

Legion of Mary... A Helping Hand

We are all very much aware of the shortage of priests today and no one more so than priests themselves. He feels the need to extend himself, to reach more of his people, to be involved in the many activities of his parish. More and more priests are looking to their parishioners to help them in many areas of their ministry.

The Legion of Mary is actively helping priests in 46 parishes in the diocese. The members attend a weekly meeting (about 1-1/2 hours) and, working in pairs, devote two hours a week to some assigned apostolic work. They have accumulated an enviable record of services rendered to their Church under the guidance of their pastors.

On Jan. 5, the spiritual director, Father William Trott, and the Comitium officers (the governing body of the Legion of Mary in the diocese) made a one-day trip to New York City to present their semiannual report to the legion headquarters there. A look at some of their activities will quickly show how they can be of service to those priests who do not already have a group in their parish.

One group of seven legionaries takes Holy Communion to about 40 to 50 people in a nursing home every Sunday

morning. The parish priest could not reach all of these shut-ins on a weekly basis.

Through the efforts of a few legionaries, a legion group has been established in both Auburn and Attica prisons. Here these men are growing in their own spiritual life as well as bringing the Word of God to their fellow inmates. They can reach their peers more readily than the prison chaplain. Other legionaries visit those awaiting sentence in Monroe County Jail.

The members spend the greatest part of their time visiting homes in parishes, representing the parish and carrying the concern of the priests and people. They welcome newcomers to the parish; they spend time with the lonely, the elderly, the sick and shut-ins; they encourage lapsed Catholics to return to their faith; they go on errands for those who can't get out, and take others to Church, to doctors, shopping, etc.

The Legion of Mary aims at the spiritual growth of its members and in being at the service of the Church in whatever area the priest sees as his greatest need (except material relief). Some priests may already have people helping in the parish without the Legion of Mary. However, the regularity of the weekly meeting

and the weekly work assignment assures not only that the work is done consistently, but most important, the priest has the opportunity of forming the members in their spiritual growth and apostolic zeal.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, in acknowledging receipt of the semiannual report, wrote about the legion as follows: "Truly I would wish, with you, that there were a larger membership; but the success of apostolic work is really not measured in numbers. I admire the growth and development of the new ministries, especially the prison ministry and the ministry to nursing homes."

For further information about establishing the Legion of Mary in a parish, or about becoming a member, contact Miss Lucile Kunz, president of the Rochester Comitium of the Legion of Mary, 1104 St. Paul St., Rochester, N.Y., 14621 or telephone (716) 544-1218.



Jubilee Dinner

The opening event in Aquinas Institute's 50th anniversary celebration will be a dinner dance Feb. 1 at Logan's Party House. In charge are Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Casale, left; Father Frank Boehm and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Casper. Tickets are available through the school office, 254-2020.

ON THE RIGHT SIDE



Fr. Paul J. Cuddy

If this article had a title, it could be: "Hilarity at the Confession line."

Recently I was helping out at Shortsville, and had Fathers Roach of Clifton Springs and McFarland of Macedon in for supper. Father Roach said: "Clifton and Shortsville men will be on retreat this week. It is a custom of the Redemptorists to invite the clergy of the retreatants to share dinner with their men on Saturday noon. Would you like to come with me, and join them Saturday?" "Great! I'd love it." So come Saturday we went to Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, and were welcomed by the rector, Father James Foley, and his associates, Father Arthur Wyatt and Father Dennis Foley. Also on deck were Fathers Charbonneau, David Gaesser and Robert Kennedy; and Victor's Father Murley.

We joined our men at the dining table. It was good to see so many men who realize the value of a retreat: a value to their souls, to their families, and to their emotional stability. May many men taste the delights of a good retreat. And many women, too.

