

Adult Theology Program Scheduled to Begin Feb. 10

Eight once-weekly classes on current religious topics will feature the Adult Theology Program, scheduled to begin on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night, Feb. 10, 11 and 12, in four diocesan communities—Rochester, Fairport, Seneca Falls and Auburn.

Information may be obtained through the Office for Christian Formation, St. Patrick's Rectory, Victor (716/424-3100) or the Adult Theology Program, P. O. Box 231, Geneva (315/789-1991).

No credits are given for attending the classes. No exams or recitations are demanded. Certain courses may require outside reading.

Continuity of Christian Doctrine teachers taking certain courses may receive advanced CCD credit.

Fees include: one course — \$8; two courses — \$12. Fees for two persons from the same family: one course (they need not take the same course) — \$12; two courses — \$16.

Following are the topics, times and places of the courses:

MONDAYS—FEB. 10-MARCH 11

St. Agnes High School, Rochester

7:30-8:20 — "The Gospel and Contemporary Social Issues," Father Sebastian Falcone, OFM, Cap., St. Bernard's Seminary Faculty.

7:30-8:20 — "Basic Concepts in Christian Morality," Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM, Cap., Co-Director, Adult Theology Program, Geneva.

8:40-9:30 — "Secularization and Christianity," Msgr. William H. Shannon, Chairman, Theological Department, Nazareth College.

9 Churches Downtown in Joint Effort

Two Catholic churches and seven "downtown" Protestant denominations have joined in establishing the Rochester Downtown Ecumenical Ministry. It was announced today.

Participating in the founding group are representatives of Old St. Mary's Church and St. Joseph's Church, Franklin Street, and of Episcopal, Presbyterian, Lutheran and United Church of Christ denominations.

Purpose of the ministry, according to its constitution, is "to serve as a means by which the downtown community may seriously examine the relationship of the Christian faith to the decisions which must be made within this community."

Father P. David Finks, episcopal vicar for the diocesan Office for Urban Ministry, took part in earlier plans for formation of the new group. Although he is not officially associated with it, he welcomed its establishment.

Announcement also was made of the appointment of Franklin C. Basler Jr. as director of the new ministry. A graduate of Yale University and Union Theological Seminary, he comes to Rochester after a year at the Urban Training Center in Chicago.

"The ministry will assist groups of laymen," he said, "in thinking through important questions involving human factors in decision-making. The beginning phases will place a heavy emphasis on listening, to discover the needs, concerns and dreams of the people who work downtown."

Six churches — St. Mary's, St. Joseph's, Brick Presbyterian, Central Presbyterian, St. Luke's Episcopal and Salem United Church of Christ — were reported as committed to financial support of the program.

Three others — Christ Episcopal Church Cathedral, First Presbyterian and St. Luke's Lutheran — are associated with the six in planning, organizing and working for the ministry.

Representatives of the Catholic churches and members of the ministry's board of directors are: St. Mary's — Msgr. James E. McAniff, Father Charles A. Bennett, Peter Barry, Harold S. Hacker; St. Joseph's — Very Rev. John Clerkin, CSSR, Father Robert Coughlin, CSSR.

Women of Diocese Invited to Temple

"Come, let us reason together" is the invitation an English rabbi will offer Feb. 19 to an audience of Jewish and Christian women at Temple B'nai Kodesh.

The Temple Sisterhood has asked women of the diocese to the annual interfaith dessert luncheon to hear Rabbi P. S. Goldberg of Manchester. Guests also will be taken on a tour of the Temple, at 2131 Elmwood Ave.

Catholic women may make reservations, by Feb. 10, with Mrs. Everett E. Murphy, 536 Bay View Road, Rochester 14609; telephone 288-4682 or 654-8552. There is no fee.

Museum Shows Bird Paintings

Bird paintings and field sketches by J. Fenwick Lansdowne of Victoria, B.C., will be shown at Rochester Museum and Science Center throughout February.

The original paintings are from Mr. Lansdowne's new book, "Birds of the Eastern Forest."

St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls

9:00-9:50 — "The Dilemma of the Church," Father Leopold Protomastro, OFM, Cap., Co-Director, Adult Theology Program, Geneva.

TUESDAYS — FEB. 11-APRIL 1

Nazareth Academy, Rochester

7:30-8:20 — "St. John of the Cross," Very Rev. Albert J. Shamora, episcopal vicar, Office for Christian Formation.

7:30-8:20 — "The Church Today," Christine Bochen, M.A., instructor in theology, Nazareth College.

7:30-8:20 — "Jesus Christ," Father Leopold.

