

Mass Broadcast Weekly By St. Patrick's in Owego

BY DICK BAUMBACH
Elmira Correspondent

Owego — There is a one-of-a-kind Mass being performed every Sunday at 9:25 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church in Owego.

The parishioners in the pews are joined by an untold number of both Catholics and non-Catholics who listen to the service via the radio.

James Raftis, the church's Radio Mass commentator, has been introducing the service for the past 128 Sundays. "I've been with the Radio Mass since our first service was held Dec. 1, 1968. We pride ourselves on the fact that we have never missed a Sunday Mass," Raftis said.

The Radio Mass is primarily aimed at those persons who cannot attend the services.

Father Leo J. Matuszewski, pastor of St. Patrick's, believes it is a "tremendous apostolate for both the very old and the young."

"For the old person this Mass has the vitamins he needs for continuing. It also helps those young people who might be crippled to see hope in the future," Father Matuszewski said.

Raftis said he believes the Mass also is listened to by non-Catholics who are just interested in learning about the Church.

"From the mail response I believe there is a strong indication that non-Catholics are listening to learn about our faith. Since the Mass is now in English it is very easy for the non-Catholic to understand what is happening during the service," he said.

Raftis opens the program by explaining the theme of the Mass to be celebrated. The service is always in the form of a High Mass and hymns are sung by members of a special church choir.

During various parts of the Mass Raftis plays tapes of ser-

mons delivered by either Bishop Hogan or Bishop McCafferty.

"At Communion when there is a lull in the activity for the radio listener I put on tapes of the bishops giving special messages about life. During other parts of the Mass we might play live interviews with both Catholics and non-Catholics to see what their feelings are about life and the Mass," Raftis said.

The Easter Sunday Radio Mass was very special to Raftis. He edited down the Easter Vigil service and presented the highlights of the Mass during the regularly scheduled broadcast.

Towards the end of the Mass Raftis may pay memorial tributes to recently deceased residents of the Owego area.

"I've been a life-long resident of Owego so I know just about everybody and I try to give a brief eulogy during the Mass dedicated to both Catholics and non-Catholics that have recently passed away and had resided in this area."

Raftis said the 1,000 watt radio station, WEBO, in Owego can be heard as far away as Elmira, Montrose, Pa., Ithaca and Binghamton on Sunday mornings.

In addition to Raftis several other laymen have been associated with the Radio Mass since its opening moments on the air.

Arthur Pare has served as song leader for the Radio Mass since it first started, while Mrs. Anna Meade has been playing the organ for the 128 consecutive Sundays. The four original choir singers are also still with the Mass — Mrs. Mary McFeddin, Mrs. Jean Pedro, Miss Patsy Pedro and Miss Genevieve Burch.

The Radio Mass commentator recommended that other Catholic Churches use the Radio Mass technique to reach shut-ins.

"We are the only Radio Mass

service being conducted in the Southern Tier of New York or the northern tier of Pennsylvania to the best of my knowledge. Maybe the cost would be too high in other areas, but I feel that this is something that the people of all faiths need," Raftis commented.

Elmira Area Notes

An Indoor Clambake sponsored by the Holy Name Society of ST. MARGARET MARY CHURCH, Apalachin, will be held Sunday, April 25, in the parish hall on New Street. The affair will be held from 1 to 7 p.m. Cost of the clambake is \$6 for singles and \$11 per couple.

First Communion for the children of ST. JAMES CHURCH, Waverly, will be received Sunday at the 10 a.m. Mass.

ST. ANTHONY'S CHURCH, Elmira, will hold its annual Spring Dance Saturday from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. in the church hall. Music will be provided by the Arduini Quartet. The price of tickets is \$2.50 per person.

Camp Maplewood will be conducted on the grounds of NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL in Elmira from July 5th to 30th. The four-week camp session will be open to children from 6 to 10 years of age. Camp activities will include swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, cookouts, films and skits. Additional information may be obtained from parish priests in the Southern Tier area.

Saturday from 9 until 1 a.m. the NOTRE DAME PARENTS ASSOCIATION will host a Spring Dance at the Notre Dame Gymnasium. The affair will be cabaret style featuring live entertainment with the Jay Tremain Orchestra providing music for dancing. Tickets to the dance will be sold at the door. Proceeds from the affair will be used by Notre Dame High School.

Party Monday For Cenacle

The annual card party for the benefit of the Sisters of the Cenacle will begin at 8 Monday night, April 26, at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave.

General chairmen are Mrs. William Kramer and Mrs. Mary Smith. Handling the sale of tickets are the Misses Geraldine Moylan and Laura Hohener, in town; Helen Durmin and Agnes Murray, out of town.

Fisher Singers To Give Benefit

The St. John Fisher College Glee Club will give a benefit concert at 8 p.m. Friday at Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 57 Ambrose St.

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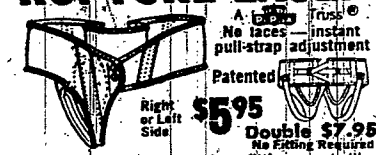
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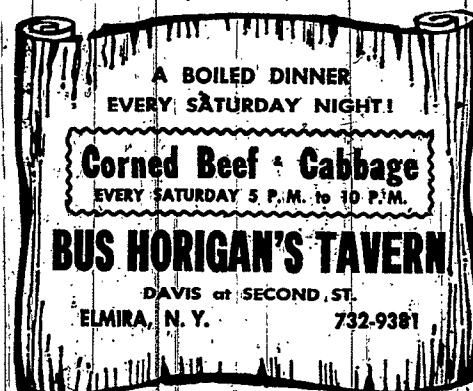
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THE MUSIC BAG

Another Day

Another Day, which Paul McCartney wrote with his wife continues the same theme that he and John Lennon started when they wrote songs like Nowhere Man and Eleanor Rigby.

Another Day is a song that describes what can happen to a person who loses sight of where she's at, and where she's going. A few years back, a character in a movie said that if, when he woke up on a certain morning, he didn't care what day of the week it was or didn't believe that the day was going to be a special day, he wouldn't bother getting up. Another Day is a song about a person who got up anyway.

This kind of person has a hum life. It's not that she's simply bored, she's tired; tired of living and probably "scared of dyin'."

Another Day, Eleanor Rigby and Nowhere Man basically say this: "Here is a portrait of failure. Take a good look at this person to see what made him a

failure, and then decide whether or not you're looking in a mirror."

Carl Sandburg said that to live we must dream. But then he asked the question: what's the difference between a dream and an illusion. What's the difference between the dream of an Eleanor Rigby and the dream of Martin Luther King?

Life is supposed to be an adventure, a challenge. A lot of people might say that such a statement is true only for young people, that once these young people get older they'll find life isn't an adventure.

If anyone says something like that to you, agree with them, but add that when you are old enough to think life is boring, maybe it'll be the right time to die.

That may sound terribly negative, but think what it says about the time for living.

(Catholic Press Features)

**SPECIAL EVENTS at
OUR LADY OF FATIMA SHRINE**
(Barnabite Fathers) Town of Lewiston, Youngstown, N.Y.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1971—Blessing of Cars 2:30-4 P.M.
—Spaghetti Dinner from 12 Noon to 6 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 1971—First Saturday Devotions at 11:30 A.M., 2:30 P.M. and 7:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1971—Mary's Day Celebration with Services at 3 P.M.

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