



Some of the members of the Concert Chorale of the Sisters of St. Joseph are, from left, Sisters Jean Collins, Diana Dolce, Maria Hoffman, Kathleen Weider, Jeanne Marie Day and Marie Suzanne Hoffman.

Sisters to Sing at Universalist Church

The Concert Chorale, 45 singing Sisters of St. Joseph, will start its 10th season and present

its first concert of the year at the First Universalist Church, at South-Clinton Avenue and Court Street

at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

Budapest in 1945. Furthermore, the wealth amassed from the sale of all the Vatican art treasures wouldn't feed the world for a single day nor keep the NASA program for one week.

With a concert at the White House among many other widespread appearances, the Chorale will feature in its upcoming program "The Stabat Mater." This revered thirteenth century Holy Week poem was set to music in the eighteenth century by Pergolesi, and is included in the popular album recorded by the singing nuns two years ago.

Had she ever done this, consider the terrible loss to future generations. Suppose these art treasures had fallen into inconoclastic hands. Do you not think that there are others like the man who tried to smash the Pietà? Even an American president did not hesitate to bomb Monte Cassino. I saw countless statues in Spain defaced by the godless soldiery of the French Revolution. Suppose the Communists got their hands on the Vatican art treasures. We can well imagine what would happen to religious art in the hands of those who call religion the opium of the people and who use churches for barracks and stables. Is it not well that she who inspired Christian art, who endures for all ages, should be its custodian.

Sister Virginia Hogan, director of the Chorale and head of the music department at St. Agnes High School, has stated that the Singers are anticipating their concert in the sanctuary of the downtown church. The acoustic qualities of the sanctuary chamber have been praised by soloists and musical groups who have presented concerts at the church during the past two years.

Like all previous presentations in the Music and Beauty series, admission to the chorale's concert is free.

The Chorale's downtown concert is one of its Great Moments in 1974-75 series. Other programs in the series are to be given at the Sacred Heart Cathedral at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25; a 10th anniversary celebration at the Nazareth Arts Center, Pittsford, at 8 p.m. Sunday, March 25; and at Music Fair at the same location on a date to be announced.

Bath St. Mary's Celebrates Schools Week

Bath — Father John P. O'Malley, pastor of St. Mary's has extended a sincere congratulations to "all those dedicated to Catholic Education" as the parish observed Catholic Education Week recently. Activities included homilies at all Masses Feb. 2 on the topic "Catholic Education".

At St. Mary's Academy the students conducted a special campaign on "Courtesy". Tuesday, Feb. 4, parents visited classrooms during the morning, followed by a coffee hour where slides were shown of the children's activities.


A Learning Festival was held Feb. 5 at the academy with materials on display. Thursday, Feb. 6 all the students saw a Walt Disney movie followed by a popcorn treat. The observance culminated with Mass at 5:15 p.m., Feb. 7 followed by a Pot Luck Supper with a special welcome to the pre-school youngsters.

Still, how generous and free the Church has been with her art wealth: Iran would not allow a jeweled snuff box (valued at five million dollars, imagine, and that was just one tiny item of the crown jewels) to be sent to France for viewing. But the Vatican shipped the Pietà to the World's Fair in America. She allowed Life magazine to photograph the entire Sistine Chapel. So prodigal has she been with her art wealth that Michaelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli are household words.

But what has all this got to do with the Transfiguration? Plenty. Religious faith inspires beauty and beauty transfigures life. Was not this why God put beauty into nature? Why He ordered His Temple to be of gold and marble and incorruptible wood? Beauty thrills the heart. "If eyes were made for seeing, then beauty is its own excuse for being." But beauty bred by religious faith uplifts the soul. Does not the world have enough of Pan-Am, Eife, Time, UN buildings — piles of granite and stone scraping the sky but leaving the heart cold and gray? Does not materialism need to be counterbalanced by the "things" of the spirit.

On the mountain, Jesus let three men glimpse real beauty, real truth, real goodness. They needed to see it to carry them through life in the valley. And so do we! Christian art is the cultural expression of the Christian Faith, as cult is its liturgical expression. Together they spell civilization — Christian civilization.

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 17:1-9; (R2) 2 Tm. 1:8-10.

Sunday's first reading tells us that God calls each of us as He did Abraham. St. Paul states that although this call is based on no merits of our own, it entails hardships. But these should in no way deter our response, for the call is to immortality, like that of Moses and Elijah, and to a transfigured glory, such as entranced Peter in the Gospel.

The incident of the Transfiguration is so familiar to all of us that it needs little commentary. Some affirmations of the Transfiguration are—

- Jesus is true God and true man.
- Heaven is a reality.
- The just live forever in glory.
- Saints, like Moses and Elijah, are concerned about earthly events.
- Jesus' death came as no surprise.
- His words dispel fear.

At the Transfiguration, out of a cloud (symbol of God the Father) came a voice which said, "Listen to him." This command is addressed to all of us. For like the Twelve, we too would like to take the cross out of living. It cannot be. No cross, no crown! Jesus taught it: "Listen to Him."

The Transfiguration, moreover, was only a passing experience. Peter was not permitted to erect three booths on the mountain. The experience was meant to sustain him through the "scandal" of the cross. So most religious experiences are ephemeral. God would have us glimpse a tiny wisp of glory even here on earth. But his touches or our "tasting and seeing" as, for instance, at a prayer meeting, are meant to convert the sinner or to deepen a life already religious or to encourage one over some calvary period. A man's reach should exceed his grasp, else what's heaven for?

