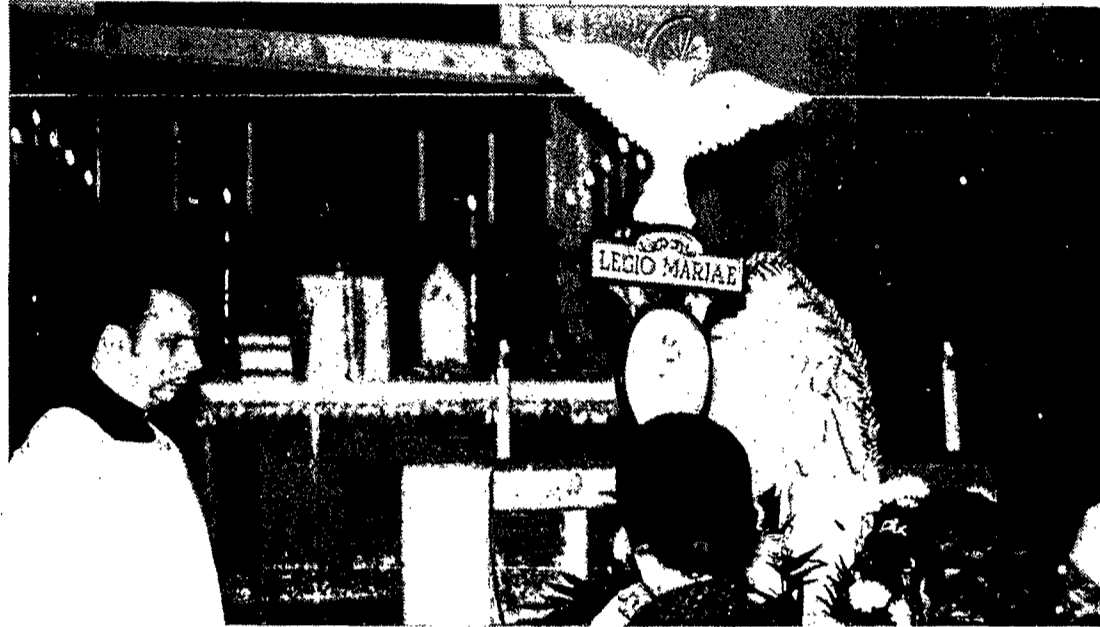




Ancient Rome in Corning

The three parish schools of Corning pooled their resources lately for an open house at St. Vincent de Paul. Pictured in a costume performance based on life in ancient Rome are Michael Rossettio of St. Mary's and Brian Di Giacomo of St. Vincent's, seated; Emil Harnas and Edward Mercandante, both of St. Patrick's. Scenery was painted by pupils from all three schools. The religion, social studies and English departments presented exhibits of their work, under the general chairmanship of Sister Sheila Geraghty, RSM. The schools plan a science fair for April, at St. Patrick's, and an art show in May at St. Mary's.



Legion of Mary

More than 100 members of Rochester Comitium, Legion of Mary, made individual Acts of Consecration during annual Actes ceremony last Sunday in Holy Family Church, Rochester. At left is Father William A. Troit, spiritual director. Legionnaires approached Blessed Mother shrine in twos and recited aloud: "I am all thine, my Queen, my Mother, and all that I have is thine."



Family Gets Palms from Pastor

Father Gerald E. Dunn, pastor of St. Theodore's Church, Gates, distributes palms to family following Mass last Sunday in scene typical throughout diocese. Receiving palms are Mr. and Mrs. Brian Schaeffer, 109 Lee Rd., and their children, Teresa, 9, and Michael, 4.

Ecumenical Easter Rite

Elmira — Two churches here — St. Patrick's and the First Baptist — conducted an ecumenical service on Palm Sunday morning.

Bishop John E. McCafferty officiated at the blessing of palms in the Baptist Church. Assisting were the Rev. Donald R. Mills, pastor, and the Rev. Robert Markham III.

