

# regional news reports

## Hornell

### THE CHAPLAIN WEARS GRAY

BY PEG PEASE

A question frequently asked of Father William Cosgrove is "Why the gray suit?"

Father Cosgrove, newly appointed chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital, has introduced something new in clerical wear. In a recent interview, he expressed his reasons.

"When you ask me why the gray suit, I could be witty and say that things are no longer all black and white in the Catholic Church today — there's a gray area. But I really don't feel like being facetious. I'm sad and angry that some people might take offense that I wear a gray suit. It's too picayune a thing for Catholics to become disturbed about. This attitude belongs to a by-gone age and should not be found in the Church today," he said.

"The most convincing reason I can offer for the gray suit is that it fits in smoothly with the chaplaincy position at St. James. I have a suspicion that non-Catholics are put more at ease by a clergyman appearing in gray rather than black. And remember, I am the chaplain for all the patients and personnel of the hospital. Yet, in spite of the gray, I still am addressed by both non-Catholics and Catholic as 'Father.'

"Perhaps wearing gray in a Catholic institution can be done more easily than in parish work. People expect the chaplain of a Catholic hospital to be an RC priest. And whether he's wearing black or gray, they still seem to recognize him as a priest. Catholic patients and Catholic visitors have also expressed favorable comments. Certainly if I thought a patient would be upset, I'd go back to the black. I can sincerely say that there have been no objections, just the opposite — many have said and meant it, 'I like the gray.'

"What if I were in a parish? Would I wear it? Yes... In fact I ordered the suit at a time when I had no idea I would be coming to St. James. I would have worn it for several reasons," he said.

"First, black has a gloomy connotation. You drape a casket in black — we used to. Undertakers wear black. Even priests, I was told, wear black to show that they have died to the world, they live for God. That doesn't fit the thinking of the Church today. We've cast aside the black pall and vestments at a funeral and use a white pall, white vestments and celebrate a Mass of the Resurrection.

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"Aren't we reminded constantly today that we are an 'Easter People' an 'Alleluia People.' As Sons of God, eternal existence is to begin now. We, as other Christs, should be busy establishing God's Kingdom on earth. We are not to turn away from the world, die to the world. We are to rejoice that we are alive with God's Spirit. And we are to let this Spirit of God grow in our lives and in the world. One man said to me the other day, and by the way, he was a very good Roman Catholic, 'Father, I like the gray. After all, you're not a minister of death, you're a minister of life.'"

Father continued, "I can remember times when I've visited a parishioner and as I've come out, a passer-by has asked: 'Who died, Father?' Black connotes death. A priest offers life, true life, eternal life. Black is 'out of place.' 'Okay,' you say, 'but it makes you look like a Protestant minister.'

"I'll have to concede that point. What puzzles me is what's wrong with looking like a Protestant clergyman? Are they so terrible? The most Christian man I ever met — no, the two most Christian men I have ever met were Baptist ministers. I think the distinction between priest and minister has to be broken down. And with this remark I know I'll be getting myself in trouble. I'll use a very homey example and say we've been looking too much at the hole and not enough at the doughnut. We have been so defensive about our religions, always criticizing the other, always pointing out how much better our religion was than the other person's, always negative, bitter and unchristian, that we've never looked positively at one another's beliefs. Catholics have done this and Protestants have done it," he said.

"The Catholic Church has finally recognized some sort of validity to Protestant Churches. In time I suspect the Catholic Church will accord even more validity to non-Catholic Churches than she does now. If a minister is a duly, officially ordained clergyman in a church that we recognize as having validity, then the minister also has a validity to his minister. And we should admit it and respect it. In fact, I would like to see priests study more closely the role of 'ministry' and I would like to see ministers look more closely at the idea of 'priesthood'."

In concluding the interview, Father Cosgrove remarked, "By the way, I put on my black suit the other day and it felt heavy... heavy in the sense of oppressive, forbidding, officious. I glanced down at the black shirt and trousers and felt like a cop. It didn't make me feel more priestly, believe me. I know that black, the black suit is a sign of the Roman Catholic priest. But it's a conventional sign. It was only a matter of convenience that this particular sign was chosen. It doesn't have to be black. Gray is just as acceptable, or blue, or brown. I guess I'm caught up in the mood of some in the Church, and I think this is the authentic feeling of the Church, that we are not to be too narrow, hemmed in, legalistic, hung up on accidentals. To me a clergyman wearing a black or brown or blue suit is accidental. I think the Church today is telling us to get out of our narrow world and get busy about more important things!"

