

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Thoughts From the Desert

I pen these words from the peace that presides above the blue waters of Lake Canandaigua in the tranquility of Notre Dame Retreat House. The Lord Himself has invited us by word and example to remove ourselves from the mad rush of the noisy city and to go apart at times and rest awhile. Spiritual writers speak of this experience as a 'Day in the Desert' — isolated from the drain of daily schedules of agenda, from anxiety about the urgency of immediate demands on time, and from the pressing priorities of personal commitment.

I have published regularly a monthly calendar of time allotted for public appearances at events which indicate my personal preference for happenings I hope promote an image of the Church of Rochester as a Church alive to the challenges of Vatican II. While many may have interpreted the blank spaces as days with **nothing to do**, I have set them aside as days with **everything to be gained**. For I have learned to love to waste days with Him. I have full faith that He is always there to meet me and, as I relax without anxiety, I find myself listening to what He has to say.

And what He has to say to me this past week, I am pleased to share with you now.

I was a member of a despised minority — a citizen of an occupied country — the laughing stock of my brother Jews. If you follow me, do not expect to win in a

popularity poll. My father was a common laborer and my mother a simple, homespun type — and my home town was so deprived that people used to say, 'Can anything good emerge from Nazareth?'

I had no academic degrees. In fact, I wrote but once in the sand with my finger — and everyone took notice of my message — 'Be not judgmental or judge not lest you be judged.'

I had no big connections with men of power and influence. I did often say that 'My Father and I are one.' — 'Forgive me for name dropping — but do not forget His name for He is your Father, too.'

I lacked structural and organizational power. I chose a company of men of broken speech — uncultured — and simple fishermen. Do watch the company you keep.

I met face to face ingratitude, rejection, misunderstanding and betrayal. What do you expect? I had no home, no social security, insurance or retirement plan, nor last Will — except my seven last words. — Do you remember them, the summary of my Gospel?

To men of little faith I have said — every problem is a possibility in disguise — Sickness — is an opportunity for healing — Sin — is an opportunity for forgiveness — Sorrow — is an opportunity for compassion.

To those who seem so beyond redemp-

tion, I have said — Never abandon anyone for all have hidden possibilities. Why do you think I chose:

Peter — The seemingly spineless — to be the rock foundation of my Church.

Mary Magdalene — a sensitive sweet soul — whom I appointed to anoint my body for burial.

Matthew — tough on income tax — but I have said he could write my Gospel?

This all means for you and for me that Jesus saw the possibility of a transformed world and a renewal in our lives. He was always the optimist — impressed by what the world could become and never depressed by what it was. How we need Him to give self-confidence to our world filled with inferiority-complexed people masked with the thin disguise of braggadocio.

To all of our age ready to admit that we are guilt-infested, failure-plagued and problem-swamped, the Lord has this to say:

"I am the good Shepherd."

"I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved."

"I am the bread of life."

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

"I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live."

vatican news

We Have A New Saint!

Teresa Jornet y Ibars Founded Little Sisters of Poor, Aged

Vatican City [RNS] — A 19th Century Spanish nun who founded a religious society to care for lonely people was solemnly proclaimed "Saint" by Pope Paul at a ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica on Jan. 27.

The latest person to be added to the list of canonized saints in the Roman Catholic Church is Teresa de Jesu Jornet y Ibars, foundress of the Congregation of the Little

Sisters of the Poor and Aged, who died in 1896.

During a two-hour canonization rite, Pope Paul, speaking in Spanish and Italian, praised the new saint as "a new gift to the Church of God and to humanity from Catholic Spain."

"May she be an inspiration to that noble and generous nation, enabling it to find in its religious

and historic tradition a free, organic, interior unity to serve as a springboard for the fulfillment of great and grave duties that confront civilized and progressive society everywhere."

Many members of the community founded by the new saint and pilgrims from Spain were among the estimated 5,000 people who attended the ceremony.

Pope Paul concelebrated Mass with four cardinals and four bishops from Spain. The Spanish government was represented by Agriculture Minister Thomas Allende Garcia-Baxter.

"Saint Teresa Jornet is one of those figures that has left a deep, personal imprint on the world," said the pontiff, "the mark of her spirituality being service and self-sacrifice for others."

"It is difficult to follow in detail the life and activity of Saint Teresa," he went on. "Coming from Aytona, near Lerida in (northeastern) Spain, she first tried her vocation among the Carmelite tertiaries and the Poor Clares.

"We see her, foundress of her new institute, travelling the length and breadth of Spain in her work of charity for the old and the needy."

(St. Teresa's foundation has about 3,000 members in some 14 countries, including the United States.)

"Today, more than ever," Pope Paul observed, "in this age of tremendous progress, large



Pope Paul reads the Gospel during the canonization Mass.

numbers of the elderly find themselves faced with material poverty, neglect, and loneliness. None better than the Little Sisters of the Poor and Aged know the sufferings of these people.

"The Little Sisters have been and are witnesses to the emptiness that often afflicts the old. They have been chosen to fill that emptiness with warmth and human affection. They have been chosen by God to reaffirm the sacredness of life and to underline the truth that man is a child of God and can never be regarded merely as tool of cold utilitarianism.

"We pay homage to Saint Teresa Jornet Ibars. Her life is an example of virtue and an invitation to charitable social action."

Pope Paul, in a brief address to the people gathered in St. Peter's Square at noon on Jan. 27, again emphasized that the new saint was "a saint for our times and of our times," characterized, as they are, he said, by concern for "humanitarian" ideals.

CDI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, Catholic Daughters of America, will give a Valentine party Feb. 14 for children at the State Hospital. Mrs. Richard Vollmer and Mrs. Samuel Attardo head the committee.

The organization has a new chaplain — Father Paul Cuddy, associate pastor of Holy Trinity, Webster, and Courier-Journal columnist.

Papal Legate Celebrates English Unity Services

London [RNS] — Ecumenical history was again made in Britain during the recent Week of Prayer for Christian Unity when the newly appointed Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Bruno Heim, attended a joint service with Anglicans and Free Churchmen.

The service, in which Holy Communion was celebrated according to the rites of the three groups, was held at the Anglican parish church of St. Andrew's in the north London district of Stoke Newington.

One observer described the presence of the Pope's personal representative as a "friendly gesture by the Holy See," adding:

"The service is unprecedented in all sorts of ways, and the appearance of Archbishop Heim in this role is rife with symbolism. It can be taken as a most friendly gesture by the Holy See towards the Church of England, or as mute encouragement to British Roman

Catholics to be bolder in their ecumenical outlook."

During the service three separate Eucharistic rites were celebrated simultaneously, underlining the division of Christianity at its most basic level, as the Apostolic Delegate described it.

Archbishop Heim, in addressing the congregation of Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Free Churchmen, expressed his sorrow at the continued separation of the Churches. "We should understand clearly what we are doing here this evening," he said.

"Our service is only in part a joint service. We are certainly joined together to pray and to hear the Word of God. We have sadly to admit, however, that this is as far as we can go. In itself it marks no advance. For we have to remain apart for that which really expresses Christianity, particularly in the Eucharist."