."

"It is a wonderful work; it surely brings a man back to his senses."

These are just two of the thoughts expressed by men who made a weekend retreat at the Notre Dame Retreat House.

THEN YOU ASK the question, "Why don't more men make a retreat?"

"The answer to that question varies," Father Fallon said. "In most cases it is fear. The men don't know what they are getting into and for that reason they are reluctant to come."

"However, many more men have legitimate excuses. For instance, barbers and other men who do their biggest business on Saturdays. For them, it has been impossible to get away."

"But, in this regard, we are planning to set up a retreat during the week for these laymen," Father Fallon said.

Actually, the number of men who don't want to make a retreat is being cut down each year.

"Again, I must thank the members of the Laymen's Retreat League for this. They go out and do such hard work in recruiting the men of their parish to come, that the amount of non-retreatants is dwindling," Father Fallon added.

Last year over 3,500 men made retreats at the Notre Dame.



Retreat time

House and this number is expected to increase during 1958.

After once making a retreat, not too much work is required to get the man back.

As John — put it, "this is my second retreat and this stay is sweeter, holier and more soul-inspiring than my first. So in my life as I did those three days, this was my first retreat. Father, and I pray I can make every other retreat (I'll God is ready for me."

In connection with the retreat movement, Father Fallon concluded by saying that the retreat house will hold an open house in July, so that wives and other friends of retreatants can become more fully acquainted with the weekend retreats.

TO ACCOMMODATE various groups, there are special retreats set up during the course of the year at the retreat house.

These include a doctor's retreat.

retreat — a midweek retreat — during the month of October, when the feast day of St. Luke, the physician-evangelist, occurs. Likewise, the Matt Fallon group, composed of former alcoholics, comes to the retreat house for the first retreat weekend of the year.

With the latter comes an unusual story. One of the retreatants is a non-Catholic, who has a son in St. Bernard's Major Seminary. The seminarian, as well as the rest of the children in the family, are being brought up as Catholics, whereas both husband and wife are non-Catholics.

A special retreat for Newman Club members is also held each year. This year, 105 — the capacity of the retreat house — attended the retreat. The students come from the University of Rochester, the Eastman School of Music, Brockport State Teachers College and Cornell University.

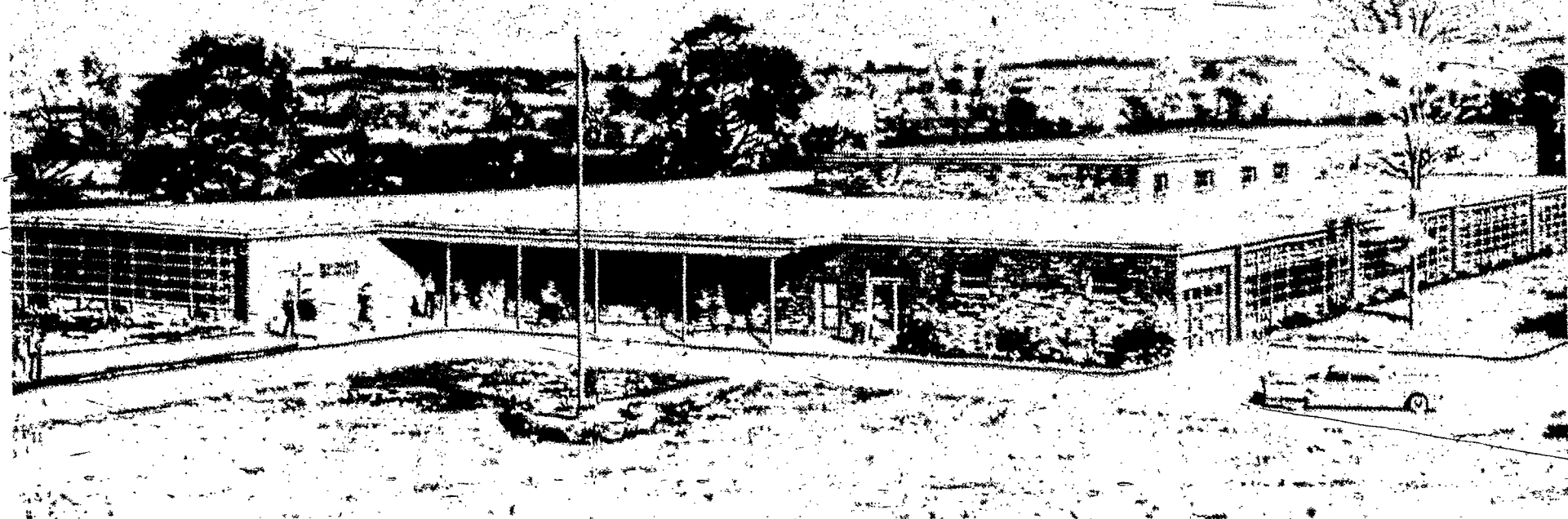
THE LAST question is presented. What are the results?

