

Holy Year Theme: **RECONCILIATION**

By Father Robert F. McNamara

Pope Paul VI, in announcing the 1975 Holy Year (and the 1974 "advance" holy year to be celebrated in each diocese) gave out as its theme: **Pilgrimage of the People of God in renewal and reconciliation.**

In an earlier Lenten issue of the Courier-Journal we answered the question: "Why a Holy Year Pilgrimage?" Pilgrimage, we pointed out, is a devotional "homing" act practiced in probably all the religions of men. As a Christian act of piety today, it symbolizes particularly well what the Second Vatican Council called the Church — "a pilgrim people."

The Diocese of Rochester is especially well acquainted with the term "renewal." Two years ago Bishop Hogan launched a campaign for updating our structures and our hearts, to which he gave the name Time of Renewal.

Let our Diocesan Holy Year 1974 focus rather on that other thematic word, Reconciliation.

After looking about for a good definition of reconciliation, I have found this one the simplest: **Reconciliation means reunion in friendship after estrangement.**

A reconciler is therefore one who reunites with himself another that has become unfriendly, or brings together two parties that have fallen out.

The Year of Jubilee commanded by God in the Old Testament Book of Leviticus, was a year given over to social and economic reconciliation. Slaves were to be freed, property returned, debts discharged. People at odds were thus restored to friendship, and all made a new beginning.

The Christian Year of Jubilee, or Holy Year, is always intended to be a year of reconciliation, but in an even more spiritual sense.

It celebrates man's reconciliation with God; it urges man's reconciliation with neighbor; it advocates man's becoming a peacemaker, reconciling other parties who have become estranged.

Man's reconciliation with God. Immediately I think of the familiar Christmas hymn: "Hark, the herald angels sing/Glory to the new-born King; Peace on earth and mercy mild/God and sinners reconciled." "When we were reconciled to God," says St. Paul, "by the death of his Son, we were still enemies." (Rom., 5:10) In the epistle to the Colossians he states it more fully: "God wanted all perfection to be found in him (Christ) and all things to be reconciled through

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Father Blighton To Be Ordained

For the second time in its history Holy Redeemer Church will witness the ordination of a priest when Bishop Joseph L. Hogan confers the mark on Father Francis Blighton, Friday, March 29, at 7 p.m.

Eighty-one years ago Msgr. John M. Boppel, later chancellor of the diocese, was ordained in the church.

The theme of Father Blighton's ordination Mass is taken from the first words of the prayer of St. Francis: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

Father Blighton is a member of the old German community which established both Holy Redeemer and St. Boniface. His mother, Mrs. Katherine Blighton, still lives in St. Boniface. His great aunt still lives in Holy Redeemer.

The people of the community have taken an active role in preparing Father Blighton's ordination. His invitations were designed by Rochester artist Anthony Petracca. The children of Holy Redeemer school have made decorations for the church. The newly-formed women's society will host the reception following the ordination. Preparing for the rites is the parish's liturgy committee under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Miller and Sister Aida of the Spanish Apostolate. The new priest's vestments have been made by Mrs. Leo Kuzmik and participants of the Senior Citizens Center on Hollister Street as well as women of the parish.

The traditional choir which has recorded several albums of church music, and the folk group of the parish will provide the music.

Father Blighton is a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, St.



FATHER BLIGHTON

John Fisher College, where he earned a BA in Philosophy, and St. Bernard's Seminary. He is presently working on his thesis toward a Master's degree in Theology. The thesis explores the psychology of listening as leading to an act of faith.

Father Blighton did his Clinical Pastoral Education at the University of Virginia Commonwealth Hospital. While a student at St. Bernard's, he also was instrumental in the establishment of Turning Point, a Visalia, Calif., drug abuse program, the first such religiously oriented program to receive state funding.

Father Blighton will celebrate the Eucharist at St. Boniface Sunday, March 31, at 12:30 p.m. and at Holy Redeemer Saturday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m.



A First

Photo by Susan McKinney

Bishop Joseph Hogan, assisting the bishop is Father Henry Atwell, accomplished a first for the Rochester Diocese by saying Mass in St. Luke's Episcopal Church Thursday noon, March 21. This is believed to be the first time that a Catholic bishop has said Mass in an Episcopal Church in the Rochester area.

600 Attend 'Life' Dinner

By CHARLES RANDISI

"Abortion, or "destroying the proved creativity of sex," said the handsome black woman, "is the ultimate sex perversion."

Dr. Mildred Jefferson, assistant clinical professor of surgery at Boston University, was addressing the 600 people at "Dinner for Life" Saturday evening, March 23, at the Mapledale Party House.

The dinner was the year's major fund-raising effort for the Rochester Area Right to Life Committee.

Dr. Jefferson, a nationally known pro-life advocate, said that, contrary to the claims of women's rights groups, abortion actually aids in the exploitation of women. Legalized abortion has come about as the result of a "skillful" advertising campaign.

It was the "population control groups, not the women's groups," said Dr. Jefferson at a Saturday afternoon press conference, "that were most influential" in the Supreme Court's pro-abortion decision.

"A woman who openly supports abortion in my mind is just increasing her chances for propositions," she said.

She noted that when she has argued that the unborn fetus is indeed a human being with all due rights, people have asked her if it was human in the abstract or "metaphysical sense."

"I tell them then to have only 'metaphysical' abortions," she said.

"Abortion is a form of national suicide," she added. "It denies people the gift of inheritance."

Minority groups are affected most by abortion, Dr. Jefferson noted. "People who are fewer disappear faster."

It is important, she said, that pro-life groups not be divided over the wording of amendments now under consideration in Congress. "We must work together," she said. "It is more essential to support whatever we can right now. We can worry over the specific wording later."

Barbara Breuer-Sipple, a folksinger, also appeared at the dinner with Dr. Jefferson. She has been active with the pro-life movement for two years.

"I was undecided on abortion until I went to a rally in Washington, D.C.," she said. "I learned the basic medical facts about abortion there. Since my music fit in with celebrating life, I thought I'd do as much as I could to help support the unborn."