

Old Friends

Photo by Susan McKinney

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen was in Rochester for a speaking engagement last Friday. While here he visited Father Joseph Reinhart, left, and Jack Ritzenthaler, right.

OHD to Present Inner City Study

For the past three years, the Office of Human Development, under contract with the Council of Inner City Parishes, has been working on an extensive study of each CICIP parish. The study examined both the parish and neighborhood, its people, their ages, race, ethnicity, and needs. Since December OHD has been putting together all the individual parish and neighborhood statistics to present a general study of the whole CICIP area.

The four session presentation of this information begins tonight at 7:30 at St. Michael's Parish. A history of the CICIP parishes will be given as well as data showing the dramatic changes that have occurred in the parishes during the past 14 years. A slide

presentation of the geography of the inner city parishes will be shown.

The second session is scheduled for May 5 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Michael's. This slide presentation will compare the ages and ethnicity of people living in the CICIP area with the rest of the city and county.

A human needs slide show encompassing the entire CICIP area and depicting areas of greatest need will be presented May 22 at 7:30 p.m. at Immaculate Conception School.

The final session to be held at St. Michael's on June 2 at 7:30 p.m. will review the information

and draw recommendations from the people attending.

All sessions are open to the public.

Rosary Society Elects Officers

The Rosary Society at Holy Family Church has elected officers.

They are Mrs. Joseph Campione, president; Mrs. Albert Brunette, vice president; Mrs. Nicholas Giambra, secretary; Mrs. Earl Sitter, financial secretary; Mrs. Douglas Berry, treasurer.

Father Frederick Eisemann is spiritual moderator.

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 14: 1-12. (R1) Acts 6: 1-7. (R2) 1Pt. 2: 4-9.

The First Letter of Peter has been the Second Reading for the Sunday Liturgy of the Word all through the Easter Season. It was given this place of honor, no doubt, because Peter's letter is freighted with baptismal references. Originally perhaps Sunday's passage was an instruction for baptismal candidates. It explains the kind of community into which they are being admitted.

The Church is a temple (the place of God's presence) made up of living stones (namely, men and women). These men and women, like the people of the old testament (Ex. 19:6), are "a chosen race; a royal priesthood, a holy nation." St. Peter stresses the priestly character of God's people.

Before Vatican II the priesthood of the laity was almost forgotten; after Vatican II it was rediscovered and the ministerial priesthood was almost forgotten. Vatican II in its Constitution on the Church stoutly reaffirmed that the distinction between the lay priesthood and the ministerial priesthood of the hierarchy is an essential one.

It will be helpful to remember that St. Peter based the priesthood of the laity on a passage from the book of Exodus (19:6). The lay priesthood spoken of in Exodus differs essentially from the cultic priesthood written about in the book of Leviticus. The sacrifice St. Peter speaks of, offered by the people of God is not cultic, but ethical—the living of a Christian life in the world.

St. Luke in the Acts points out a diversity of ministries even in the lifetime of the Apostles (R1). But, as Luke often does, he merges two events into one: the institution of the diaconate and the resolution of a critical situation in the Christian Church in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem, the Christian community was divided into Greek and Aramaic speaking Jews. The Greek-speaking Jews were more liberal, broadminded, than the exclusive ghetto-thinking Aramaic Jews who had never left the homeland or been in contact with the Hellenistic world. A real split threatened. The apostles averted schism by recognizing the leaders of the Greek-speaking group. Luke ties

this event in with the institution of the diaconate. For of the seven deacons, the two we hear of were notable ministers of the word—namely, Stephen and Philip the Evangelist.

St. John in the Gospel tells us that Jesus is the way. St. Peter says the Way is the cornerstone of a Christian community. St. Luke tells us that the Christian community has diversity of ministries. The way to the Father is Jesus, and the way to Jesus is the Church.

The T-bone steak you eat today will by tomorrow be built into your body. It is incorporated. But not for always. There is a continual process of change in every living organism called katabolism, in which the constituents break down and in due course pass out of the body to be replaced by others. Those who know these things say that not an atom which is part of us today was in us seven years ago.

Yet the curious thing is that we go on possessing the same bodies. I know I have the same body I had as a child. I still have the scars on my thighs when, as a child, I bumped my mother's arm and caused her to spill boiling tea into my lap. Of course, I have the same body! Yet the whole of it has changed since then, and it has grown.

