

# Six Families Helped, Housing Group Reports

By BONITA BALDWIN

At the annual meeting of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation held April 29 in St. Louis School in Pittsford, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, chairman of the foundation, praised its members for "taking seriously the Lord's challenge, 'I was homeless and you took me in.'"

The BSHF was started in 1968 to help low and moderate income families buy homes. Father James Moynihan reported that last year BSHF assisted six families in the purchasing of homes. Two other applications for aid are still being considered.

Besides directly helping families needing housing, the foundation is concerned with educating people to the housing problem and to the work of the BSHF. Last year 25 parishes were reached through either homilies or the foundation's slide/tape

show and housing simulation game WHIP (Why Housing is a Problem) presented to parish councils and human development committees.

Eighty-six percent of the \$11,439 contributed to the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation this past year came from parishes. Eight per cent came from individuals, six per cent from foundations and businesses. The \$20,000 quota for the year was reached through the donation of a house. Details of the gift have not been disclosed.

New officers elected at the meeting include: Victor Hadeed, president; Mrs. Eleanor Bluhm and Lewis A. Childs, Jr., vice-presidents. Other members of the board of directors are Mrs. Georgia DeGregorio, Ms. Jo Ann Elferink, Thomas Cotterill, Mrs. Marilyn Hare, Mrs. Mary Miskell, James Porcari Jr., John Ritzenhaler, Richard Wardell,

Michael Watts, the Rev. Ivory Simmons and Fathers William Flynn, James Moynihan, Charles Mulligan, and William Spilly. Mrs. Diane Moonan was given the title of coordinator.

## Cenacle To Note Feast

The feast of Our Lady of the Cenacle will be celebrated with Mass at 10 a.m. in the Cenacle Retreat House on Saturday, May 10.

Father John P. Norris pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, will officiate.

The Sisters of the community have invited friends and benefactors to the celebration.

## MOTHERS DAY CELEBRATION

The Rochester chapter of St. Joan's International Alliance will sponsor a special Mothers Day Mass dedicated to the celebration of a comprehensive consideration of the meaning of motherhood.

Father Edwin Metzger of St. Bernard's Seminary and St. Augustine's Church will offer the Mass at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 11, at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave. Rosalie Reinhardt of Chicago, formerly of Rochester, will give the homily. The public is invited.

## WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 17:1-11. (R1) Acts 1:12-14. (R2) 1 Pt. 4:13-16.

The Church was born on Calvary when Jesus handed over His Spirit. "As from the side of the sleeping Adam came Eve, so from the side of the dying Christ came the new Eve, the Church." But it was at first a mute Church, a silent Church — fearful, puzzled, paralyzed, having a job to do and not knowing how. So for 40 days after His resurrection, Christ kept instructing the Eleven. Then He left them. They were still immobilized.

They huddled together in an upstairs room in Jerusalem. It began to dawn on them that if the Church were to be renewed, they must first be renewed.

If all the sleeping folks will wake up,  
And all the lukewarm folks will fire up,  
And all the dishonest folks will confess up,  
And all the disgruntled folks will sweeten up,  
And all the discouraged folks will cheer up,  
And all the depressed folks will look up,  
And all the estranged folks will make up,  
And all the gossipers will shut up,  
And all the dry bones will shake up,  
And all the true soldiers will stand up,  
And all the church members will pray up—  
Then you can have the world's greatest renewal!

So the first members of the Church did two things basic to all renewal.

First, they retreated, they withdrew — "they went to the upstairs room" (R1). As far back as the time of Christ, Jews had an upper room set aside for prayer and religious festivals. Yet some begrudge people having church buildings, to which they can retreat, large enough to muffle the din of the outside world — a place to be alone with the great Alone.

A retreat, as anyone knows, is a strategic withdrawal, a going apart for a purpose: to gather together, to re-collect one's thoughts and one's purpose in life, and to go on from there. Only when milk stands still does the cream rise to the top. Only in the silence of a retreat will life's purpose become clear. Surely it must have been at this retreat time that Peter began to understand that to suffer for the sake of Christ called for rejoicing (R2).

Secondly, those days of retreat were spent in prayer — in fervent, earnest prayer, with Mary, the Mother of Jesus. In this they emulated Jesus — "for these I pray" (R3).

So far removed are we from our Lord's ascension that we find it hard to experience the state of expectancy, of watchful waiting, that must have gripped the Church then. Would He come Thursday night? He didn't. To relieve the tension, Peter brought up old business. The number twelve was sacrosanct. Judas had defected, so a successor was chosen.

Friday came and went — no baptism of fire. So they began to pray now in earnest. Saturday set in. More prayers. No answer. Then came Sunday, the day of the Lord's resurrection, surely this would be the day! But evening crept on and all their prayers rose to a silent heaven. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday came and went. Nothing happened.

This time their faith did not fail. Thomas did not doubt. The disciples from Emmaus did not desert the Christian community. Could this not have been because Mary, the Mother of Jesus, was there.

He tarried still. But they waited not indolently, easily — who can be at ease waiting for something to happen, something we know not of?

Then Thursday. One week. Still no power from on high. Saturday followed. They remained steadfast in prayer. Then there was Pentecost! He came — and how — in an explosion of sound and fire!

Prayer waiting is always a time of preparation for the Spirit. Better to pray and wait for the Spirit, than to plunge into action without Him.

Our Lord came on Easter Sunday only to those who wanted to see Him. To those who wished Him dead, He did not appear. So the Holy Spirit comes, not to those who do not desire Him, but to those — and only those — who retreat for a while and pray for the Spirit to come and renew the face of the Church.

## Children's Day with Mary Set

The Blue Army is sponsoring a Children's Day with Mary, at 2 p.m., Sunday, May 25, at St. Pius X Church, 3032 Chili Ave.

Each child will be given a flower to place at the foot of the two statues.

Martha Laya, an international lecturer will give a slide talk on Fatima, beginning at 2 p.m. in the school basement. A procession with boys carrying a statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and girls carrying a statue of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is scheduled. Children dressed as their favorite saints will carry a huge rosary.

Crowning of the statues and benediction will highlight the ceremony.

## NURSES' BOOK FAIR

The seventh annual Book Fair sponsored by the Genesee Region Citizens League for Nursing is scheduled for May 8-10 at Greece Towne Mall. A variety of used books will be on sale, to raise money for education programs for health personnel.


In cooperation with the Heart Association, league nurses will offer the book customers free blood pressure tests.

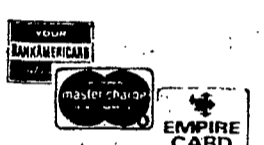
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