"This can be answered by a letter from one of the retreatants," Father Fallon concluded. It says in part:

"Father, I recall the thrill of seeing my first big league ball game, and also of seeing my first World Series ball game, and also the thrill when I arrive home from Europe after serving in the Army, but the biggest thrill was the retreat that I made on Friday, Saturday and Sunday of last week. I never felt so good in my life as I did those three days. This was my first retreat. Father, and I pray I can make every other retreat (I'll God is ready for me."

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GOURMET-JOURNAL Friday, April 18, 1958



PROPOSED St. Mary's School in Horseheads — Architect's rendering depicts the proposed St. Mary's School to be constructed on newly-purchased parish property on West Broad Street. First parochial school in Horseheads area. It is planned for completion by September, 1959. Besides eight classrooms there will be an auditorium-gymnasium seating 600. Parishwide solicitation of pledges toward construction of the building is scheduled on two successive Sundays, April 20 and 27. Minimum goal is \$100,000.

Central High School — General solicitation is slated from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

Establishing a Catholic school will be no new experience to Father Kelly. In 1930 he founded Elmira Catholic High School (now Notre Dame High School), which he headed as first principal until his appointment to the Horseheads parishes in 1936.

His Excellency Bishop Casey will address the committee of a kickoff dinner at 6 p.m. Saturday, April 26, in the Horseheads.

Advanced gifts will be sought Sunday, April 20, and the general solicitation is scheduled Sunday, April 27. Minimum goal is \$100,000.

Horseheads Parish Sets School Drive

Solicitation of pledges toward construction of a building for the proposed new St. Mary's School will take place throughout the parish on the next two Sundays, the Rev. Francis J. Kelly, pastor, said today.

The proposed first parochial school in the Horseheads area will be erected on a newly-purchased eight-acre site at 320 W. Broad St. nearly a mile west of the present church and rectory at 128 W. Broad St.

Planned for completion by Sept. 1959, the building will contain eight classrooms and an auditorium-gymnasium seating 600.

Designed as an all-purpose room, the auditorium will be used as a meeting hall for adults as well as an assembly, cafeteria and recreation facility for children. It also will be available for additional Sunday Masses to relieve overcrowded conditions in the small church.

The new eight-acre site fronts West Broad St. and extends through to Westlake St. The school will front Westlake, opposite Van Orden Circle, just west of St. Mary's Cemetery. Overall parish plans call for future construction of all parish buildings on this property.

MORE THAN 200 men on the pledge campaign committee will attend a pep rally at 8 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in the Grange Hall. Speakers will include the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J.'Brien, V.F., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira.

Carmelite Priests — Men of Prayer, Men of Action, Men of Mary

St. Carmelite Mary's own Order is calling for volunteers. Write for information today to Fr. Simpson, O. Carm., 108 South St., Auburn, N. Y.

