

Southwest Golden Age Group — Meeting at 1:30 p.m. Friday, July 11, at 34 Monica St.

Greaser Dance — Sponsored by Youth Council of Holy Family parish, 8-11 p.m. Friday, July 11, school auditorium, 899 Jay, near Ames. Minimum age 13, price 75 cents for those dressed as "greasers," \$1.50 for those not in costume.

Re-Entry — A workshop for woman thinking about resuming their education, led by women who have done so, sponsored by University College, U of R, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, July 19; \$5 fee. Information: 275-2346.

Senior Citizen Program — Every Friday, 10 a.m., YMCA Arnett Branch: arts and crafts, swimming, physical fitness routines, speakers, social hour. Information: 325-2880, ext. 184.

Task Force on Courts — Noon meetings July 29 and Sept. 9, First Presbyterian Church, South Plymouth at Spring.

Festival Day — Bicentennial celebration at SUC Brockport July 19 includes art and antiques shows, folk dancing, movies, a lecture; also, annual Alumni Day.

Gilbert and Sullivan Centennial — Celebrated at SUC Brockport with production of Pirates of Penzance, 8 p.m. Tuesday through

Friday, July 15-18, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, July 19, Fine Arts Theater.

Black Box Theater, SUC Geneseo — Angel Street, July 10, 11, 19, 20, 24, 25; How the Other Half Loves, July 12, 13, 17, 18; 7:30 p.m. curtain.

Rochester Community Playhouse — Youth Theatre opens seventh season with The Mad Show, July 11-13 at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 7:30 p.m. Sunday. South Clinton at Meigs; phone 473-4320.

Bristol Valley Playhouse, Naples — Noel Coward's Blithe Spirit, 8:15 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12; 3:15 p.m. Sunday.

Muggleton Gallery, Auburn — Recent acquisitions of original prints, through July 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. except Wednesdays and Sundays.

Strasburgh Planetarium — Heavy Water Light Show presents Night Rays Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through July 27, 9:15 p.m., plus a 10:30 p.m. Saturday show; 657 East Ave., Rochester.

Gates-Chili Chamber of Commerce — Luncheon meeting tomorrow noon, July 10, Sheraton Airport Inn; State Assemblyman Andrew Virgilio to speak on unemployment and malpractice insurance legislation. Reservations with Mrs. Kathy Richardson, 454-2220, ext. 40.

Deadline

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 13:1-23. (R1) Is. 55:10-11. (R2) Rom. 8:18-23.

At the turn of the 19th century, Jonathan Chapman dreamed of converting America into a vast apple orchard. From Ashtabula to Fort Wayne he planted apples where no apples grew; he planted and pruned and planted again. Why this New England eccentric did what he did no one knows. But for 50 years he scattered apple seeds over the land and people nicknamed him Johnny Applesseed. He has no statue, no tomb, but his apple trees are still in bloom.

Sunday's liturgy is all about sowing seeds. Things were going bad for Jesus, as they sometimes do for us: the house seemed to be caving in on Him. Hostility against Him kept mounting. The crowds were dwindling away. The so-called good people, the religious leaders, were bent on destroying Him. To the apostles it seemed that Jesus' mighty efforts were just a waste of time. Despondent, depressed, discouraged, the Twelve probably wondered, "So much effort, and so little return. Was it worth it?"

That gloomy outlook was probably the background to Jesus' parable of the Sower and the Seed. He told it perhaps to cure this growing pessimism of His followers. He was sitting in Peter's boat at the time. Very likely a farmer scattering seed on the Galilean hillside inspired the comparison.

Farmlands in those days were divided into long narrow strips, with no wall, no fence around them. Between each strip ran a narrow ribbon of ground. These were rights of way. Anyone could walk up and down them. Footpaths, as a result, edged each field — so hard no seed could penetrate them.

Some of the farmland soil was rocky, in the sense that beneath a thin skin of earth there were shelves of limestone. Seeds sprouting here would wither for want of nourishment.

Then there were thorns. But, you may wonder why on earth would a farmer sow seeds among thorns? He didn't. Plough ground looks clean. But sometimes seeds of weeds also got ploughed under in a field, and they would grow up

with the wheat. When weeds and wheat grow together, the wheat hasn't a chance — the hardy weed strangles it.

Finally, there was the good ground. Good, because receptive enough to take the seed in, deep enough to nourish it, and clean enough to give the seed a chance to grow.

People called Johnny Applesseed an eccentric; they may have thought his sowing foolish, a waste. Yet the great apple orchards of the Middle West today are a testimony to this good man's labor.

