

The Spirit of Poverty

(Continued from Page 6)

the spirit to whistle a happy tune; emptiness is the clenched fist filled with nothing but the clammy act of its hatred and protest.

The Poverty of Christ

Our Lord did practice economic poverty, but it was not the key to His character. His apostolate of "empty hands" was due to His reliance on His Heavenly Father. He was not a poor man; He was a rich Man Who became poor. Poverty was not thrust upon Him; He chose it. He was not a protestor against Capitalism; He was a Capitalist Who became a Proletarian. He said, "Woe to you who are rich." (Luke 6/24) not because He envied their wealth, but because He had already surrendered the right to all wealth. "Remember how generous the Lord Jesus was; He was rich, but He became poor for your sake, to make you rich out of His poverty." (2 Cor. 8/9)

The first temptation He met in His Public Life was to win men's souls by satisfying their hunger, instead of suffering that hunger and saving their souls. Everything He had, except probably His seamless robe which His Mother probably wove, was a "hand-me-down": — the stable was a hand-me-down from an innkeeper, so was the ass, the upper room and the stone carved out of rocks, all borrowed. Even His Body was borrowed from a Woman.

During the Vatican Council an African Bishop said: "I do not understand your Western idea of poverty; it is 'something out there,' — a kind of problem. We are immersed in it; like a drowning man with water." That was the poverty of Christ. "Foxes have holes and the birds of the air their nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His Head." (Matt 8/20) About the only thing that was His own or, rather, that He kept as His own until death, was His Cross. Christ was therefore, in a sense, not a Poor Man. He was the "Sacrament of Poverty," the visible and outward sign of that emptying which made Him man." His State was Divine, yet He did not cling to His equality with God, but emptied Himself to assume the condition of a slave." (Phil 2/5)

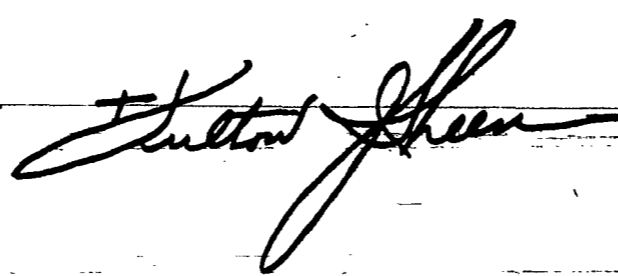
But if poverty is not just not having, but in a

certain sense, not being, then on whom did He as the Son of Man depend? On the Heavenly Father. Was not His whole life so poor that He became a beggar in the face of His Father — even to the point that the cup of the dregs of death would pass Him by? He was so poor, His poverty was not His own; it belonged to the mystery of salvation.

The Spirit of Poverty is revealed indirectly in Peter who began to sink, and cried out, "Lord, save me." "Jesus put out His hand at once and held him." (Matt 14/28) Peter being a fisherman could certainly swim, for he swam to the shore the Sunday after Easter. (John 21/7) If he could not walk on the water, he could swim. But the Lord let even his natural powers fail, that he might find out where his true salvation was.

Julien Green in his Journal, tells of his conversion in the same language: "Worn out, I asked that a hand be stretched out to me." Oscar Wilde revealed this emptiness in his E. Tenebris which has based on the experience of Peter:

"Come down, O Christ, and help me! reach thy hand,
For I am drowning in a stormier sea
Than Simon on thy lake of Galilee:
The wine of life is split upon the sand,
My heart is as some famine-murdered land
Whence all good things have perished utterly,
And well I know my soul in Hell must lie
If I this night before God's throne should stand.
Nay, peace, I shall behold, before the night,
The feet of brass, the robe more white than
flame,
The wounded hands, the weary human face."



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35th ANNIVERSARY

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard B. Haley, 20 Hartom Rd., celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary at a surprise party given by their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. Bailey of Watson Rd., Fairport and their son Dennis M. Haley. Sixty of the Haley's friends and relatives gathered at Valley Echo last Friday night for a buffet supper. The party was complete with a tiered wedding cake and the bride picture taken — 35 years ago. "Pat" and "Budd" Haley are active members of St. Helen's parish; the Bailey's are members of Church of the Assumption in Fairport.



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ND Alumni Plan Dinner

Brother Raphael Wilson, CSC, director of admissions and scholarships at Notre Dame University, will be principal speaker at the University of Notre Dame Night dinner at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, at the University Club of Rochester, 26 Broadway.

Brother Raphael Eugene W. Yurgalis, president of the Notre Dame Club of Rochester, said the gathering also will feature an announcement of the "Man of the Year Award," and installation of next year's officers.

Brother Wilson is associate professor of microbiology at Notre Dame, and a member of the staff of the Lobund Laboratory, where he directs the radiation physiology research program. He served as dean of St. Edward's University, Austin, Tex., before going to the South Bend institution.

He holds a bachelor of science degree in biology from Notre Dame, a master of arts degree in psychology from the University of Texas, and a doctor of philosophy degree in medical science from the University of Texas Medical Branch.



