

TOWARD TOMORROW

Fr. Henry Atwell

Bishop Hogan stood with his counterparts from nine other Christian denominations for "A Service of Concern" at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Rochester on Holy Thursday, just about a month ago.

The Bishop had earlier invited Catholics of the diocese to join him and other Christian people at the service "to pray that we may have the wisdom and the strength to be ministers of mercy to all God's people who are suffering or in any need."

The Bishop's invitation, a joint statement with the other executives of the various denominations, said the service was scheduled for Holy Week because "Holy Week is tremendously important for Christian people, not just because our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, suffered and died for us long ago, but because he still suffers before our own eyes today."

The statement explained, "Jesus suffers now in the sufferings of people — the sick, the lonely, the elderly, the poor, the neglected — all those who were his special concern and whom he called his brothers."

The statement then gave details of "three specific areas where we see people suffering now" and whose hopes were blunted by President Nixon's moratorium on federally allocated funds.

And that prompted more than one devout church-going Christian to protest.

One gentleman stated he was going to "pray against the prayers" at the Holy Thursday service. He also objected to what he termed "political activity" during Holy Week.

Another person objected: "The Church always seems to be jumping on the bandwagon for peace, lettuce boycotts, civil rights and even ecology. Don't you think Christ intended the Church to address itself to preaching the Gospel, administering the sacraments and getting people to pray more?"

Many Catholics, and I suspect many Protestants too, would expect and prefer a "yes" answer

La Raza Now 'National'

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — In a move designed to reflect its broadening scope of efforts, the former Southwest Council of La Raza, a Mexican-American organization, has changed its name to the National Council of La Raza.

Henry Santiestevan, national director of the organization, explained that "Chicanos are coast to coast now and their problems predominantly are urban problems that deserve national attention."

Since the organization was incorporated in 1968 as the first national group of Mexican-Americans to coordinate efforts to achieve civil rights and equal opportunity, it has worked in developing urban barrios and rural colonias through projects aimed at improving income, housing, education, health, and opportunities for the Chicano.

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to that question. My reply is, of course, "No!"

The Medical Mission Sisters of Philadelphia recently issued a leaflet of prayers titled "A Week with the World of Need." It lists a grace before meals, a husband's morning prayer, a mother's evening prayer, etc., and also lists a mini-meditation for each day as follows:

Sunday—10,000 people starve to death every day; Americans spent \$50,000,000 for reducing pills last year.

Monday—Per capita income in the United States in 1970 was \$3,960; per capita income in Bangladesh is \$60.

Tuesday—13 times as many African as American infants die before five; Americans spend over \$4,000,000,000 on toys each year.

Wednesday—For every \$100 spent by developed nations on weapons, only \$2.50 is spent on aid for people in developing nations.

Thursday—The World Health Organization reported 99,638 cases of smallpox in Asia, none in America.

Friday—India has 7,000,000 cases of TB resulting from malnutrition; Americans spend over \$1,000,000,000 on dog food annually.

Saturday—In Latin America there is one doctor for every 20,000 people; in the USA, one doctor for every 690 people.

St. James in his epistle writes: "Did not God choose those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom he promised to those who love him? . . . My brothers, what good is it to profess faith without practicing it? Such faith has no power to save one, has it? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and no food for the day, and you say to them, 'Goodbye and good luck! Keep warm and well fed,' but do not meet their bodily needs, what good is that? So it is with the faith that does nothing in practice. . . . It is thoroughly lifeless. . . . Be assured, then, that faith without works is as dead as a body without breath."

Our faith was never intended to be isolated in the sanctuary. Jesus himself said we love God only when we also love our neighbor "in deed and in truth and not merely talk about it."

If the Church is in business to get "people to pray more" then I think that was the whole point of Holy Thursday's Service of Concern — to pray that Christian people would at last read the Bible and find out what Jesus had in mind on this whole subject of real religion.



The Knights gathered to support vocations are, from left, Mike Goodman, Father Gerald Connor, diocesan director of vocations, Frank Cutri Jr., Bob Peters, and Father William Charbonneau.

Knights Hold 'Honor Clergy' Dinner

Canandaigua — The Knights of Columbus, Council 1445, recently sponsored an Honor the Clergy night for all priests and sisters in the area.

The evening began with a celebrated Mass at St. Mary's Church followed by dinner at Caruso's. According to Bob Peters, state vocations chairman for the Knights, the large and enthusiastic turnout reinforced the fact that the laity welcomes opportunities to publicly demonstrate their respect, gratitude and love for those who have chosen a religious vocation.

Peters expressed the hope that other councils would develop similar events and that Canandaigua Council would make this an annual affair. Peters, past grand knight of Geneva Council, was chosen "Knight of the Year" for New York State at the recent state convention.

The principle speaker for the evening was the Father Gerald T. Connor, director of vocations for the diocese. Father Connor urged all to support parish vocation programs and particularly to follow Christ's teaching regarding the need to pray for vocations.

He expressed concern about the shortage of vocations over the past few years but indicated the current situation in the diocese gives cause for optimism about the future. Enrollments are up, the quality of the applicant is high and there appears to be a broader base of vocation oriented thinking among the young, he said. He commended the Knights for their statewide vocations program and asked for a greater focus on vocations by individual

FR. ARRUPPE RE-ELECTED

Vatican City [RNS] — The Very Rev. Pedro Arrupe, general of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), has been elected for the third time in a row as president of the worldwide Union of Superiors General (Men). The Basque-born priest has been president of the organization since its statutes were approved by the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes in 1967. An American, the Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order, Rembert Weakland, was elected vice president.

parishioners. Such action accompanied by generous amounts of prayer will do much to strengthen these tentative but encouraging trends, he said. Father Connor received a standing ovation at the conclusion of his address.

Seated at the head table were Father William Charbonneau, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Sister Mary Alma, principal, Father Roy Kiggins, Father William Ryan, Father Joseph Hart, Mayor Ham Kennedy, Judge Robert Kennedy, District Deputy Frank Cutri Jr. and Mrs. Cutri, Grand Knight and toastmaster Mike Goodman and Mrs. Goodman, Chief Squires Counselor Frank LeGrett and Mrs. LeGrett, Chief Squire James Barnett, and Carl Colcord of the fourth degree and Mrs. Colcord.

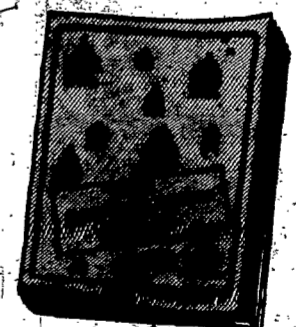
At the conclusion of the program he announced that a total of \$1,100 would be disbursed to the various seminaries and religious schools attended by the priests and sisters present.

Mike Goodman, grand knight, expressed his appreciation to all those who participated in the event, especially the co-chairmen Nick Placito and Joe Fitzgerald. He took special note of the fine turnout of brother Knights from the Webster Council and the Henrietta Council.



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