

regional news reports

Sister Is a Pastoral Assistant

Hornell

Walk to Mark Good Friday

Wayland — The Way of the Cross will be symbolized on Good Friday along a two-mile route to the crest of Selbig Hill. Signs to mark the stations are being painted by children at St. Joseph's school, and crosses are being made by Springwater young people. Men of Sacred Heart parish in Perkinsville will carry a large cross to the top of the hill.

Other churches sponsoring the observance are the Wayland and Springwater United Methodist, St. Paul's United Church of Christ and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church, both in Wayland.

The "Cross Walk," a four-mile round trip, will begin at the town hall at 1 p.m. April 20, rain or shine. John W. Landino, vice president of the area Council of Churches, mentioned earlier "walks" to raise money for charity and conservation projects, and pointed out "this will be different, because the motivation will be spiritual, not monetary."

AREA GATHERING

Homell — Sisters of the Steuben-Livingston area assisted at the 5:30 p.m. Mass Apr. 3 at St. Ann's. The guitar Mass was celebrated by Father Eugene Ermo, regional coordinator for the special gathering of all the area religious.

DISCUSSION

Dansville — A Lenten discussion was held at St. Mary's Mar. 28 with Father Eugene Ermo, assistant pastor, speaking on Key Concepts of Vatican II.

INTERFAITH SERIES

Canisteo — The fourth in the Canisteo Council of Churches Lenten services on the general theme What the Book of Acts Says to the Church Today was held Apr. 1 in Somers Hall, Canisteo. The Rev. Frederick M. Carlsen, pastor of the First United Methodist Church, presented the topic, highlighting seven situations in which the early Church was required to "deal with internal conflict." In the final program, Apr. 8 at the Wesleyan Church, Father Otto Vogt, pastor of St. Joachim's led discussion on the theme, the Church in Mission.

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "The greatest privilege for me as pastoral assistant here at St. Alphonsus has been bringing communion to the sick," commented Sister Catherine Ann Reger, SSJ who came to the parish last September as its first pastoral assistant.

"While a main thrust has been with the elderly and infirm, my work ranges beyond home visiting to include counseling individuals in a wide range of personal concerns. Serving parish groups and developing communications with social agencies and participation in ecumenical affairs are other aspects of my work.

"I'm not concerned with just crisis situations, but when there is need or illness, I try to establish some kind of relationship — just to be present in all their needs."

Sister Catherine Ann pointed out the role of pastoral assistant for religious women has emerged from pastors' awareness of their need for help.

"Sisters too are more conscious of their role in pastoral ministry since Vatican II brought the realization that the role of the church is more than just standing behind the altar," she said. "Ministry is the prerogative of the church, a church made up of women as well as men. Women can bring a special sensitivity to the needs of people and can be a visible sign of the church's concern in all aspects of daily life."

Elmira

Volunteers Open Pro-Life Line

Elmira — Pro-Life Line, an emergency service for women facing problem pregnancies, is advertising this telephone number: 734-0289.

Calls from Corning may be made toll-free through the Corning operator. Office volunteers are on duty from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

The organization proposes to decrease the number of abortions by providing medical, financial, spiritual, legal, and practical

Sister came to St. Alphonsus because the parish is large and lacks sufficient number of priests to meet all the needs of the people.

She was a teacher at the elementary level for 6 years and a high school biology teacher for 18. She indicated an appreciation to her own religious community for a change in roles which reflects a growing concern with meeting the increasing demand for the time and skill of sisters as new areas of ministry open up.

Sister Catherine Ann holds a BS degree from Nazareth College, with a major in medical technology, and an MS from St. Bonaventure University in microbiology, with a minor in guidance.

An eight-week pastoral leadership development institute at Rockhurst College in Missouri last summer helped prepare her for the realities of parish leadership through classroom and field work internship.

Sister feels her teaching and experience as a hospital medical technician have prepared her for her current work. She serves on the liturgy and human development committees at St. Alphonsus and shares in the ministry through assignments such as interviews with children before First Communion and helping to explain the new theology of baptism to adults.

To carry out her theme of listening, visiting, helping, Sister has organized a committee called

help." All transactions are to be kept confidential. Several professional counselors are among the volunteers of Pro-Life Line. Jane Callahan is chairman, Mrs. Evangeline Rice, secretary, and Father Joseph Egan, treasurer.

Auburn

SEDER SERVICE

Auburn — The Auburn Area Better World members will hold a Seder service and supper at 6 p.m. April 13 in St. Aloysius Hall. Reservations should be made by calling the CEDAR office. The service is an adaptation of the Jewish Passover celebration, which memorializes the escape from Egyptian bondage of God's chosen people. It was within the context of the Passover Meal that Jesus celebrated the first Mass; the committee points out.

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Concerned Christians within the parish who extend the hand of the church in a friendly way through phone calls to shut-ins, visits, transportation and other personal services.

"Each day needs an increase in prayer and reflection of God's

action in one's life and the life of others," Sister reflected. "And here the shut-in can help me personally and others in the ministry of the church who depend on their prayers to make their work more fruitful. And if one has creativity there is no end to ways we can serve people."

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New Member Welcomed

Troy Steven Fisher, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fisher of Apalachin, was welcomed into the Christian community by 150 of his near-contemporaries. At the front in St. Mary's Church, the baby and his godparents, Mr. and Mrs. Greg Pedroza; the Fishers and Father Valentine Jankowiak, are joined by some of the first grade CCD pupils who attended the ceremony. Second and third graders also witnessed the baptism at Mass March 25, as part of their study of the sacrament. Mr. and Mrs. Arden Wolterman, CCD principals, and Mrs. Rita Nossal, first grade chairman, arranged this "field trip" with the children.