### TRIDIUM SET

**Hornell** — A tridium will be held at St. Ann's the week of July 22 with Father Cornelius Davin, a Passionist priest, conducting the services.

### CHAIRMAN NAMED

**Hornell** — Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jones and Mr. and Mrs. William

Jones are chairmen of this year's fall festival to be held at St. Ann's, Sept. 14 and 15.

### FESTIVAL PLANS

**Wayland** — Helen Werth, chairman of the Friday Night Vegetable Soup Kitchen at St. Joseph's Festival has announced that soup, cake, ice cream and coffee will be served from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. A beef barbeque will be served on July 21 from 5 to 7 p.m. To be assured of a dinner, contact Sue St. George or Deanie Traphagen. Additional workers on the barbeque are Thirid Rodenbeck, Cindy Baldwin and Betty Blum. Kitchen workers are Norma Didas, Margaret Schader and Anna Reigelsperger. Other workers are Mary Lee Morsch, Cindy Ruscitto, Shirley Ellis, Mary Baldwin, Bill Baldwin, Anne Abraham, Marcia Miller, Elaine Hart, Marsha Gardner, Dave Wallace, Mary Martina, Dave Mastin, Jacqueline Beckerman, Mary Saxton, Linda Carney, Cathy McAllister, Jean Lander and Sue Wallace, Lil Fox, Lee Morsch and Lynn Shaver.

### BARBEQUE

**Rexville** — The date for St. Mary's barbeque is Aug. 5. Articles are needed for the variety booths. There will be a meeting July 23 at 8 p.m. at St. Mary's to go over final plans for the event.

### PARISH TO MAKE DAY CARE SURVEY

**Dansville** — The family life committee of St. Mary's parish will survey the town to find out whether a day care center is needed. Dorothy Hoag, chairman, reported at the July meeting.

The finance committee proposed to work out a schedule of fund raising projects with representative of all parish organizations, to obviate conflicts.

New parish council officers are Jon Shay, president; Joseph Niezgodza, vice president; and Rose Hayes, secretary. New members, introduced by the pastor, Father Richard O'Connell, are Alice Acomb, Gerald Welch, Quentin Masolotti, Rita Schwan and Dorothy Hoag.

## Canandaigua

### FESTIVAL

**Victor** — The festival held last weekend at St. Patrick's was a social and financial success. This year's profits will be shared with Notre Dame Retreat House and with Covenant. Covenant House is an organization in New York City which provides food and shelter for children left in the streets.

### FLAGS GIVEN

**Palmyra** — In a ceremony following the 9:30 a.m. Mass, Congressman Frank Horton presented two American Flags to St. Anne's. The presentation took place at the flag pole on the rectory lawn. One of the flags will be used here and the other at the Christian Formation Center.

### SERVICE OFFERED

**Palmyra** — The Human Development Committee of St. Anne's is offering a community service to those in need of transportation in Palmyra. Rides will be provided for the elderly and handicapped on an emergency basis for doctor appointments and shopping needs in the Wayne County area. This committee would like more volunteer drivers, and promises that the time involved would be no more than one day each month. Persons interested in any phase of the program may call Jackie Leysath for details, 597-5711.

## Elmira

### COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**Apalachin** — Results of the recently held election to the Parish Council at St. Margaret Mary Church have been announced.

Elected for two year terms are Michael Mehal, James Camann, Ed Spall and Dr. Robert Laler. Two persons were elected to one year terms. They are Joseph Valabek and Larry Plane.

### COUNCIL ELECTIONS

**Elmira Heights** — Four persons were recently elected to the Parish Council at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

Those elected to serve three year terms are Anthony Borgognoni, Barbara Daugherty, Lawrence Leeman and Martha Barr.

