



John Addonino, Jim Olverd, Peter Pagano and Tom Villone paint the mural Accept Us as We Are.



Joe Loverde and Mark Macaluso paint the mural May Your Day Be Beautiful.

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# Painting Was the Project

Mt. Morris — An Open House slated for next Monday evening will celebrate an unusual accomplishment of young people of St. Patrick's Parish. The Religious Education Center has been redecorated during the last few months by students who attend it.

In June of 1974 the parish school was discontinued. The parish, concerned about the religious education of its children, hired Sister Mary Vincenza Gogliostro, SSND, as a religious education coordinator. The School Sister of Notre Dame envisioned a place of learning where children could relate to their neighbors and see God in all that surrounds the area.

She opened the center with 24 volunteer teachers and 300 pupils.

In November, Sister Vincenza met with students in the eighth grade, teachers Maryann Battaglia, Jerry Tinomey, Maureen McCarron, and the center's custodian, Santo Gerace. Her idea was to present a service project which would benefit the school.

Painting was the project the students decided on. They attacked the cafeteria with pails of white, pink, blue and yellow paint, and the halls with yellow

and white. But they didn't stop there.

Throughout the center, the students have designed murals expressing what one teacher described as their "depth."

The murals are based on such themes as Today is the beginning of the rest of your life; The main thing in life is not to be afraid to be human; Today may your day be beautiful, and Accept me as I am.

Father John Whalen, pastor, is very pleased with the work, Sister Vincenza noted, and "I am very proud of the boys and hope that they will be an example to other teenagers in the diocese. They really care and act upon their convictions."

Some comments from the students:

Paul Weipert: "I think the center has greatly improved and its bright pictures give it a warm and friendly appearance."

Mark Macaluso: "I am very happy that I am helping out in my parish in this project."

David Gargozzo: "At first I thought it was going to be a big flop but after awhile things started to go by fast and I didn't mind painting because everything began to look beautiful and I was with people I liked."

Nicky Sciotti: "At first, St. Patrick's didn't look too attractive. For the past couple of months some of my friends and I

have been painting it and it really looks great."

Bob Donegan: "I found it a lot of fun painting and being with my friends."

Gerace noted "They did a great job. I found this experience of working with teenagers a beautiful one."

The doors of the center will open to the public at 7 p.m. Monday, March 24. Girls in the eighth grade will serve refreshments and the first graders will provide an entertainment, under the guidance of Mrs. Bea Powers.

Sister Vincenza summed up "I feel that if youths of today are given challenges, they will readily accept them for they want so much to be a part of society today. It's up to each parish to allow growth within the parish in order to have mature Christians in the future."

**THE OPEN WINDOW**



Fr. Louis Hohman

Dear Father Hohman,  
A week or so ago along with our Sunday bulletin, there was a brochure or flyer or whatever on the subject of the Kiss of Peace.

In the pamphlet it says the following: "Communion with Jesus at Mass is as deep as we allow it to be. Yet we need to be reminded that our Communion with Jesus is affected by our relationship with the members of His Body."

A few paragraphs later is says: "Some people still feel awkward or uncomfortable with the Kiss of Peace. Perhaps the reason is that they do not fully understand its meaning. It is more than simply greeting a person next to us. It is more than saying "hello" to someone. It is a prayerful gesture in which we say to one another "I accept you", "I want to be reconciled to you." It goes on to say that this doesn't mean just the person next to you but a symbolic expression including everyone.

Well, now, Father, I am not exactly violet and I don't have any real hang-up about shaking hands with or touching a stranger [as some people obviously do].

But I feel the Kiss of Peace [Sign of Peace?], at least the way it is done in our church, it not really a symbol of anything. It doesn't really convey any meaning. Frankly I'd just as soon be left alone in those moments before Communion if they can't come up with something better.

Peace be to you,  
J. K. L.

Dear J. K. L.,

As a real, message-conveying symbol, the Kiss of Peace leaves something to be desired. I agree with you: it doesn't convey the message. And yet I know it can convey a real spirit of brotherhood — in small communities, like Becket Hall, or on retreats or workshops. Its effectiveness seems to have some inverse ratio to the size of the community. Maybe that's why it was effective in very ancient times and then as the size of the church communities grew, it ended up being practiced only in monasteries and seminaries.

Still we can't get away from the idea which needs to be acknowledged and somehow expressed here — that if I go to the altar and there remember that my brother has anything against me, I must first go and be reconciled to my brother and then come and offer my gift. Mass and Communion are not to be separated from this need for total reconciliation.

I think the only issue is coming up with a better way of expressing this in the larger communities of our parish churches. Maybe we ought to run a contest!

## Bishop Hogan To Participate In Hunger Rite

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan will join leading clergymen of other churches for an ecumenical Holy Thursday rite at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, March 27, at 12:05 p.m.

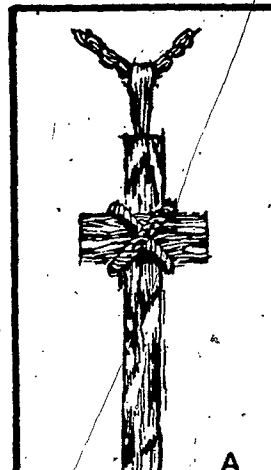
Theme of the ceremony will be world hunger and the concern of Jesus Christ to be the Bread of Life for the life of the world.

Rev. Carl Smith of the Genesee Valley Presbytery and Rev. Claire Potter of the Genesee Association of the United Church of Christ will conduct the service with Bishop Hogan.

Following the ecumenical rite, Catholic Mass will be celebrated by Father Henry Atwell.

# CROSSES for EASTER

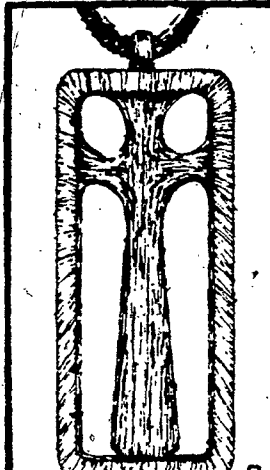
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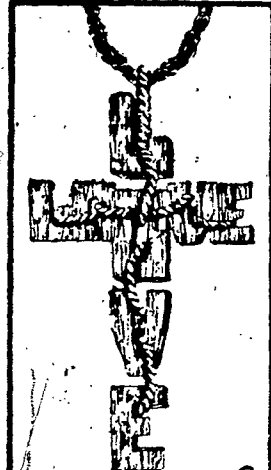
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