The same thing is true of the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church. It is the same Mystical Body now as the Body whose members, Luke, Peter and John, listened to our Lord, whose members worshipped in the catacombs, who built the Roman basilicas and the Gothic cathedrals of Europe, who gave such lovely names to our cities and towns, as Corpus Christi, Los Angeles, Maryville, Loretto, or St. Paul.

Those members are no longer here; they have been replaced by other members. There has been metabolism (building up) and katabolism (tearing down) in the living Body of Christ as in all other living organisms. The Mystical Body does not possess today a single member who was here a hundred fifty years ago. Yet it is the same Body, though it has changed completely, and has grown.

Why is this so? It is so, because Christ is risen, living on all the time—especially in an organism of continually changing members, the community to which Luke and Peter and John once belonged, the Church!

PATRIOT'S DAY

Father J. Donald Monan, SJ, president of Boston College, will attend the local alumni club's Patriot's Day celebration—a cocktail party from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 25, at the home of Jean and David White, 53 Grosvenor Road, Brighton. Parents of Boston College students are invited. Reservations may be made with John Farie, 473-0006; Bill Gehan, 244-6825, or Bob Hussey, 342-0944.

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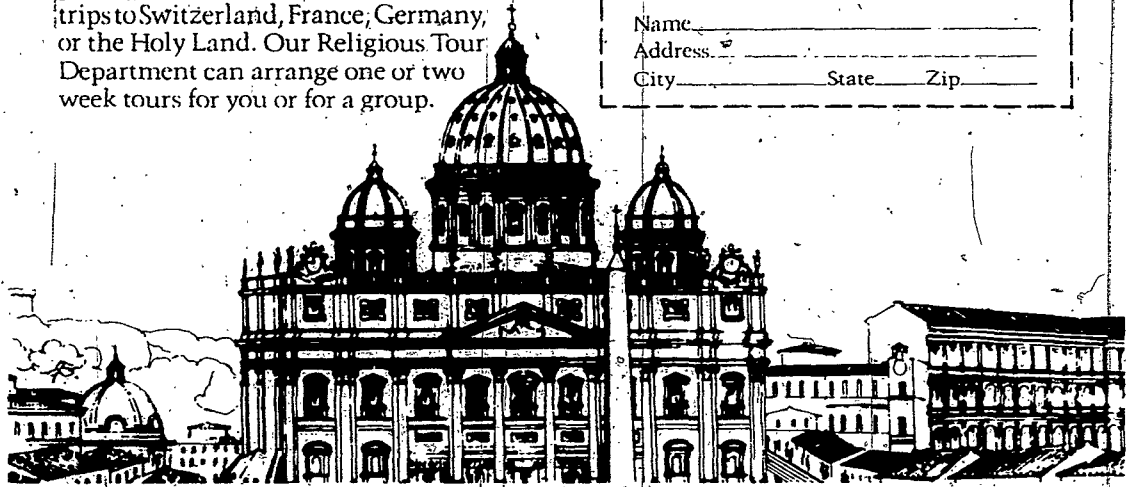
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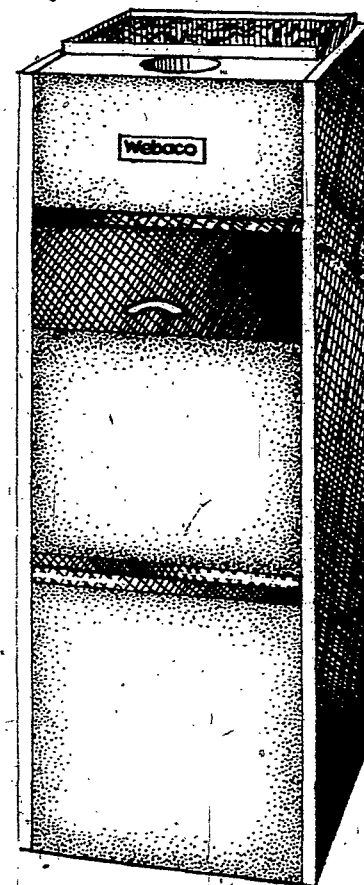
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