

# Bishop Urges Priests To Note Unity Week

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has called upon the priests and people of the diocese to observe the upcoming "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" (January 18-25).

The 1975 theme is "Reconciled by the Christ who Renews, Frees and Unites" (Eph. 1:7-10).

(The Week of Prayer began at Graymoor in Garrison, N.Y. in 1908. Within a few years it spread throughout the world.)

According to Father Charles Latus, director for Ecumenical and interreligious affairs, "Prayer for unity is crucial. Ecumenism always gets stuck when unity is viewed as just a rearrangement of human institutions. It moves when Christians prayerfully submit themselves and their institutions to what God intends."

In a letter to all priests of the diocese, the bishop urged that the month of January be used as a time for prayer and sharing in ecumenical projects that will continue throughout the New Year. He encouraged priests to continue in their concern for Christian unity by their prayer and involvement in local ecumenical activities.

The Diocesan Ecumenical

Commission also recently prepared a list of program possibilities for parish ecumenical involvement, which has been mailed to each parish. The suggestions are aimed at promoting direct lay involvement in ecumenism. A 1973 diocesan survey revealed that about 80 per cent of the laymen in the diocese know what ecumenism is and are open to it, though only about 15 per cent are actually working on the issue at the parish level.

Cardinal Jan Willebrands, president of the Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity, recently placed strong emphasis on grass-roots interest in ecumenical trends. He indicated that the Vatican looked favorably on developments at this level. The cardinal also promised that a new Vatican document dealing with "ecumenism on the local level" would be issued within the next two months.

# Bishop to Speak At St. Bernard's

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will offer his reflections on priestly service and on his recent stay in Rome, later this month as part of St. Bernard's Seminary's continuing education program.

The bishop will speak to priests and deacons at an all-day program at the seminary, Monday, Jan. 20, 10:30 a.m. Discussion will center on Servant of the Lord within the People: Reflections on Priestly Service. A Bishop in Rome — 1974: Personal and Professional Reflections, will be his theme at 1:45 p.m.

The following evening, Tuesday, Jan. 21, the bishop will repeat his Rome observations for priests, sisters and laity. The lecture will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the seminary.

Father Francesco Turvasi, STD, will open his two credit course, Holy Spirit: Presence and Power in Christian Life Today, on Thursday, Jan. 23, at 7:30 p.m. Registration for the course continues weekdays through Jan. 13 at the seminary's Continuing Education Office.

# Detroit Priest Dies Here

A Detroit priest who died here Dec. 31, 1974, was the uncle of Father Robert G. Smith of St. Januarius, Naples.

Father Joseph A. Smith, OSA, suffered a heart attack while driving his car in Brighton. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Our Lady of Lourdes and at St. Mary's Hall, Villanova, Pa.

The Augustinian priest, a native of Philadelphia, was the retired prior of Austin High School in Detroit. He was here on a Christmas visit. Father Robert Smith's mother, Mrs. Robert I. Smith, was riding with her brother-in-law when his car went out of control. She was injured, but is recovering at her home in Clintwood apartments, according to her son.

Survivors include a brother, Martin, who lives in Maryland.

# Panel Urged For U.S. Study Of Abortion

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — A congressman has recommended establishment of a blue ribbon panel or commission composed of professional and lay people with "extensive, comprehensive knowledge" to study the "vital subject" of abortion.

Rep. Gilbert Gude (R-Md.), in proposing such an approach, said the "complexity of the issues involving abortion are so great and involve such broad segments of legal, medical, social and religious fields of knowledge and belief that I have strong doubts that legislative committees are fully able to give the attention and time to this subject that justice and equity require."

Rep. Gude, a Roman Catholic, said a commission similar to the Commission on the Ethics of the Use of Human Subjects in Biomedical Research is "necessary to adequately address and fully study this area."

# British Prelates Condemn Practice Of Euthanasia

London [RNS] — Euthanasia, or mercy killing, "is murder and is forbidden by the law of God," declared the Roman Catholic archbishops and bishops of England and Wales in a pastoral read in all churches of the two countries.

The statement said the issue of euthanasia has been subject to public controversy recently and there are intimations that a move to change legislation on the subject might be made.

This was seen as a reference to the admission in mid-November by George Mair, a retired surgeon, that he killed patients "at their own request" by injecting drugs. Dr. Mair's admission, made in his autobiography, spurred new demands for an inquiry into the practice of euthanasia.

It was against this background that the archbishops and bishops of the 19 English and Welsh dioceses declared that "the time is opportune for speaking once again about the care and consolation which are due to those who are nearing death."

"We must see to it that in the final hours of life we ensure dignity and comfort to one who is being called to God."

