



Photos by Dave Witbeck

A complete record will be kept of all Good Shepherd parishioners who help with the church renovations detailed in the plans held by Father Robert Miller.

Do-It-Yourselfers Renovating Church

By PAT PETRASKE

"At the present rate of deterioration, we could plan on an authentic stable Mass here within ten years."

This humorous description of the need for renovation, printed in the Good Shepherd newsletter, has been answered by the parishioners. They are giving the 59-year-old church its first major face lift.

On Friday, the interior was ready for the painters and looked as if it had just lost a battle with an earthquake. Most of the furnishings had been removed, exposing peeled ceilings and varicose-veined walls. The 12-foot pews lay tilted precariously as they waited to be dipped, stripped and revarnished. "Hopefully we can get them back together again," laughed co-pastor Father Robert Miller.

Simplicity and unity were the two goals that the parishioners had in mind when they approved the changes and began the renovations Jan. 3. Serving as architect and project coordinator are Robert Macon and James Quigley, respectively, both members of the Henrietta parish.

The walls and the ceiling will be painted off-white and the floor will be covered with a bright orange rug. The altar will be built up and moved forward in an enlarged sanctuary. "We hope to get away from the theatrical stage effect," and "boxed look," said Father Miller.

The seating capacity of the nave will be maintained by slanting the pews inward. "A slanting inward will focus attention on the altar table, while also facing those on either side of

the center aisle a bit toward each other," stated a letter to the parish on why the church is being renovated.

When the new wooden tester or canopy is suspended over the tabernacle, it will curve under the windows on each side of the tabernacle and enable natural lighting to focus on it. Artificial lighting will be provided by huge glass bulbs hung from the ceiling. The final improvement will be the installation of a quadrasonic sound system.

Father Miller stressed that all labor will be performed by volunteer parishioners. A budget of \$7,500 was allotted from parish finances to cover expenses.

It is expected that the work will be finished by Easter. The school gymnasium, meanwhile, will serve as church.

Graymoor Priest Sets Talks

Father Arthur F. Gouthro of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Garrison will speak at two Rochester celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. He is national director of the Graymoor Ecumenical Institute, which initiated the observance.

Several neighborhood ecumenical organizations have scheduled appropriate events.

Father Gouthro will give the homily, Our Unity in Christ, at a service at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23. Taking part will be clergymen and parishioners from the churches banded together as the South West Ecumenical Mission (SWEM).

PARISH MEETING

St. Rita's Church, West Webster, will hold its second annual Open Parish Council Meeting on Saturday Jan. 19 at the church.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will celebrate the weekly 7:30 p.m. Mass and will preside at the council meeting at about 8:30.

The purpose of this meeting is to present to the entire parish a comprehensive review of the council's work and that of its committees.

On Thursday noon, Father Gouthro will be at Father Henry Atwell's weekly Mass in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, downtown. He is scheduled also for the Channel 8 television program, Pastor's Study, at 9 a.m. Thursday.

Bible study and an "agape feast" of bread, cheese and fruit will bring together the people of the Gates-Chili area at St. Christopher's, from 6:30 until 8 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20.

The 13 churches in that section have an organization called ONE, or Our Neighborhood Ecumenical Council. Reservations for the

supper, and for child care, should be made with Maxine Lourette, 889-4623. There is no charge; an offering will be taken.

Across the county, the people of Penfield will be welcomed at St. Joseph's Church, 43 Gebhardt Rd., by Father Walter Wainwright, co-pastor. The Rev. Donald McFerren of Penfield Presbyterian Church will give the homily, and the Rev. Robert Towner of First Baptist will sing the Prayer of St. Francis. Father Wainwright will give the benediction. The service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sarah Child

My neighbor popped in this afternoon and wanted to know what Elizabeth II of England's last name was. We went through the Tudor, Stewart, Windsor bit and were wondering if underneath it all she wasn't just plain Mrs. Mountbatten, when I gave up.

Earlier in the day I had had trouble remembering my kids' names, what day it was (Monday) and if I'd managed to get out of bed that morning before my husband had left for work. (I hadn't.)

I go through this every January. Other people may term the stretch after the holidays "depression" or "letdown." I call it disorientation.

Sure I know who I am and where I am. My husband goes to work. The two oldest go to school and the youngest is eating her Rice Krispies while watching Captain Kangaroo as usual. Nothing has changed. But somehow I can't get back into the comfortable, rutted routine we were all in before Thanksgiving.

Part of the problem is that I can't give up Christmas that easily.

I finally gave in to my husband's demands and to the evergreen's deteriorating nature and put our tree outside days after everyone else had dumped theirs at the curb or mulched it at the recycling center.

And I chafed but I did take the Christmas cards down from the

kitchen soffit and packed up the creche.

But the tree is on the patio in its standard where I can still enjoy its beautiful shape and remaining needles and I keep looking at the beautiful cards trying to think of something to decoupage them on to.

And before I carry the creche upstairs to the closet I wonder quite seriously to myself if it wouldn't be nice to leave the little stable scene in the living room all winter.

I am not ready for the season of goodwill to be over. I expended the energy reserved for holiday partying early in December. But that special closeness with friends and family that seems to peak at Christmas time wants to linger on. Maybe my age is telling. Or is it the child in me that won't grow up. Well, no matter, I'll recover by February. I almost always do.

TEACHER TRAINING

The North East Region is holding sessions in teacher training and adult enrichment on Wednesday evenings at Our Lady of Mercy High School. Starting at 7:30 p.m., the program includes two lectures and a coffee break. Tonight's program features Father John Lowe, SJ, speaking on child psychology, and the North East Region Team on religious development of the child. Tickets are available through parish religious education offices.

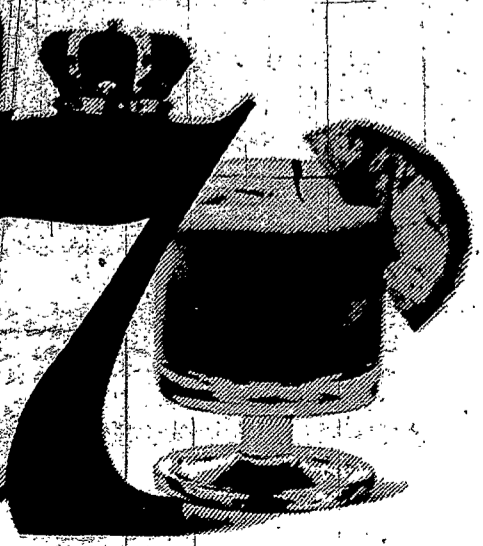
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