8:50-9:40 — "Secular Christianity," Father J. Patrick Logan, lecturer in moral theology, St. Bernard's Seminary.

8:50-9:40 — "The Dynamics of the Liturgy," Father Benedict A. Ehmman, pastor, St. Michael's Church.

Mt. Carmel High School, Auburn

7:30-8:20 — "The Inner Life of the Christian," Father Brian Murphy, O. Carm., teacher of religion, Mt. Carmel High School.

8:40-9:30 — "Situation Ethics," Father Cyprian Rosen, OFM, Cap.

WEDNESDAYS—FEB. 12-APRIL 2

School of Religion, Fairport

7:30-8:20 — "The Christian as Person," Sister Joseph Michelle, SSJ., assistant director of novices, Nazareth Novitiate.

8:40-9:30 — "The Dilemma of the Church," Father Leopold Protomastro, OFM, Cap.

Fr. Alletto Still Critical; Fr. Russell Responding

Still "critical" — with a cautious and guarded "very slight improvement" — was the official statement yesterday on the condition of Father Nicholas P. Alletto, pastor of St. Anthony Church, by a spokesman at Genesee Hospital, Rochester.

Father James S. Russell, assistant pastor, was reported "responding to treatment, with encouraging improvement," at St. Mary's Hospital.

The two priests were accidentally overcome by carbon monoxide poisoning early Tuesday, Jan. 21, in the rectory, 60 Lorimer St.

The tragedy took the life of the rectory housekeeper, Mrs. Pauline Clarke, 62, who was found dead at about 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to the priests' quarters while apparently trying to warn them of the danger.

Hospital authorities said that while Father Alletto's condition remained "very critical," the respirator had been removed and he was "minimally responding." He was removed from intensive care to a private room, and visiting was restricted.

Father Russell was sitting up in bed Wednesday. He said he expects to be allowed to move around a bit, and thought he would be hospitalized at least another week. Stating he could understand how Father Alletto might have forgotten to turn off the motor of his car, Father Russell added:

"It has crossed my mind when I have driven into the garage and pushed the button that the door was lowering before I had turned off the motor."

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen has visited the hospitals, and he offered the 12:15 Mass at St. Anthony's last Sunday. During his sermon he declared that priests often are called upon to carry the burden of suffering for their people.

Father Raymond H. Booth, assistant at Holy Family Church, has been assigned currently to assist at the parish.

The priests were found unconscious, were anointed by Father Eugene B. Weis of nearby Holy Apostles Church, and were given oxygen by firemen and ambulance attendants before being taken to the hospitals.

Investigators discovered that monoxide fumes apparently seeped into the rectory from the attached rear garage. They said Father Alletto's new car was found with the keys in it, the ignition on, and the gas tank empty.

Bishop Emphasizes Unity At Ecumenical Service

Three "bonds of unity" are bringing Christians together, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen told more than 1,000 worshippers Sunday at the 10:30 a.m. service in Third Presbyterian Church.

They are, he said, "the person of Christ," "the cross," and "our neighbor."

Bishop Sheen's sermon marked the first time he had appeared before a Protestant congregation during a regular Sunday morning service. It marked the close of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Referring to the "person of Christ," the Bishop told the church-packed congregation:

"You love Him deeply . . . We have differences in expressing truth, but these are merely 'lovers' quarrels. These are quarrels of great intensity, but merely the words are different. The expressions are the same."

The cross is a unifying factor, he added, "because it brings together all the friends of the Lord. All petty difficulties faded away when the cross was erected."

"Today, in fact, it unites all our friends and all our enemies. The enemies of the cross are polarizing, uniting against Christian ways."

This, he stated, has resulted in a "community of evil. It forces us to unite today to save not only Christianity, but also other beliefs, such as honesty, decency, patriotism and love of country."

Love of neighbor, Bishop Sheen continued, "is the third unifying factor," because our neighbor is Christ.

For whatever reason or circumstance this might have occurred had not been established by Wednesday.

It was conjectured that Father Alletto might have been in a hurry, and might not have noticed that he had left the motor running over the noise of the exhaust and heating unit which operates in the garage. Or he could have left the motor running because he was intending to leave immediately, merely checking at the rectory if there were any messages — and that he could have been distracted by a message or telephone call.

Information available Wednesday was that the priests had supper in the rectory. They joined a group of some 16 parishioners in the rectory at 8 p.m. for a first meeting of the newly-formed parish advisory board.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:30 p.m., and Father Russell, admitting he was not feeling well, retired to his bedroom. A few laymen remained with Father Alletto until approximately 11:30 p.m.

