

# WAUB, Father Shamon Help Center's Drive

**Auburn** — WAUB radio, in support of efforts to raise funds for the Auburn Hospitality Center, will dedicate most of the days Dec. 7 and 8 to talking about the center and accepting contributions. The radio project is sponsored by Father Edward Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius Church. Father Shamon will be interviewed about the center and the project's purpose periodically throughout both days.

This radiothon is St. Aloysius' response to the diocesan Office of Human Development's offer to match funds raised in Catholic parishes locally up to \$2,500 for the center.

"We are undertaking a tremendous project here to support the Hospitality Center located across from the Auburn Correctional Facility, where travelers and voyagers who come to see their loved ones can at least have a stopping point, a chance to get themselves together before they go into the correctional facility," Father Shamon said.

"I am thrilled with this unique and concrete opportunity to assist our brothers in Christ, regardless of their location and circumstances — the residents of the Auburn Correctional Facility," he said. "More specifically, the families of these men who often come under considerable hardship to visit their loved ones."

The Hospitality Center is located in a converted service station. The visiting room at the prison is cramped, especially on week-ends when prison residents may have only 2 visitors at a time because of space limitations.

The center, open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. under the direction of Keith Batman, assisted by volunteers, has served 4,500 visitors to the prison since it opened in 1972.

Father Shamon explained the center provides shelter for persons visiting the prison, especially before and after visiting hours, during lunch break, and while waiting for transportation. There are rest rooms available as well as coffee and snacks, babysitting, information about prison regulations, help with visit related problems, emergency loans and coordination of charter buses from metropolitan areas.

The majority of visitors are from distant metropolitan areas. When dealing with prisons, the majority of these committed are the poor and disadvantaged whose families have limited resources.

The correctional facility houses men who have made mistakes and are paying their debt to society. Regardless of the circumstances which brought these men to the institution, it is not for us to assess the blame. It

has always been the teaching of the Church that no one is beyond redemption. No matter what the moral or social aberration, men have the potential for redemption and rehabilitation.

"As a native Auburnian the prison is quite relevant to me. I walked in the shadow of its walls in my youth on the way to school and actually worked on the construction of the south wall one summer. I have associated with the men directly within the facility, just recently bringing the national Pilgrim Virgin statue to the institution for devotional services. The message — walls are no barriers to a relationship and communication with God," Father Shamon said.

"We have so much talk about charity and love. We put signs and symbols on our automobiles, but often we do what is diametrically opposite. Let us prove ourselves by doing something that is very concrete through this corporal work of mercy of which Christ himself spoke and manifested throughout his life. We can best exemplify in our lives that mode of charity

that mode of love for others that Christ exemplified in his love by being generous."

The Hospitality Center is dealing with people who are coming to visit their loved ones in the hopes that one day that one might enter into the family circle again. Father Shamon pointed out the family is the basic unit of society and anything that can be done to strengthen the family circle can be considered a very valuable service.

"That the hand extended in the gesture of giving is in the best possible position for receiving," Father Shamon issued a plea that hands be extended, not only financially, but extended in a gesture of food, drink, a gesture of help.

"It was our Lord who said, 'Whatever you do to the least of my brothers, you do it unto me.'" Father Shamon concluded.

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**



**Sarah Child**

A neighbor who is as slim as a reed can be but says she has to diet to stay that way reports her self-set task has been made easier for her by the reports of starvation and hunger throughout the world. It's hard to make a glutton of yourself she says when you think of those with not even a crust of bread.

"A friend tells me I omitted one very important item in the column last week about preparing two meatless meals a week for the family. She points out that a homemade loaf of bread which is cheap and easy to make once you learn the knack will turn any meatless meal into a feast. Amen to that.

"That reminds me of the first loaf of bread I ever made. I was 14 or 15 and my mom was helping my dad start a business so Saturdays I took over the kitchen. My repertoire consisted mostly of apple pie so I expanded into bread making. That first wizened loaf was hard and sort of black on the outside and soggy and limp on the inside. My dad, who was used to mom's feathery and fragrant bread, sat down that night, inspected my effort carefully and then ate at least half of it. With that kind of motivation I couldn't help but keep trying.

"I went to a First Penance meeting the other night. Our copastor who said he was not breaking the seal of confession says the first-time penitents will undoubtedly follow in their older brothers and sisters footsteps and there'll be a lot of confessing

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about "forgetting to feed the dog" and "not cleaning up my room."

"A department store ad in the Sunday times this past week featured a large, billowing, dowdy-looking garment that looked half dress, half night gown. The name of this chic creation designed to be worn over body shirts, skivvies etc. House Well, it made the emaciated model look like one. Can you imagine what it would do to us more rounded females? Would love to know how many of the fashionable set fall for that put-on.

"Our rambunctious seven-year-old has been in a couple of plays at school. In the first he was Big Billy Goat Gruff and in another an ape as in "Planet of The Apes." I do hope this is not typecasting.

"Penny for penny, the best investment you can make in a half hour of peace and quiet is to buy a 25 cent spool of cellophane tape and hand it and some used wrapping paper to your preschooler.



**Supreme Knight**

John W. McDevitt has been elected to his 12th term as the supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus by the board of directors. A native of Malden, Conn. he was an educator and school administrator in Massachusetts before joining the K. of C. Supreme Office in New Haven, Conn. as deputy supreme knight in 1960. Only four previous supreme knights have held the office longer than McDevitt.

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