



Advent Wreaths

Members of the St. James Church Youth Group in Waverly recently completed an Advent Wreath project. They made the wreaths for sale to parishioners and other residents of the parish. Father Richard J. Shatzel (right), assistant pastor of the church, helped with the project. Mary Ann McNamara (left) and Cathy Cocco stand with him.

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Christ would stamp the dust from His shoes and walk out of some of our parishes.

It's a hard saying. But I'm convinced of it from the Gospels and personal experience.

This has meaning for parish councils, way beyond my convictions. It has a meaning because some parishes are not Christ-centered and others would hold Christ prisoner within the parish boundaries.

In a number of columns, when I have touched on the war in Vietnam, gun controls, and other community problems, I've received letters that indicated the parish has no business involving itself in politics or concerning itself with the "secular order."

When I wrote about gun controls, talking about a Christ-like response to the problem, but avoiding endorsement of any specific piece of legislation, a reader in Spokane, Wash., wrote, "I did not realize that there is any problem in the Catholic parishes of this diocese concerning the use of guns to kill, wound or maim our fellow parishioners."

During the week that I am writing this three four-year-old children in the Chicago area, in separate incidents, were killed by guns at home. I don't know that these little ones were baptized Catholics or that their parents are even registered in a parish, but I do believe these incidents and the gun-culture in our country should be of serious concern to parishes. I believe they would be to Christ.

When I wrote about the bombing of Vietnam, from the viewpoint of a peaceful demonstration at the bishops' concelebrated Mass at the New England Congress of Religious Education, a lady from Rochester wrote, "I sincerely suggest that the clergy and all religious stick to God and Church — and parish councils worry about their parishes and not politics."

In another instance, while visiting a rectory in the Midwest, I got into a discussion on the Vietnam war with the parish secretary.

At one point in the conversation, I asked her, "What do you

think Christ's response to the war would be?"

"Oh, let's not bring that up!" she said emphatically.

More than 10 years ago, Rev. John Heuss, an Episcopal minister, gave a stirring sermon on "What Are Churches For?" It was reprinted in the Reader's Digest, and I saved it.

"To many people the Church today is a pleasant community activity where one's children attend Sunday school, where adults go to worship occasionally, and where one goes during the week to meet other nice people and raise money so that the church can stay open. On Sundays the parish is a religious institution, but the Gospels proclaimed on Sunday finds no translation into the relationships of the weekday.

"During the week the church is a series of promotional, organizational and semi-commercial activities," the Rev. Heuss said. "We have all become so caught up in the successful running of the church that it is common for many to think that numerous activities are identical with religion. To pay mortgages, to build new parish houses, to put on a drive for new members, to hold bazaars, lunches, dinners, and bake sales — all this is admirable, but it is not religious. Indeed, it may well be that most of those things upon which we congratulate ourselves are, if viewed as the sole ends for which our parishes exist, repugnant to Almighty God."

Rev. Heuss pointed out quite correctly that a parish is basically a fellowship of people. But how well does this fellowship in our parish compare with the early Church — the fellowship of the Apostles? This fellowship had a soul-shaking personal experience with Christ.

"The true function of a parish begins with the difference Jesus as the Living Christ makes," Rev. Heuss said succinctly.

Parish councils might wish to consider these questions: What is the true religious work of this parish? How can all that is done in this whole parish set that true religious task forward? To what extent is everything we are doing changing the lives of the people involved?

Cheerleaders Need Leader

Elmira Heights — "Swing to the left, Swing to the right, Stand Up, Sit Down, Fight, Fight, Fight."

These words won't be heard this year by members of the St. Charles Borromeo Church basketball team here unless someone comes forward to supervise the seventh and eighth grade girl cheerleaders.

The cheerleader leader is needed immediately to start working with the girls in preparation for their activities at various church sponsored sports events.

Women interested in participating in the program should contact the rectory.