Discussing arrangements for Nazareth Academy alumnae banquet are, from left, Virginia Hussey, general chairman; Grace Van Epps, reservation chairman; Marian Hart, co-chairman; and standing, Isabelle Shea, publicity chairman.

Famed Pianist To Perform At Geneva

Geneva — Music lovers will have an opportunity to hear an exciting new concert artist on Friday night, April 18, when the Rochester Philharmonic presents "The Sounds of America" in the Geneva Theatre.

Robert Silverman, a graduate of McGill University, Montreal, will be featured soloist in George Gershwin's "Piano Concerto in F," which uses the idiom of jazz with the symphony orchestra.

Silverman, presently working on his doctoral degree in performance at the Eastman School of Music, has given recitals around the world.

Appearance of the Rochester Philharmonic here, with Samuel Jones conducting, is a presentation of the Geneva Finger Lakes Festival Committee. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for students.

Paulist Mission At Holy Spirit

Home Masses and discussion meetings will supplement church services during a mission next week at Holy Spirit, Penfield.

Passionist Fathers Raymond Lorentz and Henry Noyes will conduct the parish renewal program, guided by requests from parishioners. The mission will begin this Sunday.

Father Lorentz, the first priest ordained by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, in 1953, has preached missions from Cape Town, South Africa, to Nairobi, and has traveled the backwoods of Tennessee with a trailer-chapel. He has produced several television shows and has been director of the Information Center for Non-Catholics in Minneapolis.

Father Noyes, a writer, served with the Army before entering the priesthood. He has been particularly active in educational projects.

Among the topics they have chosen are these: The Church and real community life; Church authority and freedom; the Pope and the pill; modern morals-in-marriage.

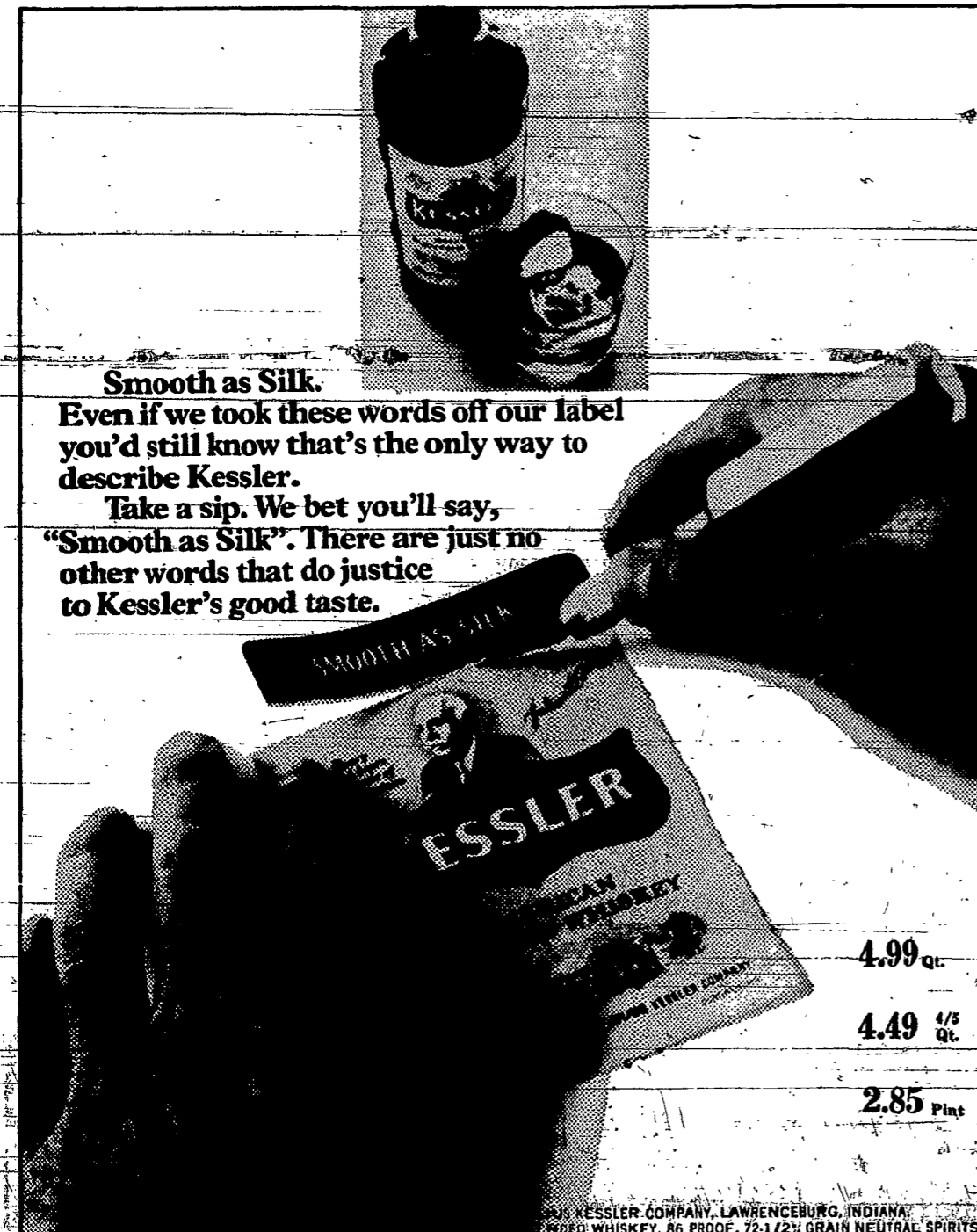
Scouts Take Part In 2-Day Retreat

Hornell — Fifteen Scout leaders and 90 boys from seven Scout troops participated in a two-day retreat March 28-29 at the Watson Homestead, near Painted Post.