### PARISH PICNIC

**Owego** — The annual parish family picnic for members of St. Patrick's Church will be held July 15 at Skyline Park.

### SCHOOL BOARD

**West Elmira** — The election of officers to head Our Lady of Lourdes Regional School Board was held recently.

The new officers and their positions are Robert Lynough, president; Edward Kunzinger, vice-president; Mrs. John Hyland, secretary; James Comerford, representative to the parish council and Sister Mary Dominic, representative to the parish finance committee.

### ST. CASIMIR'S ELECTIONS HELD

**Elmira** — Elections of officers and new members for several major parish organizations at St. Casimir's Church here were held recently. The newly elected individuals, their positions and the organizations they serve are as follows:

Parish Council: New members elected for three year terms are Stanley Wisniewski, Marie Novick, Mary Jurusik and Philip Suttin. Alternates to serve on the council are Bob Bradt, Bob Rohde, Ann Bloom and Theresa Stamp.

School Board: New members are Murie Klugo, Bob Bradt and Antoinette Wisniewski. Alternates are Kathleen Kuttentkuler and Kathleen Augustine.

Rosary and Sacred heart Society: New officers are Kathleen Augustine, president; Regina Kalec, vice-president; Catherine Rasplack, treasurer; Joanne Wilcox, secretary and Eleanor Greblewski.

## Auburn

### PRE-CANA

**Auburn** — Pre-cana sessions originally scheduled July 22 and 26 have been rescheduled for August 12 and 16, at 7:15 p.m., at St. Alphonsus Church. Couples may pre-register by calling CEDAR, 253-8494.

### NEW OFFICERS

**Savannah** — Newly elected officers of St. Patrick's Altar and Rosary Society are Mrs. Joseph Murray, president; Mrs. John Stowell, vice president; Mrs. Richard Colquhoun, secretary; and Mrs. Rudolph Sangiacomo, treasurer.

### NEW HOME FOR CEDAR

**Auburn** — Christian Education Department, Auburn Region (CEDAR) enters its third year serving the Auburn area with new offices located in the Holy Family School building.

Summer programming includes a four-session introduction course for new catechists on Monday evenings. Topics include nature and purpose of catechistics, sacred scripture, "Christ Jesus and our response," and techniques of teaching.

The same program is running on Tuesdays at St. Joseph's Church in Weedsport. Another program for junior and senior high catechists at the new CEDAR location focuses on group dynamics and activities.

### NEW PARISH COUNCIL

**Van Etten** — Father Bernard Kuchman celebrated Mass Wednesday evening July 11 to start the second year of the St. Pius X Parish Council. A business meeting followed in the hall. After elections last week the group members are Roger Berkley, Mrs. Frances Janski, Mrs. Barbara Louko, Mrs. Theresa Maki, John Sandusky, William Sullivan, Norman Toda, and Mrs. Lillian Williams. Trustees are John McPherson and Anne Turner; auditors, James Harvill and Christopher Norton.

### CLASSES CONTINUE

**Van Etten** — The St. Pius X religious information classes continue. Miss Jody Palmer last week was received into the Church with the Sacrament of Confirmation.

## Ithaca

### WELCOMING COMMITTEE

**Ithaca** — Immaculate Conception Parish Council has established a welcoming committee for new members and families. The group, headed by Joe and Mary Zichettella, will greet new parishioners, acquaint them with the parish, introduce them to other members and, in general, make them feel at home. Those interested in participating in this venture may call the Zichettellas at 272-7637.

### MAINTENANCE CREW

**Ithaca** — Dave 'Red' Powers is trying to establish a maintenance crew for the church, school, convent, rectory and grounds. Repairs, painting, plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and metal work need to be done. Skilled and semi-skilled men and women of the parish are asked to volunteer by calling 'Red' at 273-3705.

### K OF C FUND

**Ithaca** — A fund drive in support of the New York State Council of the Knights of Columbus charitable and benevolent program has begun, according to Ernest Jackson, a past grand knight of Ithaca Council 277 and state auxiliary chairman for Central New York.

Financial aid for retarded children's programs and the state bishops' Exceptional Children's Program are the goals of the drive. Last year, each of the eight Catholic Bishops in New York was given \$12,500 for children's programs.

Two checks of \$500 each were given to the Crippled Children's Center at the Tompkins County Hospital and the Ithaca Speech Clinic, thru Ithaca Council.