On the following days, some of those at the meeting recalled that they had not felt well as the evening progressed.

Television sets in Father Alletto's upstairs room and in the downstairs room of Mrs. Clarke were found still on the next morning.

Proposed Addition To Elmira Hospital Gets State Okay

Elmira — Proposed construction of an addition to St. Joseph's Hospital and renovation of some existing facilities, at an estimated cost of \$3 million, last week received tentative approval of the State Health Department.

Following preparation of final plans, they must be approved by the Chemung County Health Planning Council, the Rochester Regional Planning Council and the State Review and Planning Council.

Arnold B. Jerome, assistant to the hospital president, said the proposed addition would primarily be a patient-care facility, adding 32 beds, bringing bed capacity to 306. The institution is staffed by 41 Sisters of St. Joseph.

Calvary is more endurable than the differences of mankind."

His life of preaching underwent three stages, the Bishop said. "In school, I thought you were right. Then I began to think we were right. And now, I think we are both humble."

The Rev. Conrad Massa, Third Presbyterian pastor, welcomed the Bishop, and also offered a prayer for Father Nicholas Alletto and Father James Russell, priests of St. Anthony's Church who are still in hospitals fighting effects of accidental carbon monoxide poisoning.

During the introduction, the pastor turned to the Bishop and quipped:

"I prayed for you at our early service today, but comparing the attendance at that one with the attendance at this one, I don't think you were praying for me."

When he took the pulpit, Bishop Sheen remarked: "Despite Dr. Massa's flattering introduction, I notice that he took up the collection before I spoke."

When he addressed the congregation of B'nai Kodesh in 1967, Bishop Sheen became the first head of the Rochester Diocese to speak in a Jewish house of worship.

He addressed an evening Lenten service in Asbury First Methodist Church last year, a Lutheran Synod meeting in Reformation Lutheran Church, and spoke in Bethany Presbyterian Church on a Sunday afternoon. Last November he gave the final blessing at an ecumenical service in Christ Episcopal Church Cathedral.

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Mass Closes Pre-Cana Conference

Engaged couples surround altar at St. Helen's Church last Sunday afternoon at close of a Pre-Cana Conference. Concelebrants were Father Walter Brown, S.J., who conducted the session, and Father Eugene M. Lower, assistant at St. Helen's. Ceremonies were concluded with the blessing of engagement rings.

5 Parishes Set Pre-Cana Conferences

Pre-Cana Conferences — a marriage preparation course for engaged couples — will begin this month in five parishes throughout the diocese.

Michael G. Cole, director of the diocesan Family Life Bureau, said the four-part, once-weekly Sunday sessions will start in parishes in Rochester, Webster, Geneva, Auburn and Elmira.

Themes include God's plan in love and marriage, practical helps, psychology, and spirituality. Sunday night courses starting this month are:

Feb. 29-16-23 — Holy Trinity, Webster, 3 p.m.; St. Andrew's, Rochester, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 9-16-23, Mar. 2 — St. Stephen's, Geneva, 3 p.m. Holy Family, Auburn, 7 p.m.

Feb. 23, Mar. 29-16 — Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira, 7:30 p.m.

Elmira Jr. High Plans Formulated by Board

Elmira — Plans to establish a Catholic junior high school next September in St. Patrick's School building were voted at a Jan. 21 meeting of the Chemung County Catholic School Board.

Consideration whether to participate is under way presently among parishioners of four of the seven parishes in the city which have parochial schools.

The parishes — St. Patrick's, St. Anthony's, SS. Peter and Paul and St. Cecilia's — have been requested to act on the proposal and to report results by Jan. 31 to Sister Mary Agnes, SSJ., coordinator of Catholic schools.

If the proposal is approved, Sister said she will begin accepting registrations after that date. Approximately 150 pupils would be affected by the plan if it is limited to the four parishes now involved.

An earlier proposal to establish the junior high at St. Anthony's was voted down by the board, 10 to 3, because it appeared that renovation costs could soar to approximately \$80,000.

Costs at St. Patrick's were estimated at approximately \$42,000. Under tentative plans St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's would assume \$14,000 each, with the remaining \$14,000 split between SS. Peter and Paul's and St. Cecilia's.

The merger of junior highs at St. Patrick's would create a school with 12 classrooms housing grades 1-8.

Next meeting of the school board is scheduled Feb. 25.

St. Mary's in Southside Elmira has indicated that its geographic position make it impractical to join in the consolidation.

St. Casimir's report favored a junior high if it were to accommodate grades 7, 8 and 9. Our Lady of Lourdes voted recently in favor of a junior high but does not wish to join at this time.

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