The congregation then march-

ed to St. Patrick's to be welcomed by Father Richard M. Egan, pastor. Father Richard M. Murphy, assistant, led a Palm Sunday prayer, and the scripture lesson was read by the Rev. Mr. Mills.

Bishop McCafferty preached a homily titled "Christ's Plan for a Living Community," a plea for Christian cooperation. Choirs of both churches led the hymns.

Confrontation

First Confession

Twenty plus years ago when this writer prepared for first Confession we were told we would feel so lightened of our sins that we would feel like flying.

Whether we hadn't worked hard enough at burdening ourselves in the first place, or whether we just hadn't been good enough at lightening ourselves we never knew; but although several of us flapped our arms as we ran the length of the church driveway we all stayed distressingly earth-bound.

Of course, at the mature ages of six and seven we knew we wouldn't really soar away, but not one of us would admit that whatever lightheadedness we felt was not the result of the "washing of our souls," but rather was probably simply a combination of standing in line for an hour or so and spending a few nervous minutes in a hot, stuffy confessional, at lunch time.

In the past two decades, religious educators have not only learned something about child development and child psychology but also have applied this knowledge to the teaching of the Sacraments. These changes in attitude and teaching methods are especially obvious in First Penance.

Changes include the separation of First Penance from First Eucharist usually by postponing First Penance; increased emphasis on parents' participating in preparing their children; a very different way of explaining Penance — we no longer speak of washing or erasing sins, but rather of reconciliation with our Lord; less emphasis on categories of sin and more on the spirit or attitudes behind the actions.

One of the most important shifts in emphasis and one that precipitated several other changes is a clarification of our understanding of sin. If we understand sin only as the breaking of a rule or as a black mark to be erased, then possibly a seven year old child is capable of understanding sin.

If, however, sin is recognized as a refusal to accept and return the love extended to us by our Lord, then it becomes a little less likely that a young child can thoroughly understand sin or that he is capable of serious sin.

In the past, Penance was too often passed over as a preparation for Communion, and was not given the consideration due it as a sacrament in its own right. Since Penance is necessary before Communion only in the case of serious sin, separation of the first reception of the two allows a more positive presentation of the Sacrament of Penance.

An excellent aid to parents and children preparing for First Penance is the Benziger booklet and manual *We Live in Union with God's Family*. An excellent practical adult guide to Penance is the booklet *Bless Me Father*. The above are available at Trant's.

Correction on last week's column — the film *The New Liturgy* is available from Klise, not from Twenty-Third Publications.

Parker Elected To Soble Board

Douglas E. Parker of 278 Almay Road has been elected secretary of the John J. Soble Lumber Company, and a member of its board of directors.

Mr. Parker is active in the scouting program at St. Charles Borromeo Church, is vice president of the Greece Youth Athletic Association and a member of the Greece Youth Services Council.

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New Deadline!

When the Courier-Journal shifts to a tabloid edition April 8 its delivery date will be advanced two days from Friday to Wednesday. Because of the increased production problems caused by those two factors our deadlines must also be advanced. All social news must be at the Courier news desk no later than the Thursday morning mail.

Sky-Watch Phone Still Works

Strasburgh Planetarium is continuing the telephone information service that was set up for the recent eclipse of the sun. Dial 244-6490 to keep abreast of astronomical events.

Currently a taped message deals with the Bennett comet, which will be visible in this area for several weeks. The eclipse message was turned in by more than 10,000 callers, the planetarium reported.



State Title

Catherine Hiler, Rochester's "Miss Hope" for 1970, also was elected to that title on a national level. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale J. Hiler, 412 Ballad Ave., Greece, she is head nurse of the extended care facility at Genesee Hospital.



Not everyone knows that God loves man so much that He became a man: He suffered and died for us and He rose again on Easter!
Not everyone knows that Christ gave His Church mission: to share, and teach, and give this good news to others, and to be signs of His Resurrection today by loving one another!
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