Scout Troops Need Leaders

Horseheads — Scout leaders are needed for a Brownie Troop affiliated with St. Mary Our Mother Church here and for a Boy Scout Troop located in Big Flats.

Women who can spend one hour a week working with the Brownie Troop are asked to contact Mrs. Larry Josbene 607-739-2292.

Concerning the Boy Scouts a new scoutmaster is needed for the 1972-73 program. The troop currently has 30 members and is based in Big Flats.

Persons interested in the Boy Scouts should contact Basile A. Denissoff at 607-562-8206.

Deaths

Sister Julia

Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Julia Francis Scherer, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, was offered at the Motherhouse on Tuesday, Nov. 21. Father Cyril Guise, OCD, of Waverly was the celebrant, with Father Joseph Reinhart, concelebrant. Monsignor John M. Duffy was in the sanctuary.

A native of Rochester, a member of Holy Rosary Parish, and a graduate of the School of Nursing of Rochester General Hospital in 1924, Sister Julia Francis held supervisory positions in Bellevue Hospital, New York City, and here in Strong Memorial Hospital before her entrance into the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1933. She was assigned as a nurse to St. Mary's Boys Home, then on West Main Street, 1936-41, and spent the next 10 years in St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, in a supervisory capacity. After further study and certification as an anesthetist, she returned to St. Joseph's Hospital for another 10 years of service.

She was superior and administrator of Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent, the home for retired Sisters of the St. Joseph Order, 1963-69, after which she retired because of failing health.

M. Southworth

Canandaigua — Mrs. Mary Redfern Southworth of Center Street died Nov. 10, 1972, at the age of 81. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated Nov. 14 in St. Mary's Church.

Mrs. Southworth was born in Ireland and lived in Canandaigua for 60 years. Her husband, John F. Southworth, died in 1960. She was a member of the Rosary Society at St. Mary's, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and several other organizations.

Survivors include two daughters and a son, Mrs. Emmett Finagan Jr. of Canandaigua, Mrs. William Rayburn of Coatesville, Pa., and George Redfern of Los Angeles; one great-grandchild, several nieces and nephews and three stepsons, Maj. Charles Southworth of Red Bank, N.J.; Francis Southworth of Hempstead, L.I., and Frederick Southworth of Rochester.

Pediatric Unit Returns Home

Elmira — The Pediatric Health Care Center has moved back to its home in the Elmira Medical Arts Center adjacent to St. Joseph's Hospital. The pediatric unit was virtually destroyed by the June 23 flood which swept the Southern Tier.

basement of the Elmira Medical Arts Center and most of the equipment was destroyed during the flood.

Members of the pediatric unit have been working out of a dormitory at Elmira College for the last five months.

The pediatric unit was in the



"Even the dog wouldn't drink our water before we put in our Alron Water Purifier."

Mrs. Jane Hobart, Shortsville, N.Y.

"We have sulfur water, and what it did to our food, laundry and plumbing was unbelievable. For instance, orange juice tasted terrible made with sulfur water. So did pot roasts, tea, jello and ice cubes. I had to carry over my cooking water from my mother's house next door, and that was sure a job. I wouldn't dare make the baby's formula or wash his diapers with that awful water. And we couldn't stand the smell in the shower before. My husband always got out in a hurry, I remember.

But the last straw was when my husband discovered the mineral deposits and discolorations on our copper pipes. He decided it would be cheaper to put in an Alron Water Purifier than to replace all our plumbing in a couple of years. So we had one installed. It sits in our basement, just like a water softener, and purifies all the water for the whole house. There's even a shut-off switch you can throw when you want to water the lawn or something.

Well, we've had our Alron Water Purifier for about nine months now, and it's just great. Our water doesn't have that awful smell, and they told me it's completely purified with oxygen instead of chemicals. I've cut way down on soaps and softeners in my laundry and, believe it or not, I've noticed hardly any difference in our electric bill. My clothes smell fresher, our food tastes better, and my sinks and dishes stay clean. But, best of all, we're drinking our own water now. And so is the dog."

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