



WHO ARRANGED YOUR LECTURE TOUR?"

Salting the Earth

Project Interrupted

By Father John Hempel

Nine months ago the Office of Human Concern opened a warehouse on the King's Prep campus at the request of the inner city pastors. This was to be a supporting operation for the efforts of the inner city pastors to meet the immediate needs of disadvantaged persons in their areas.

Little by little the warehouse operation grew. Agencies from all over the city began to call us for help, especially in meeting the many deficiencies found within an antiquated and de-meaning welfare system.

The youngsters from King's Prep were most helpful in restoring furniture and keeping the operation functional. Women from the following churches have been helpful in this venture: Our Lady of Mercy, St. Mark's, Mother of Sorrows, St. Charles Borromeo, Hope Lutheran, Bethany Presbyterian, West-side Baptist, Greece Baptist, St. John's and St. Lawrence.

More than 5,000 cans of food, 1,500 cases of baby food and 1,000 gallons of paint were made available to needy families in the urban and rural areas. Beds, refrigerators and furniture were supplied to families desperately in need of these items. The village of East Rochester declared a week of "Human Concern" and then

went on to purchase a new truck to make it possible to pick up items given to the warehouse.

Looking back upon this operation one must conclude that it did fulfill a need. Certainly it did not solve the basic problems of poverty and, in fact, could be criticized for catering to a system that never appears to get at the core of solving the massive problems of poverty in our day.

Yet we could not as Catholic Christians pass by the way and allow people to suffer, hoping that the proper structure would eventually come along with resolutions beyond the band-aid approach.

Now we must close down the warehouse, at least for a time. In using this facility we knew that it would have to close as the diocese had committed it only on a temporary basis. Since the warehouse concept was beneficial not only to those it served, but also to those who served in it, we hope that this closing is only transitional.

Through His people, God has been good to all the projects of the Office of Human Concern. With faith and trust in His concern, we honestly believe that someone will make it possible for this facility to exist once again.

Two Obligations Means 2 Masses

Questions have arisen whether those who make use of the Saturday Mass privilege will, on Saturday, Aug. 15, be able to satisfy the holyday obligation that day and the Sunday obligation as well by attending the one Saturday evening Mass.

(Aug. 15 is the Feast of the Assumption, a holyday of obligation to attend Mass.)

On the question, the Sacred Congregation has replied—negative.

In other words, anticipating Sunday Mass on a Saturday evening does not fulfill the obligation of attending Mass on a Saturday holyday. One Mass fulfills only one obligation.

The obligation of Mass on the holyday, Aug. 15, may be fulfilled by assistance at Mass on Friday evening, Aug. 14, if there is such an anticipated Mass scheduled, or by attending Mass on Saturday morning. If one attends only the evening Mass on Saturday, Aug. 15, thus fulfilling the holyday obligation, Sunday Mass also is required the next day.

The same will hold true for all similar Saturday holyday circumstances.

The Slot Man

An Old Priest And His Prayer

By Carmen Viglucci



An old priest, if I remember correctly an octogenarian, was offering solace to a young woman whose mother had just died at about the age of 62.

"It's difficult sometimes to understand the ways of the Lord," the priest said, shaking his white-maned head slowly. "He takes a woman your mother's age and leaves an old man like me here. She must have been a very good woman and, frankly, it gives me doubts whether I've been good enough.

"A young woman such as yourself may think it strange but I pray nightly for God to take me from this earth. But I go on living year after year. I comfort myself with the thought that there must be something left for me to do. I also pray that God will let me know what it is."

Simple words from a simple parish priest yet their directness somehow comforted the woman.

The old priest could have retired but he doggedly insisted on continuing his duties and I can remember his shaky hands, quavering voice and how he painstakingly moved about the altar during Sunday Mass. Yet for some reason it added meaning to the Mass rather than detracted from it.

Then one hot Sunday morning he collapsed on the altar, was carried off and soon his prayer was answered.

I can also assume that his secondary prayer was answered though nothing happened during his last months to indicate any momentous happening.

I have always assumed that God felt that the old man was needed by his people as long as possible for his wisdom and help in just situations as the bereaved woman's. For he had the kind of spiritual wisdom that can only come with many years of toil in the Lord's vineyard. Wisdom means little unless it is shared and he did that by plugging away as long as he could stand.

When that was no longer possible, he was called to his reward.

You'd never think that the editor of The Daily Record, Rochester's prize-winning legal paper, would resort to a bit of old-fashioned bartering in a business transaction.

Yet Roger Gorman who deals daily with attorneys and legalese just "sold" his car in a style going back to at least pot-belly-stove, general-store days.

Seems Gorman recently bought a new car and instead of trading his old buggy (vintage 1963) he decided to keep it and perhaps give it to a vocational school. Stephen Waite of Palmyra, about to get married, heard of this and offered to buy it as he needed a second car.

Gorman wouldn't hear of taking money for something he was about to give away and Waite wouldn't take something for nothing. A deal was worked out and the car changed hands for a bottle of England's finest spirits and two dozen ears of corn, specially picked for the occasion.

If your parish group is suffering from summer doldrums or if you're looking ahead to your Fall program, a new area agency can provide an interesting program.

The Council of Adoptive Parents, formed last year, has set up a presentation on the adoption of hard-to-place children. The group, not an adoptive agency, does work with the cooperation of accredited agencies, such as the Catholic Family Center.

The program is not meant to pressure anyone into adopting, that would be unfitting for obvious reasons, but merely to focus on the problem of hard-to-place children, such as blacks, biracials, older, or those with medical problems.

Of course, if anyone is interested in adopting the council can be of assistance.

If you're interested call Richard Knoblock at 377-6662 (home) or 235-1000 (business).

Letters

Survey Finding 'Shocking'

Editor:

How shocking that only 23 percent of those who answered the survey questions are willing to offer vacant desks to children of minority races! It certainly appears that the big majority of those who attended Catholic schools do not practice what they have learned of Christian doctrine. If this is the attitude of Catholic parents then the parochial school system is indeed a "colossal failure," as Mr. Thomas G. Shea states in his letter (Courier-Journal) July 8. Isn't the most important aim of the parochial schools a Christian attitude?

Seventy percent voted to retain our school system—but resist the thought of consolidation — or contributing more money to keep the schools open. How unrealistic can you get?

Elsie Stabel
334 E. William St.
Bath, N.Y.

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