

Horseheads Parish Sets Renewal Week

Horseheads — Sister Jose Hobday, OSF, will direct a series of workshops and informal discussions next week in St. Mary Our Mother parish. The subject is prayer.

All organizations and groups with parish connections have been provided for in morning and afternoon sessions, and evening meetings have been arranged for representatives of the nine regions in the diocese.

Sister Jose, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi headquartered in Milwaukee, will be on her third visit to this area. She took part in the Mount Saviour Symposium of 1972 and returned for a Watson Homestead workshop in 1973.

She has taught in high schools and colleges and has had many years' experience in spiritual formation work. In recent years, she has given courses in American Indian culture at the University of California in Los Angeles, and currently she is a member of a team that works at



SISTER JOSE

the Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana.

The renewal program will begin with talks by Sister Jose at Masses of obligation this weekend, Feb. 1 and 2.

Better World Retreat Set At Brockport

The Movement for a Better World will be staging another retreat in the Rochester diocese at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin in Brockport from April 11 to 17.

Father Joseph McColdrick, Sister Gemma Fenbert, and Anthony Keaty will conduct the retreat. Better World recently conducted a retreat at St. Joseph's in Penfield.

The Better World team says that one or two openings exist for retreats at about the same time within a 200-mile radius of Brockport. Any parish interested should contact Movement for a Better World, 8555 16th St., Suite 402, Silver Spring, Md. 20910.

Pilgrim Virgin Workers to Meet Tonight

Photos taken throughout the month of November of the Visitation of the Statue of the Pilgrim Virgin will be shown at Holy Rosary School, 420 Lexington Ave., at 8 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 29.

Father Edward Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Auburn, who made the visitation possible, will be the guest. All those who worked on the visitation are invited.

WINANS TO SPEAK AT MOS DINNER

Jeff Winans, left defensive tackle for the Buffalo Bills, will be the featured guest at Mother of Sorrows Sports Night. Winans, drafted second by the pro-football club in the 1973 college draft, was All-Pacific Eight Conference at Southern California and played on the College All-Star team. The sports dinner is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, in the parish hall, 5000 Mt. Read.

Spanish Community At Odds With Strong

By BONITA BALDWIN

The Spanish-speaking community advisory committee resigned from its role at Strong Memorial Hospital earlier this month. According to Father Laurence Tracy, co-pastor of Mt. Carmel Church and chairman of the committee, the resignation was prompted by the response of the hospital medical director, Dr. James W. Bartlett, to the committee's proposal for an Office of Patient Representation. Father Tracy claimed that the proposal was submitted in May and that Dr. Bartlett's reply, pledging only further study, was not received until early January.

Last week, in his rectory office, Father Tracy discussed the situation unofficially, not as a spokesman for the committee.

He said the problems at Strong are not unique to Puerto Ricans, but are the result of the hugeness and complexity of the institution. Puerto Ricans are simply more vulnerable to the problems of

such a system because they are less able to express their needs.

Strong's translation procedures for Spanish-speaking patients are inadequate and inefficient, the priest reported. He cited cases in which patients have not understood why an operation was performed. Doctors all too often have to rely on the patients' friends and family, often children, to interpret. Members of the cleaning staff are brought in to translate and not compensated for the professional work. Training for staff translators is ineffective, Father Tracy charged.

The committee's resignation is not the end of efforts to improve conditions at Strong, or at other area hospitals, including St. Mary's, Father Tracy stated.

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WORD FOR SUNDAY

Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 2:22-40. (R1) Mal. 3:1-4. (R2) Hebr. 2:14-18.

Sunday is the feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This incident in our Lord's infancy must surely be familiar to all those who wisely pray the Rosary. It is the fourth joyful mystery.

Forty days after the birth of a boy, the Mosaic Law ordered that a mother be purified by offering (a dove) and a thanksgiving-offering (a lamb, if rich; a dove, if poor). Mary offered two turtledoves.

After these sacrifices, the Law further enjoined that a firstborn child be consecrated to the Lord: to symbolize that all life belongs to God and to recall God's deliverance of His people from slavery by His slaying the firstborn of the Egyptians. To redeem the child from God's service, parents paid five shekels to the temple priests.

To fulfill these prescriptions Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple 40 days after Christmas.

The astounding thing about the Presentation was the fact nobody paid any attention to the Holy Family as they went from Bethlehem to the Temple. Here were the three greatest personages in the world passing by and only an old man and an old woman took notice. Rightly, we may wonder why.

In the 1830's rubber-fever swept over the United States. Everyone wanted rubber goods. Millions of dollars were invested in producing them. Then, too late, after millions had been spent, it was discovered that rubber products became viscous and sticky as gum in summer and bone-hard in winter.

It was then that Charles Goodyear — the greatest name today in rubber — became interested in this mysterious "gum elastic." For five long years he

studied it, experimented with it until he had spent every last cent on his researches. Then in 1839 he more or less stumbled across the discovery of weatherproof rubber — rubber that would be unaffected by cold or heat.

One winter day, his wife sent him to the grocery store. As always, Goodyear had a fistful of rubbergum in his hands. Standing by the hot, pot-bellied stove, while waiting for his order, he kept tossing the rubbergum. Accidentally, he missed catching it and it plopped on the sizzling hot stove. When Goodyear recovered his rubbergum, he found it had a new quality. He realized that the one ingredient rubber had lacked was heat. Heat vulcanized it.

Later on, people said his discovery was an accident. Goodyear stoutly denied it. He maintained that neither he nor any other man would have profited from the so-called accident had it not been for the fact that he had been working for years on rubber, and therefore he was able to draw the proper conclusion. "The incident," he said, "held meaning only for the man whose mind was prepared to draw the inference."

So it was with Simeon and Anna. Why did they alone of all the people of Jerusalem that day recognize the Holy Family? Because they alone of all the people had for years been preparing their souls for God. The just and pious Simeon lived only to see God. Anna was constantly in the Temple, worshipping day and night in fasting and prayer. In other words, they were tuned in on God. Their wave-length was right. When Jesus came within range, they immediately recognized Him.

Today, God is still in our midst. The Constitution of the Sacred Liturgy says that He is present in His word, in assemblies gathered in His name, to the priest and in a unique way in the consecrated species. In fact the Mass is precisely the celebration of this mystery of Christ's presence in the midst of His people. The wonder is not that so few are aware of His presence, but that so few Catholics are. The people who failed to recognize Christ when He was presented in the Temple were not pagans but the Chosen People. "He came to His own and His own received Him not."

The simple reason is that too many, even of God's people, are too caught up with the world. The world is too much with us. Only much time in prayer, worship and the sacraments will sensitize minds and hearts to respond to God's presence — to draw the inference.

Deaths

J. DeGregorio

Retrospect — An In Memoriam Mass was celebrated for Joseph DeGregorio, at St. Lucy's Church, Jan. 12, by Father Edwin Wedow.

Mr. DeGregorio died Jan. 19, 1975, in Lompoc, Calif. Funeral and burial services were held there.

For the past ten years he was an engineer in the ionospheric program at the U.S. Airforce Base in Vandenberg, Calif. He was a naval officer during World War II. Upon graduation from Cornell University, he was an engineer at Stromberg-Carlson, in Rochester.

He is survived by his wife, Esther Mangano DeGregorio; a son, David, and a daughter, Angela, all of Lompoc; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank DeGregorio of Criegsville; a sister, Mrs. Robert Alexander and three nephews, all of Peterboro, N.H.

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