A good retreat is usually a serious business, but invariably it has some funny happening which is memorable. I recently read over my recollections of a retreat made at Auriesville in the diocese of Albany some years ago. They record:

"Father XXX, SJ, is the Retreat Master and is dull as a hoe. Father Gleeson, SJ, is still in charge, smiling and bouncy as ever. A soft-in-the-head Father YYY of M. Diocese adds color and entertainment. He is a retired military chaplain from all the services, who bumbles around cheerfully, glorying in his past military career, his long record of coming to Auriesville, and his sense of importance because of his long record. Last night we were standing in line waiting to go to confession. F. YYY was with us, roaring away in great voice and came out with: 'Some Bishop ought to join the Army, as chaplain. Think how edifying that would be.' In fact, it would be better if ten would join! Why, it would edify the whole country. Do a lot for the Church. Bring honor to the bishops of our

country. I can think of a lot of them I'd like to see join — and send them to Viet Nam, up front!" We were in stitches, and I haven't laughed so heartily in months.

"Each morning we rise at 7:00; private prayers and Lauds at 7:30; concelebrated Mass at 8:00; and breakfast a little before 9:00. At 11:00 this morning, a Father XYZ celebrated a Byzantine Mass. He looks much like Cardinal Dougherty did, a bit like a bowling ball in the back and top of his head. He was no beauty, but during Mass he was kind of transformed as he celebrated the Awesome Liturgy.

"After lunch I talked with the Retreat Master under a tree. We exchanged views about currents in the Church. While he is optimistic, he suggests the most insidious danger we will have is 'The Third Way.' In this Catholics will not externally leave the Church; hence no schism, because that's too much trouble. But they will remain within the Church, accepting what they will, the morality which they find satisfying, the Mass and the Sacraments as the Spirit (or their ego) moves them; but only tenuously remaining part of the institutional Church. Kind of ecclesiastical Fifth Columnists

Even as I read these notes the memory of the funny ex-chaplain, the piety of the Eastern Rite priest, the peace and thoughtfulness which a quiet retreat brings suffuses my soul. Many retreat houses went into unfortunate experiments which repelled the lay people as well as the clergy. But many retreat houses have returned to the tested and tried spirituality which is part of our Catholic tradition. These houses are beginning to flourish, after the drought brought on by gimmickry, talkathons and jollity spirituality. Christ's message is still: "If any one will be my disciple, let him take up his cross and follow me."

150 Hear Pastor Extol Life

Approximately 150 people attended a Mass in St. Pius the Tenth Church in Chili on Wednesday, Jan. 22, and heard Father Donald Murphy, pastor, deplore the rising number of abortions in the United States over the past two years. Celebrating the Mass at the request of the Gates-Chili Right to Life Committee, Father Murphy noted that human life had been dignified from the very outset of Christianity as evidenced by the institution of Baptism, and that abortion, which had been practiced in Roman times, was practically unheard of in the early Christian era because

of the great value placed on the human soul.

The Mass marked the second anniversary of the Supreme Court ruling on abortion. The Gates-Chili Right to Life Committee has marked the anniversary both years in the same manner, according to George A. Goodwin, chairman. "Because we have centered our activity within the areas of Gates and Chili," he said, "we have been able to build up a strong pro-life group. Our committee is small, but our influence is great." He went on to give credit to those who actively participated in the Mass but who

are not active members of the committee.

Miss Patricia Caster, a student of St. Pius the Tenth School, presented a single, long-stemmed red rose to the celebrant after the gifts of bread and wine had been offered. The rose is a nationally accepted symbol of the pro-life cause. Mr. and Mrs. Michael Grattan and their children presented the gifts, while Clifford Schallmo was lector and gave the first reading. Bruce Zaepfel gave the second reading. Mrs. Jane Zaepfel, an active Right to Life member, was the organist.

COURIER-CALENDAR

St. Louis — An Evening in Germany, Wednesday, Feb. 5, sponsored by the Ladies Guild; 6:30 p.m. social hour, followed by buffet.

Mother of Sorrows — Mother-daughter-grandmother dinner, Tuesday, Feb. 4, after 5:30 p.m. Mass; entertainment by Penrose Dancers. Adults \$1.25; children 50c.

