



Rosary Time

May is the Month of Mary—and newly elected to head the Rosary Society of St. Agnes parish, Avon, is Mrs. Paul Stoltman who holds an over-sized Rosary from the famed shrine of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes in southern France. Many other parishes of the diocese will select new officers for Rosary Societies this month.

Dear Fr. Atwell:

We Love You So

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

Avon—Father Henry Atwell "tested the wind" at St. Agnes here last Sunday and found out that 929 parishioners, young and old, want him to remain as pastor.

Twenty-one recommended that he leave, and 61 said they didn't care, in a poll that had been scheduled weeks earlier.

In his sermon Sunday, the pastor pointed out that deacons were elected in the early church, that it was traditional to act upon the opinions of the people. Jesus himself asked the apostles what they and others thought of Him and his minis-

try, Father Atwell said, alluding to St. Matthew's gospel.

The pastor wanted to know whether "I am reaching my people or not," and he asked everyone to back up his vote with reasons. Father Atwell's early impression of the tone of the "stay" votes was that people thanked him for his interest in ecumenism. "They spoke of a spirit of unity here, a greater respect for all faiths," he reported.

Some of the young people said they liked his way of teaching religion. "You're cool," one observed. But one voting "go" wrote "because you do stupid things like this. I

think this pole (sic) is dumb." Another said, "I don't like church anyway."

Father Atwell had postulated that a pastor "easily falls into the habit of circulating among those who agree with him," without ever hearing from the "silent majority."

He said he expected the poll to yield at least a 30 per cent "don't care" vote, but it was only six per cent, including the votes of some who declined to express an opinion because they were moving out of the parish, or because they had just arrived.

The two percent of the congregation in the negative column wrote comments which, quickly summarized, "seemed to reflect a general disgruntlement with religion," the pastor reported.

Father Atwell said he thought his survey couldn't be evaluated properly unless it could be compared with similar polls in other parishes.

Deaths

L. L. Claus

Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated last Wednesday at Our Lady of Perpetual Help for Francis L. Claus of Burwell Road, who died April 24, 1971.

Mr. Claus had been active in the Knights of St. John, Commandery 40, and St. John's Benevolent Association. He was a member of the New York State Bar Association. A veteran of World War II, he was a past commander of Liberty Post, American Legion.

Survivors include his widow, Josephine Mathis Claus; three sisters, Mrs. John Sexton, Mrs. Frank Riedman and Mrs. Robert Macon; two brothers, Joseph Claus and Arthur Elmont, and several nieces and nephews.

Melkite Archbishop To Visit Rochester

Archbishop Joseph Tawil, exarch of the Melkite Catholic Byzantine Diocese of the United States, will make a three-day pastoral visit to St. Nicholas parish, Rochester. He will arrive May 8 and leave May 11.

Archbishop Tawil, a native of Damascus, studied in Jerusalem with the White Fathers at St. Anne Seminary, before serving many years as a teacher in Cairo, Egypt.

While in Cairo, the archbishop also served as a school administrator and editor.

He was ordained a bishop in 1959 and was named patriarchal vicar of Damascus. He was named Melkite Exarch of the U.S. in 1969.

According to Father Athanase Hassey, pastor of St. Nicholas, the archbishop has been responsible for the following renewals in the Byzantine community: reorganization of the exarchate, his episcopal residence in Boston; development and promulgation of a new diocesan constitution; establishment of a diocesan council to help reorganize the parishes under his jurisdic-

tion; establishment of an advisory board; setting up a committee for Melkite youth; publication of Sophia, a slick paper magazine designed to be the voice of the exarchate and to inform Melkite Catholics on their oriental social, theological and liturgical heritage; establishment of a liturgical committee to translate and adapt Melkite services and prayers to a contemporary Byzantine way; and reinforcement of the Melkite diaconate with a two year university graduate program.

Father Hassey credits the exarch with unity between individual parishes and stronger and closer coordination of parish activity.

Archbishop Tawil will be the guest of honor with Rochester's Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey at a social hour and dinner at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 8, in St. Nicholas Church basement. The archbishop will also celebrate the liturgy at 11 a.m. the following day.

Father Hassey invites all friends of the congregation and those interested in the Byzantine rite to the dinner and the Sunday liturgy.



Monte Carlo Night

Trinity Council Knights of Columbus in Webster are making plans for Monte Carlo Night, slated Saturday May 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Holy Trinity Hall. Knights planning the gala evening are: (top row, l.-r.) Joe Benenati, Dr. Peter Pellitteri, Martin Sondervan; (bottom row) Gale Marshall, Paul Frommert and John Rentschler. Music, a buffet and beverages to be served.

ND Magazine Wins Award

Elmira—"Genesis" the literary publication produced by members of Notre Dame High School was named first place winner in the nationally sponsored Columbia Scholastic Press Awards held recently.

In addition to taking the top honors in the national competition, "Genesis" also received four awards in the Empire State School Press Awards contest.

All five awards were for the 1970 edition of the literary publication. In 1969 "Genesis" was

named first place winner in the same national contest it captured top honors from this year.

The four state awards the publication won include: 1) Best Individual Literary Work (Third Place—Mark Bromberg); 2) Most Improved Publication (Second Place); 3) Best Magazine (Honorable Mention); 4) All New York State Rating (the highest possible rating a high school publication can receive).

The moderator of the magazine is Larry Spaulding.



Don't Forget to Write

Father Robert Collins of the Family Life Bureau and Thomas Garlick of the Right to Life Committee load car with letters and petitions signed by more than 50,000 from the diocese urging state legislators to pass the Donovan bill which would restore the rights of unborn children. Father Collins delivered the letters to the State Catholic Committee which in turn distributed them to local state legislators in Albany.

To all who have written to me in support of my stand on

PRIESTLY CELIBACY

and to those who may yet do so, since it is impossible for me to reply individually, take this means of saying:

"THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU"

MSGR. JOSEPH A. CIRRIIONE