The point of our Lord's parable was something like that. To His glum apostles, it said that as some of the seed a farmer sows is lost, and as the loss is little compared with the teeming harvest, so too, God's work, in spite of apparent frustration and losses will succeed in the end.

Isaiah foretold the same thing in his beautiful metaphor of the rain and snow. (R1). As these water the earth and make it fertile and fruitful, "so shall my word be. It shall not return to me void, but shall achieve the end for which I sent it."

Perhaps this parable was also Matthew's answer to a question that kept nagging the early Church. It was this: "If Jesus were the Messiah why did so many of His own people reject Him?"

The answer given by the parable is valid even today. As the seed depends on the soil, so God's Word depends on the dispositions of men. Talking to some people is like talking to a brick wall (seed falling on the footpath). Others lack depth. The novelty of Christianity attracts them. They begin well, but fail to persevere when they perceive the cost of discipleship (the seed on rocky ground). Some others have the wrong priorities. They let trivia (thorns) crowd out the essentials.

But, please God, most of the seed fell on good ground. That was the point. Where sin abounded, grace did more abound. "Be of good cheer," therefore is what Jesus said to His Twelve and to us His followers!

K OF ELECTIONS

The Rochester Council of the Knights of Columbus recently held its annual election of officers. Those elected are Father Paul J. Freemesser, chaplain; Albert R. Szembrot, grand knight; James P. Scahill, deputy grand knight; Douglas R. Boyd, chancellor; Robert J. Burke, advocate; Martin Scahill, recorder; Kenneth A. Bennett, financial secretary; Vincent I. Hannon, treasurer; Richard S. Sadowski, warden; Terrance Kirkland, inside guard; Brian L. Carpenter and James F. McCormick, outside guards; C. Orrin Ochs, Roland H. Aube and C. J. Northcote, trustees.

Hornell CDA Elects Officers

Hornell — The new officers for Court St. Ann, Catholic Daughters of America, were installed at ceremonies June 23 in the Sons of Italy Hall on Erie Avenue.

Mrs. Marion Chrośniak of Penn Yan, district deputy, installed the following officers to serve for the next two years: Mrs. Daisy Sherman, regent; Mrs. Dolores Andrus, first vice regent; Mrs. Sharon Haley, second vice regent; Mrs. Mary Clancy financial secretary; Mrs. Irene Morris, treasurer; Mrs. Dorothy Sagan, recording secretary; Mrs. Margaret Haley, monitor; Mrs. Aletha Cardman, lecturer; Mrs. Mary Cartella, organist; Miss Josephine FitzGerald, publicity chairman; Mrs. Betty McKinley and Mrs. Mary A. Lee, trustees.

Father Leo Mans, court chaplain and pastor of St. Ignatius Loyola Church, offered a prayer during the installation and addressed the group at the close of the ceremonies.

Mrs. Mary Scott of Penn Yan assisted Mrs. Chrośniak as installing monitor and Mrs. Ann Argentieri and Mrs. Mary Roselli were co-chairmen of arrangements.

REUNION

Mt. Morris — Msgr. W. Thomas Larkin, a graduate of St. Patrick's School, who now lives in Clearwater, Fla., will celebrate Mass and speak at the school's alumni reunion Saturday, July 12.

According to Anthony S. Barone, alumni association president, Mass will be celebrated at 5:30 p.m. in the church, followed by a buffet dinner at the Mt. Morris Inn.



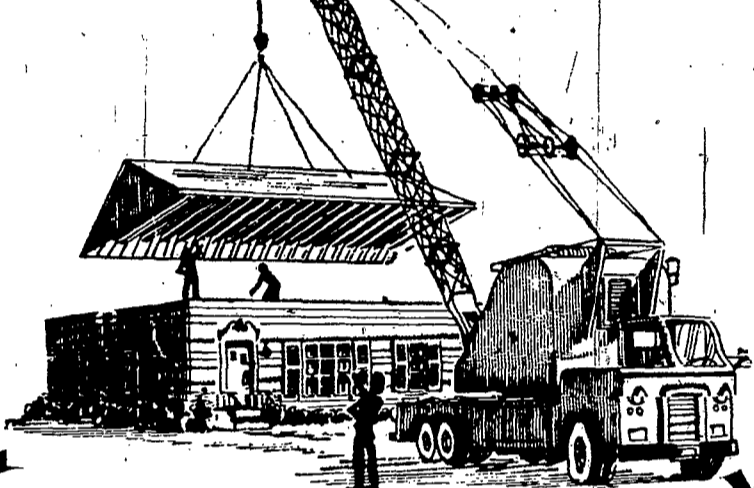
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