



**Rally Round the Marriage**

*Photo by Susan McKinney*

The Mercy High School Auditorium was filled to capacity Palm Sunday, April 7, as families from all over the area got together for a Marriage Rally, put on by Marriage Encounter, Inc., for families of all married couples who have made an encounter. There were balloons for the kids, hugs for adults, a procession and Mass said by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, and many speakers. Similar rallies took place the same day all over the country.



**Opening Luncheon**

At the formal opening of Oakland Manor in Weedsport, Lloyd S. Rifford, assemblyman from the area, is served by Father Elmer W. Heindl, pastor of St. Joseph's church, while [L-R] Dr. Thomas L. DeFurio, Auburn dentist; Dianne DeFurio, his daughter; and Thomas L. DeFurio, administrative director of the facility, look on. The manor is an adult residence.

**Philippine Missioner To Visit**

Father Leo Welch, a member of the Society of Jesus for 50 years, will celebrate his anniversary with a rare visit home from the Philippines.

Sister Christina Welch of St. Agnes High School reported this week that her brother would be here from May until August, staying with another sister, Mrs. Harold Dennie of Walworth. Altogether there are three sisters and three brothers in the area.

Father Welch, a native of Webster, has spent nearly all of his Jesuit years in the Philippine Islands, as a scientist and teacher and lately as a parish priest. He passed the 50th milestone Jan. 31 in a remote village of Bukidnon Province. He entered the order during his high school years.

A letter of congratulation from the superior general of his order, Father Pedro Arrupe, indicates the course of his varied career, which was interrupted by three

years of internment during World War II.

A trained meteorologist, Father Welch worked at the Manila Observatory and in the Philippine Weather Bureau before the war and then taught physics in Mindanao universities, leaving this work to take part in the training of native seminarians. He then took a crash course in Tagalog, the language of the countryside, and became a pastor.

Father Arrupe, commenting on this "adaptability and flexibility," wrote, "You were long a witness to the traditional dedication of the Society to the physical sciences... Yet you could put this apostolate aside, an apostolate for which you had been especially trained, for the hidden and often thankless job of being a Father Minister, the man on whom the daily contentment of men — and consequently their perseverance in their vocation — so largely depends."

Father Arrupe alluded to Father Welch's current parish work as "your exemplary solution of one of our major problems, a continued apostolate for our school men whom the pressure of years forces to leave the classroom." He continued:

"Your learning another language while already in your sixties to enter upon our apostolate in the parishes, an apostolate so sorely in need of men, is a message to all Jesuits that the conventional age of retirement in the professions need not be, for ours, an end of their work for the Kingdom."

Speaking of Father Welch's wartime imprisonment, Father Arrupe pointed out that "if you had not answered the call of the King to work in the outposts of the Kingdom, you would not have been able to share this suffering with Him."

**Pope to Open Holy Year Christmas Eve**

Vatican City [RNS] — The Roman Catholic Church's 1975 Holy Year will be solemnly inaugurated by Pope Paul at 11:30 p.m. on Dec. 24, 1974, the Vatican has announced.

At that time, the Pope — following a long tradition — will knock with a ceremonial hammer on the "holy doors" of St. Peter's Basilica, which have been sealed closed since Dec. 24, 1950, the date that marked the close of the Church's last Holy Year.

The doors will open and the pontiff will enter the basilica and proceed down the aisle to the high altar, where he will celebrate Midnight Mass.

The ceremony of the opening of the "holy doors" of Rome's other major basilicas — St. John Lateran, St. Paul, St. Mary Major — by papal delegates will take place on Christmas Day at times to be announced.

Spiritual preparations for the 1975 Holy Year of "spiritual renewal and reconciliation of men with God and each other" began on Pentecost Sunday, 1973.

The year of special grace and prayer, which begins and ends with the opening and closing of the "holy doors" of Rome's major basilicas, usually on consecutive Christmas Eves, has a historical precedent in the year of Jubilee prescribed in the Old Testament (Lev. 25: 10-15).

In pre-Exilic Judaism, every 50th year was a Jubilee Year, or year of remission, in which debts were pardoned and slaves freed. After the Exile and until 70 A.D., the Jews continued to hold a sabbatical year in which debts were remitted.

The medieval Popes came to apply such a custom in the Church, decreeing a Holy Year, a period in which a plenary Jubilee indulgence is granted to the faithful under certain conditions.

The first Holy Year in the Catholic tradition was inaugurated on Dec. 24, 1300. At that time the reigning Pope, Boniface VIII decreed that every 100 years a universal Jubilee year should be celebrated.

Subsequent Popes progressively shortened the intervals between Holy Years until finally in 1470, Pope Paul II

reduced the interval to every quarter of a century, a custom which has remained to the present.

**St. John, Fairport Sets Holy Week Mini-Pilgrimage**

St. John of Rochester Parish, Fairport, will conduct a "Mini-pilgrimage" on Holy Thursday night, following the evening liturgy.

A caravan of cars will form in the church parking lot and travel as a group to visit St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester; Assumption Church, Fairport; and St. Louis Church, Pittsford.

The entire pilgrimage will last approximately one hour, from 9 to 10 p.m. Interested laity from all parishes are invited to join the group.

**Easter Masses On Television**

A portion of Pope Paul's Easter morning Mass and the entire 10 a.m. Mass at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington will be shown by Rochester television stations on April 14.

The first half hour of a program beginning at noon on WOKR, Channel 13, will focus on the Pontifical Mass in St. Peter's. A film on the Resurrection will fill the hour.

From 10 until 11 a.m., WROC, Channel 8, will offer live coverage of the Mass celebrated at the shrine by Archbishop William W. Baum of Washington.

**AYM SECRETARY**

Miss Cathy Orlick has been appointed part-time secretary for the Area Youth Ministry, Inc. (AYM). The AYM sponsors the Maplewood & Edgerton Youth Development Project. Miss Orlick will be secretary for both AYM Offices — the Maplewood Branch and the Edgerton Branch. Her duties will include typing, filing, and coordination of press releases. She attends Holy Family Church.

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