Student Forum In Fairport

Fairport High School students will be hosts to about 150 public school boys and girls from Ellicott, Dryden, Trumansburg, Marion, Palmyra, Caledonia, Clyde, Henrietta and Mendon. The forum will be held at the Assumption Church, Hall/2nd East Ave., on Sunday, April 20th from 2 to 5 p.m.

The students have been prepared for these discussions by their teachers, Revs. Edward A. Zimmerman, Richard A. Hart, William M. Thomas, Albert H. Schaefer, director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the Sisters, Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, who instructed them weekly.

The forums are based upon the High School Religion Course developed by these Sisters. "The Advanced Course for Catholic Living."

Parents, lay catechists and students agree that these forums are an excellent means of developing well-formed and articulate Christian boys and girls. As one father remarked who had to drive his son 20 miles to and from a forum, "Sister, it's worth every mile."

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Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament will be offered by Rev. Leonard A. Kelly, pastor of the Assumption Church and St. Mary's Guild will serve refreshments during the social.

Argentine President Meets with Bishops

Buenos Aires — (RNS) — President-elect Arturo Frondizi held an hour-long conference here with members of the Permanent Commission of the Argentine Roman Catholic hierarchy.

Church officials later issued a brief statement saying that Dr. Frondizi had expressed a desire to make personal contact with the hierarchy. It said the bishops, in turn, had wished to salute the President-elect and wish him complete success when he assumes office on May 1.

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GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION of the Faith gave \$12,000 to a Bishop of Africa. What happened to it? Well, a delegation of African Catholics came 100 miles in an open track over dirt roads to see the Bishop. They did not want any of his money; they want a resident priest in their little bush station. Presently, a priest got to them rarely to read Mass.

THE BISHOP SAID: "It costs \$900 to support a priest for one year." That argument usually worked in the past, because they knew that the Bishop had so little to keep his priests; but this time they stood up, unruffled by his top-like role, and took out one by one a roll of bills saying: "Yes, My Lord, we know we would have to support our pastor. Here is \$900 we have saved and when your Lordship comes to confirm, we shall have the other \$300 for the first year."

THE BISHOP LOST THE DEBATE and the people won their priest. The Bishop knew that the little mud chapel of Nironang was not adequate for daily Mass. The Bishop gave them the \$12,000 and today a brand new chapel of the Blessed Sacrament now stands in the midst of the mud hut village, its twin towers of brotherly love pointing heavenwards. The chapel was built by native labor; black hands, burdened backs, carried all the cement blocks to the top of the twenty foot wall and the fifty foot towers.

AND WHO TOLD US this story? Father David Schouten, a Divine Word Missionary, who is now the pastor of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament.

WE PRACTICALLY NEVER receive a sacrifice of \$12,000 which can build a church where Our Lord is adored for the first time in a certain spot of His creation. But little gifts born of a love for Christ, and a desire to make up for sins, can add up to another such chapel. Just remember, that whatever sacrifice you send to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith goes to the Holy Father. He makes the distribution; we do not. Your merit is greatest when you give to the Vicar of Christ to spread the love of Christ and Him Crucified among the pagans of the world.

GOD LOVE YOU to — Anon — "Being a teenager I naturally don't get hold of a great deal of money at one time. At the present, however, I do have \$75.00 here — are any of them for the Missions?" — to Y.G. "I am a handicapped worker and it is the first time in about two years that I have had any money left after paying my 'bills' — here's \$2." — to Mrs. M. for the sacrifice of a diamond ring. "When I look at my new care-worn finger, here's of jewelry, I know that the missions and I share a secret."

NOWHERE IS THE RATE OF EXCHANGE for old gold quite as good as when you rescue it from disuse and send it to be used for the relief of the poor and suffering in mission lands. Lay up treasure for yourself in heaven by sacrificing some of the valuables that you treasure on this earth: diamonds, rings, bracelets, sterling service and flatware, lockets, necklaces, precious stones, stickpins, watches, cuff links. Please put your old gold and silver to work for the 2 1/2 of the people of the world who go to bed hungry every night. You can mail the package to the addresses below.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 369 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York

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