A final point about Jesus' Transfiguration: it was a vision of beauty unparalleled. Sometimes one hears, "Why doesn't the Church sell her art treasures and feed the poor?" First of all, she does feed the poor. Consider Mother Teresa of India. In his Memoirs, Cardinal Mindszenty notes the massive aid Pope Pius XII gave to the starving of

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
James Rotzell
Darrell O'Brien
Arthur Grabowski
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH
Prescriptions
Carefully Compounded
MANDELL'S PHARMACY OF ROCHESTER INC.
Mel Wheeler • Hy Mandel
467-0879 • 467-0785
DRUGS • COSMETICS • SUNDRIES
Portland Ave. at Norton

Workshop Slates Bishop McCafferty

Reservations are still being accepted for the sixth annual religious workshop at Watson Homestead, Feb. 28-March 1. Featured speaker will be Sister Rita Anne Houlihan, a Cenacle Sister stationed at the Cenacle Center of Spiritual Renewal, Lake Ronkonkoma.

Further information may be obtained from Judy Wardell, 3026 Wynnwood Rd., Big Flats, N.Y. (606/562-3355).

The program will include lectures by Sister Rita, discussion groups, community worship and time for prayer and reflection. Bishop John E. McCafferty will celebrate Mass at 11 a.m. Saturday. Friday evening's program will begin at 7. Participants may stay overnight if they wish.

Sister Rita has said that her special interest is the integration of psychological and spiritual elements in the personality. She believes that an exchange of support among married people and single, religious and priests characterizes any group that is becoming a genuine Christian community.

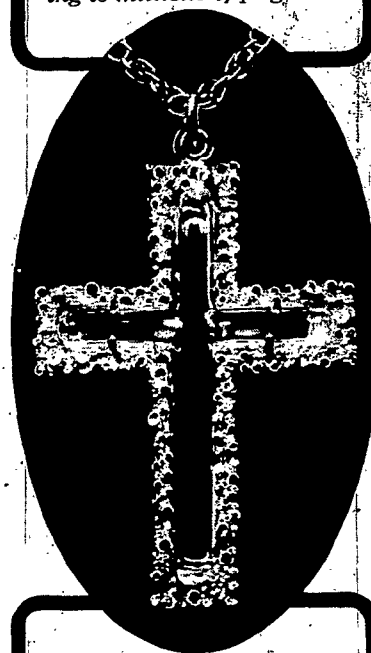
Sister Rita is a graduate of the College of New Rochelle and has an M.A. in Psychology from Fordham University, as well as an M.A. in theology from the University of San Francisco. She has led programs for lay and religious men and women throughout the country. She is a faculty member of the Christian Brothers National Renewal Program in New Mexico and is also a consultant on formation and mid-career programs to a number of religious congregations of men and of women. She teaches in the advanced catechist program of the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

CENACLE RETREATS

The Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave., has scheduled a weekend retreat for men and women to be conducted by Father Noel Scanlon, OFM Cap., Feb. 21-23.

Similar retreats will be conducted by Father Albert Bartlett, SJ, March 7-9, and Father William Poorten, SJ, March 21-23. Further information and reservations may be obtained through Sister Marie Halligan at 271-8755.

For over a century, the water in the grotto at Lourdes has meant a miracle of faith and healing to millions of pilgrims.



THE CROSS OF LOURDES

There has never been a cross like this. An elegant two inch golden cross with beautifully sculptured detail. It frames and guards an inner cross of hand-blown hollow crystal filled with pure water from the mystical Grotto where the divine vision appeared to Bernadette. The crystal is filled and sealed under supervision of religious personnel. An inspired piece, created for those who will give or treasure it as a truly unique symbol of faith — or simply for its striking beauty as a piece of elegant jewelry... In heavy 14K gold plate, \$18.95. Each with 24" matching chainlet. Includes tax and postage. No COD's. Shipped in its own gift box. Guaranteed. If for any reason you are not completely satisfied return your cross by insured mail within 15 days for purchase price refund.

ORDER BY MAIL FROM
LOURDES, INC.
2252 W. Beverly Blvd, Dept. L3
Los Angeles Ca. 90057

BRIDAL CORNER

Beautiful Brides Begin at *Jacqueline* in Pittsford Plaza 381-2660

Roseann & Kathy's Florists
We Never Sleep... Call Anytime
For Prompt Flower Service
254-9679

Scarлата's Party House
953 Edgemere Dr.
Weddings • Showers • Banquets
Completely Air Conditioned
Your Host - Joe Scarлата 663-6140

KORNER
1688 CLIFFORD AVE near Goodman
3 tier serves up to 100, \$29
4 tier serves 175 to 200 \$45
4 tier fountain cake \$80
PHONE 482-1133

The Party House
... for a beautiful wedding reception!

For Reservations Call 235-5654

677 Beahan Road
Completely Air Conditioned

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY \$99
WEDDING SPECIAL
Invitations at Discount
Your wedding pictures can be taken only once, entrust a professional with the task of preserving the moment.
244-3554
Burt Shapiro PHOTOGRAPHY

Atten from Flynn

Mer 4618 c in We their 1975 t

R

Fr From

I hav for tl a sc form know about thek This few each in sf

To a

TI The the nees gos sick of F

C the con entl tati pre Ben derl ma Pric Dr: onl hea of Lou thre to: Bisl

F dic det tal you Go evz you the sc wil tat

To