Holy Apostles-Holy Family — Mothers Club Valentine party, Saturday, Feb. 15, Holy Family School hall, Ames Street; dinner, 7-9 p.m., dancing 9-11 to Freddy Beck orchestra, \$16 per couple. Reservations by Feb. 2 with Maeve De Perna, 254-4679; Rose Grisanelli, 436-6395; Sally Brown, 647-9894; Ann O'Connor, 458-9506.

St. Andrews — Slide presentation on The Shroud of Christ, sponsored by Christian Mothers Club, 8:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3.

St. Pius X — Slide presentation on orphanages in Vietnam, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4, sponsored by Rosary Guild.

Catholic Church Choirs Festival — Organ, orchestra, 180 voices, 8 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9, Annunciation Church, 1754 Norton.

Forum on Justice — George Frank of Gallo Wines and Susan Dillinger of United Farm Workers Support Committee on public access to economic justice information; 12:15 p.m. today, First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Plymouth; Feb. 5 topic: Inadequacy of Re-entry Systems — a discussion of difficulties encountered by people released from jail.

Catholic Widowed Parents Club — Meeting at 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 7, St. Theodore's Church, 168 Spencerport Rd.; talk by Father Donald McCarthy, CSB, of Aquinas, followed by social hour. All Catholic widows and widowers invited.

League of Women Voters — Public information meeting on criminal justice, with Peter Yellin, Monroe County public defender, and others on possible alternatives to current court practices; 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, Baptist Temple, 1101 Clover; child care provided.

Church Women United — 15th annual legislative institute, entitled Children in Need of Help (abused, retarded); 9:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7, Asbury United Methodist Church, 1050 East Ave.

Right to Life — Life Issues workshop, Saturday, Feb. 8, St. Charles Borromeo.

AOH Ladies Auxiliary — St. Bridget-St. Valentine dinner,

Saturday, Feb. 8, Hibernian Club, 48 Alexander; reservations with Patricia Richardson, 244-8959, or Mary O'Neill, 865-5033.

McQuaid's BASH — Dinner party and auction of goods and services, in preparation for March 15.

AAU Boxing — St. Martin Club vs. Ithaca and Buffalo, 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, South Avenue Recreation Center.

Arsenic and Old Lace — Performed by East High Thespians, school auditorium, 8 p.m. tomorrow and Friday, Jan. 31.

Rose Tattoo — Tennessee Williams play by SUC Brockport Theatre Department, campus Fine Arts Theatre, 8:30 p.m. Feb. 11-15. Reservations: 395-2479.

Red Desert — Antonioni film Feb. 1, at 7 and 9:30 p.m., Rochester Museum's new Eisenhart Auditorium.

The Boston Tea Party — Revue with music, 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, Nazareth Arts Center.

Moscow Balalaika Orchestra — Wednesday night, Feb. 5, Eastman Theatre; tickets through Original Performances, 325-1070.

Christopher Parkening — Classical Guitar — 8:15 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, Original Performances, 325-1070.

Dance Theatre Workshop of New York — Performance 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, Jewish Community Center, 1200 Edgewood Ave.; master class and workshop, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17.

Women in Society — Luncheon discussion series conducted by YMCA at Christ Church Cathedral, East Avenue at Broadway; five Fridays, Jan. 31-Feb. 28, 12:15-1:15 p.m.; \$7 fee.

Nazareth College Recitals — Larry Johnson, guitar instructor, 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, Room A-13, Arts Center, free. Glenn Buck, clarinet student, 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, Arts Center auditorium; free.

Art Show — Nazareth College Art Department alumni, Arts Center lobby, Jan. 31-Feb. 23; weekdays, 9-9, weekends, noon-6 p.m.

Scholastic Art Awards — Exhibit of 2000 art works from 150 high schools in the 12-county Greater Rochester area, Sibley's Ward Gallery, Fifth Floor; downtown, Saturday, Feb. 8 through Saturday, March 1, during store hours.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

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