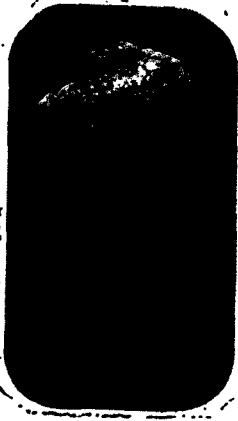


# The Sacred Heart - Love Without Frontiers

People surrounded by affluence tend to assert their self-sufficiency and to ignore their dependency on Him Who is the



unique source of all of our blessings. When we wind up each day at the receiving end of the line with gifts lavished upon us in abundance, we seem to succumb easily to the temptation to adopt a 'ho-hum' attitude toward blessings. Many parents today prepare their children to be victims of their philosophy of life. Because of vivid memories of their own childhood when they had little of the goods of earth, adults have attempted to compensate by excessive giving to their children. They seem to be saying, "I will never let them endure the sacrifices I had to tolerate."

St. Augustine had a unique observation on our casual attitude towards blessings. He saw it as the Lord's motivation in performing the miraculous - to awaken us to an awareness of His constant Providence and Goodness which brings us blessings in abundance each day. Because these gifts are so common, we begin to take them for granted.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart began with such a divine intervention in an age when the world needed to be stirred from its apathy and casual attitude towards God's

generosity. Our Blessed Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary and showed her His Sacred Heart and asked her to tell the vision to the whole world which had grown indifferent to His daily and abiding love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart which has been promoted by this unique manifestation of His love has awakened us to many truths which we are tempted to forget.

It has taught us that we all need a center point in our life more inspiring than an abstract philosophy or a noble cause. This focal point is a loving Person, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, God become man. He alone is the still center in this turning world and the loving Center of our life. St. Paul so assured us when he wrote:

"I swear by God's truth that there is no 'Yes' and 'No' about what we say to you. However many the promises God made, the 'Yes' to all of them lies in Him the Son of God, Christ Jesus that we proclaimed among you. It is through Him we answer 'Amen' to the praise of God." 2 Cor. 1: 18-20.

St. Paul was assuring us that all else may betray us, but Christ's love never fails. He is the only absolute in our lives.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart reminds us that we do need and do have personal love in our life. We are nobody until somebody loves and cares for us. Christ so loves us with all the warmth and feeling of His human heart. If we want to become some-

one and to experience God's personal love, then Jesus tells us:

"Behold this Heart that has loved men so much."

We need a merciful love, not a demanding love we are afraid to approach. The pierced Heart of Christ tells us in language unmistakable that His love welcomes us as we are - though sinful and weak.

To the world of 1972 where love has grown cold and hatred seems to abound in human hearts, we need more than ever devotion to the Sacred Heart - to be reminded that His love is without frontiers and to be inspired to fulfill His new challenge "that you love one another as I have loved you."

As Pope Paul VI has remarked: "The glorious mystery of our Holy Church cannot be adequately understood unless the minds of men be directed towards the eternal love of the Incarnate Word, the shining symbol of which is His wounded Heart."

I wear a badge on my coat lapel which reads: "Love Without Frontiers." It is the theme for this year's anniversary celebration of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. I want to adopt this theme for our Year of Renewal which is intended to increase our awareness of our personal dignity born of His love, and of our personal Mission to love without frontiers because He has so first loved us.

## The Slot Man

# Even Disaster Has Its Lighter Moments

By Carmen Viglucci

As with all calamities, the floods that ravaged many sections of the diocese were not without accompanying grim humor.

At WLEA, Kevin Doran who dropped all commercial advertising for about 30 hours and who stayed on the air overnight despite the fact his station has only a "day-light" license, related a humorous "on the air" incident.

Wednesday night, while it was still doubtful if the dam at Almond was going to hold he got a call from a listener asking how he would know if the dam burst.

"You'll hear the sirens," answered Doran.

"What do I do if I hear the sirens?" asked the listener.

"Run like hell," was Doran's succinct advice.

I'm sure there were heroes aplenty in the disaster and many will never be recognized. The ones we came across were Steuben Sheriff Jack Lisi, flying in helicopters in what to me seemed very treacherous weather and surroundings; Mayor Andrew Mazzella and his staff, working late and early to reassure the citizenry; "duck" crews from Aurora, Hammondsport, Livingston County; and Hornell Police Chief Carl Roosa and Sgt. John Fennelly keeping spirits up.

We were trying to hitch a ride in a helicopter to the Almond High School refuge center, with the aid of Father John Widman of St. Ignatius Church. Keefe and I were making little headway when someone suggested that perhaps a priest might get permission.

Father Widman immediately volun-

teered (later, as it turned out, the choppers were just too concerned with assessing the problems facing the whole area to take any excess passengers).

But at the time when it seemed possible that Father Widman might go up, I asked him if perhaps we hadn't been responsible for getting him into a hazardous spot.

"Don't worry about me," he laughed. "I've landed in helicopters on the decks of destroyers."

I had momentarily forgotten he is an ex-Navy chaplain.

And our Hornell correspondent had an unusual minor problem. Her dog, "Happy", wouldn't venture "out" Wednesday a.m. - not even wearing his raincoat.

## Editorial

# "Suffer the Little Children"

Nine years ago Pope Paul VI became the spiritual leader of the world's 600 million Catholics. Anyone looking back over those nine years would probably agree that they were tumultuous not only historically but also personally.

Time dulls our senses and events often manage to gather into dull dustballs over the years so that we forget the razor-edge shards that news events are when they cut into our lives.

For many, Pope Paul's reign thus may seem dull and too conservative. Such major decisions as Humane Vitae continuing the ban on birth control; his insistence on maintaining celibacy as a priestly norm; his safeguarding of papal infallibility tend to blend together and paint a one-sided picture of the pontiff.

Then, to others, he has been far too liberal. He has fostered international relations with Communist nations; he

has furthered liturgical changes; he has called for the end of wars some see as justified; he has strengthened the cause of collegiality by creation of the Synod of Bishops; he has practiced personal diplomacy in the realm of ecumenicity, soothing old wounds as with the Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras and opening new avenues as with the World Council of Churches.

He has captured the imagination of the world in such famous quotes as "No more war, war never again" delivered to the United Nations. He has issued controversial and important encyclicals such as the Development of Peoples in which he told it as it is:

"The poor nations remain poor while the rich ones become still richer. The very life of poor nations, civil peace in developing countries and world peace itself are at stake. We must make haste. Too many are suffering."

Actually he is above stereotyping. He has met the problems of this acceleratingly hectic world and sought the solution fitted for each without resorting to Pollyannaism or cynicism. Following a tough act indeed in Pope John XXIII, he has manned the tiller and kept the Church on its pilgrim mission despite some rough seas which may have dwarfed lesser individuals.

The photo files at this newspaper show he has met the great and the small in his journeys around the globe. They also reveal something that our staff had not realized before. There are more pictures of Paul VI in one classification than in any other. It is entitled "photos with children."

So may we join with those over this world, Catholics and others, who recognize the worth of this working Pope, and thank him for nine well-spent and devoted years.