Sponsoring the program was the Steuben Council of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, of which Father Robert Magin, assistant pastor of St. Ann's Church, Hornell, is chaplain.

Theme of the retreat was "Unity in People — in Play, in Work, in Prayer."

Assisting with arrangements were: Vic Gessner, Wayland; Mike Aiello, Vincent; O'Byran and Al Moses, Corning; Dan Finn, Vista, worker, Perkinsville, and four seminarians — Dave Wolf, Dick Reif, Ray Terault and Bob Schmid.

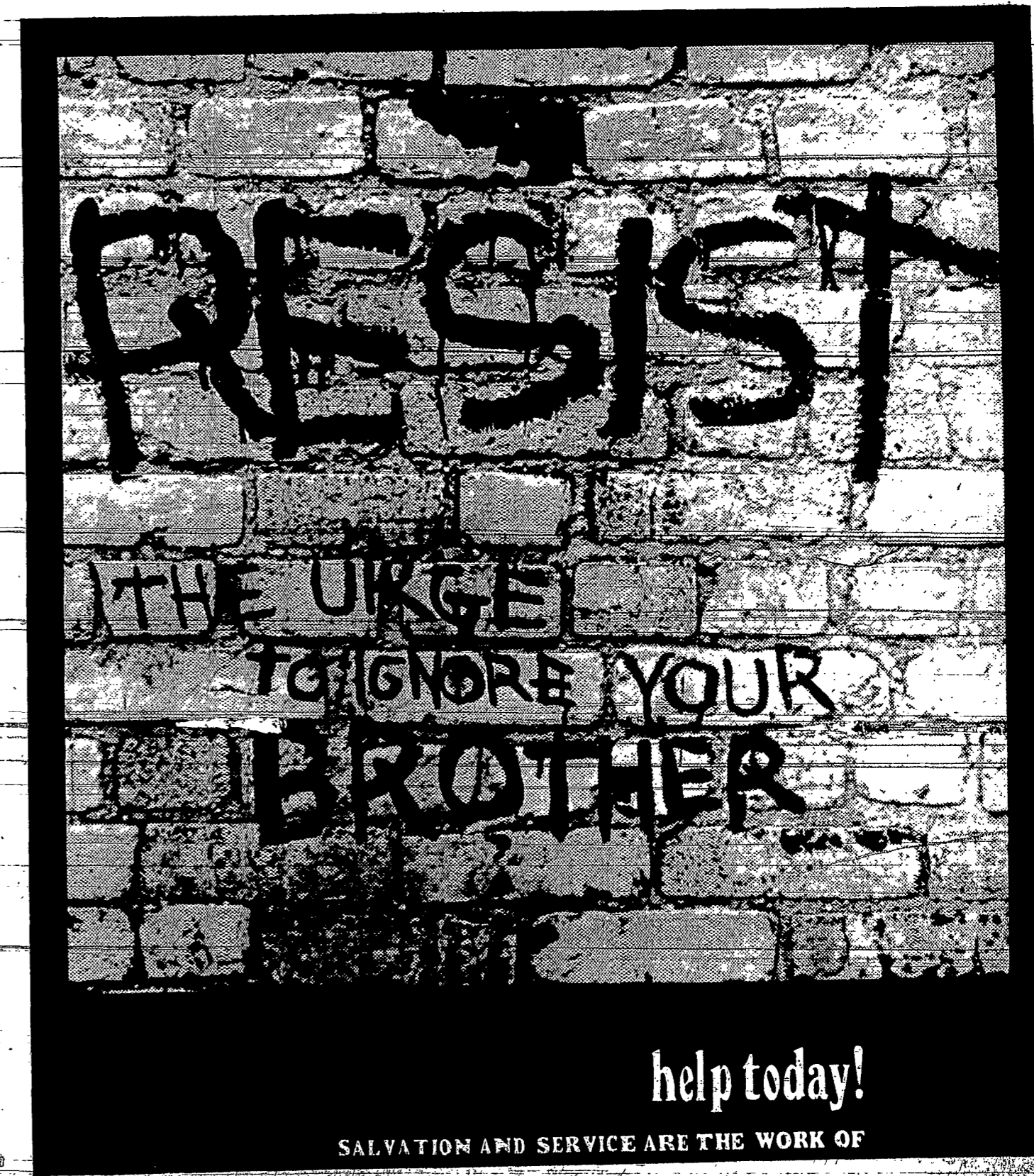


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