"We are not required to go to

extraordinary lengths to prolong a life which is obviously drawing near to its end. It is permissible to apply medical treatment to alleviate pain and relieve distress, even though such treatment may bring forward, to some degree, the inevitable process of dying.

"However, this positive and kindly support of those nearing death is quite distinct from the deliberate and direct ending of one's own or another's life. This form of killing (sometimes referred to as euthanasia or mercy killing) is murder and is forbidden by the law of God and the law of the land.

"The disposal of innocent life is in the hands of God by Whom life itself is given. If we ignore the Author of life, our respect for life in general will be lowered. Furthermore, too easily might the practice of euthanasia be extended to eliminate elderly or handicapped persons who might, by some arbitrary rule, be considered a burden to the community.

"We urge everyone to resist the evil of euthanasia. Let us bear witness to our respect for life by generous and compassionate caring for the sick and dying. By our love and support we must give to the dying the spiritual consolations and dignity which are their right."

**ON THE RIGHT SIDE**



**Fr. Paul J. Cuddy**

The best things about tours are: 1) thinking about them in the days and years following; and 2) the nice friendships which often result from such trips.

A few days before Christmas, two who were on the May Ireland Tour, phoned me at Webster. "We just want you to know that we were married by Monsignor Whalen at Lourdes in November. And we are very happy." They certainly sounded happy, and may the Lord bless the two of them. However, we cannot guarantee such an eventually on all tours.

A couple who made last October's Ireland tour wrote:

"We were sorry that we missed the get-together of the tour at Mrs. Rice's in Geneva. We tried to make alternative plans, but it didn't work out. We so wanted to see every one. Ken still claims that Guinness Stout is his favorite — but it doesn't taste as good in the U.S. Do you think that's psychological? We have kept all of your articles from the Courier-Journal on Ireland. It's fun to go back and read them — especially about the porcelain Gloria."

From an Artist friend:

"God bless you and love you. Your letter came when I needed it most. We have had a lot sickness, and we need prayers. There would be no Catholic Courier without your column. Thank you with all my heart."

There is hardly a person in the world who does not need a bit of bolstering up. Why not drop off that letter you've been intending to write? Do it now. There is danger in delay.

From Brother Francis Mary, OFM, Conv.

"In regard to your inquiry about whether we are involved in the Tapes Apostolate I can say that at this time only in a limited degree. I am chairman of Maximilian CUF Chapter which is tied in with the Accord Communications. The whole purpose of this chapter is the promoting and producing of tapes, but we have not really gotten under way. However at our last meeting we proposed a "Tape of the Month Club," similar to the Book of the Month Club. Please pray that this will be initiated during the Holy Year."

The Franciscan Friars of Marytown, 8000, 39th Avenue, Kenosha, Wisc. 53141, is the headquarters of the Knights of the Immaculata, founded by the recently beatified Polish martyr, Blessed Maximilian Kolbe. I have written to several "possibles" about establishing a Cassette Tape Center for genuinely Catholic tapes. The most hopeful response came from Father Kenneth Baker, SJ, editor of the priests' magazine, Homiletic and Pastoral Review. "The axle that squeaks gets the grease." Here's hoping, and praying — and squeaking.

From a Mid-West Nun:

"Blessings, greetings and prayers. I do keep tabs on you through the Courier . . . I gave much thought to you when I attended a recent Marian Congress sponsored by the Legion of Mary and St. Vincent de Paul Society. You'll be hearing from me. Please save me a set of Bishop Sheen tapes. I'm saving up to get them."

From a candid School Teacher:

"It is difficult to express my thanks for your kindness to me and mine. We were inspired by Sheen tapes. In fact they are now in Bolivia where a Community of Contemplative nuns are enjoying them. I am enclosing a check for \$20 for the next gift you make of the tapes. I was skeptical of them before I heard them for I thought they might be tiresome. But they were far from tiresome. They are worthy of your praise."

Thanks to her generosity, I fired a set of tapes to Sister Mid-West. She will use the tapes with an apostolic zeal which is more than ordinary. Deo gratias! Imagine the number of souls that will be touched by special grace, thanks to this gift.

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REGISTRATION: January 14, 15, 1975; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
PRE-REGISTRATION: Anytime prior to these dates; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
CLASSES BEGIN: Tuesday, January 21, and Wednesday, January 22, 1975.  
Additional Finger Lakes Occupational School Courses Offered at Local High Schools  
SENECA FALLS—Registration Jan. 29-30, 7-9 p.m. Classes start Feb. 3rd. Intermediate Shorthand.  
RED JACKET—Registration and classes start January 2, Welding.  
GENEVA—Registration Jan. 20, 21, 22, 7-9 p.m. Classes start Jan. 27. Intermediate Shorthand, Intermediate Typing.

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