

**TOWARD TOMORROW**



**Fr. Henry Atwell**

The view the American and Soviet astronauts had of the earth as a blue gem floating against the jet black background of endless space is always an awe-inspiring sight. At pre-launch interviews, both President Ford and Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin spoke about the symbolism of U.S.-Soviet cooperation in space as a prelude to greater cooperation on earth, and the still-continuing hazard of nuclear destruction of this gem, our earth.

Scientists and technologists of the United States and Soviet Russia bridged over their political differences to achieve the space adventure we watched on television.

But while the astronauts worked together in space, Christians continued to be divided on earth — and their division might well be the spark which ignites the doomsday atom blast. Excessive rhetoric? Not really!

The one most likely spot where the final war may erupt is the tense Middle East. The division is not just between Israelis and Arabs but their division has split Christians also.

Having been to both Israel and three Arab nations (Jordan, Syria and Lebanon), I am invariably

asked, "Who are you for? The Arabs or the Jews?"

And if I say anything by way of sympathetic understanding and concern for one side, then I am presumed to be against the other side. Few seem able to admit that there are pros and cons for both sides. This division is even deeper and more bitter in the Middle East itself where several religious orders have had to establish two separate residences, as for example in Jerusalem itself, because members of the same order are so sharply divided as pro-Israeli or pro-Arab that they cannot live and work together as either Dominicans or Franciscans or Jesuits — much less as Catholics and Christians.

Our concern for peace in Jerusalem, the Holy Land, and the whole Middle East must be something far greater than a concern for shrines and sacred bric-a-brac, for questionable sites and dubious items which purport to be where Jesus wept or dined.

I ask myself, therefore, "Do we as Christians and as Catholics have any duty, any role to play, in easing the tensions of the Middle East, here at home to begin with and then, I hope, there also, and not just for the sake of the people there, but for the sake of our own survival?"

Atonement Father Charles Angell in a recent issue of "Ecumenical Trends" magazine says, "If Christianity is genuine, it must work, as its founder did, for reconciliation." He says we as Christians together must give witness "no matter how small and faint to reconciliation and concern for all people," and as he concludes, pointing out that our Christian faith was born there, "If as Christians we fail in Jerusalem could we possibly succeed anywhere?"

And I think we can only succeed there in Jerusalem if we begin to achieve reconciliation here at home.

**ALL IN THE FAMILY**



**Sarah Child**

We talked out loud during Mass last Sunday. And laughed and waved and left our pews to walk across the church to visit friends on the other side. In short we did everything I'd learned as a child we shouldn't do.

And when it was over and we were saying the Creed I knew the five of us were part of a greater family than we had been when we entered that morning.

We socialized at the invitation of our pastoral assistant Sister Diane. It was her turn to give the homily and she began by talking about the recent July Fourth celebration in our town. She spoke of the co-mingling, the casualness, the warmth and how much Jesus would have been at home in that crowd.

And now, she was suggesting quietly, let us mingle some more. Right here. In church. In the middle of Mass.

I had anticipated what she was going to say before she actually said it and I must confess the tips of my ears began to redden and tingle a little at the prospect. Thirty odd years of habit does not

easily give way to new forms, I thought. But it did.

Before I knew what was happening the woman ahead of us was introducing herself and her daughters. She was from Pennsylvania. Geography we shared.

Then a young neighbor Tommy with his father in tow appeared from behind us, hands outstretched, faces in open smiles. The gentle murmur that had spread quickly, even more quickly became a loud hum and threatened to become a mild roar. It was a roar.

"Let's go see Susie and Chris," somebody suggested and the girls and I were off pausing to meet a family from Ohio on the way. On the way back I introduced myself to the organist who has been a familiar fixture but an unknown name for too many years.

Not everybody was up and moving about. To the left I saw an immobile sea. Some cannot chat or move easily among people they have not formally met. But I doubt there are many who would not like to be able to.

When the experiment was over — and it was an experiment I think and we were standing quietly again I thought of the acquaintance who even 10 years ago wanted "to be left in peace in Church to say my rosary."

And I thought of those who even now might criticize and say that if we wanted a social hour wait until after Mass and go to the church hall for coffee and rolls as they do in many parishes.

But there for a few brief moments, the basic lesson "The People are the Church" was graphically brought home. It was a coming-together, a reaching out and touching that we especially who have left hometowns and families yearn for and need perhaps even more than others. And what more fitting hour than this one, what better place to meet and reassure each other that we have but one major goal and that it is our common bond.

**HOLY FAMILY**

The Rosary Society of Holy Family Church will entertain incoming band leaders and hostesses at dinner Wednesday, Aug. 6, at 6:30 p.m. in the Pine Room.



**Confidence Training**

Photo by Susan McKinney

Father Thomas Erdle added speech to Mary Greeno's sign language during a Gabriel Richard leadership course for the deaf at St. John Fisher College last week. The course was part of a concentrated leadership course sponsored by the Loyal Christian Benefit Association.

**St. Philip Neri . . . All (Except Rain) Invited**

Keeping a wary eye on the sky dozens of volunteers are busy this week erecting booths for the St. Philip Neri Summer Festival. They remember only too well what happened last year. The annual event was rained out . . . twice!

This year's festival is scheduled for Friday and Saturday evenings, July 25-26, on the church grounds, 1782 Clifford Ave., near Goodman Street.

"We hope we're successful the first time around this year,"

observed Father Charles B. Connell, St. Philip Neri Pastor.

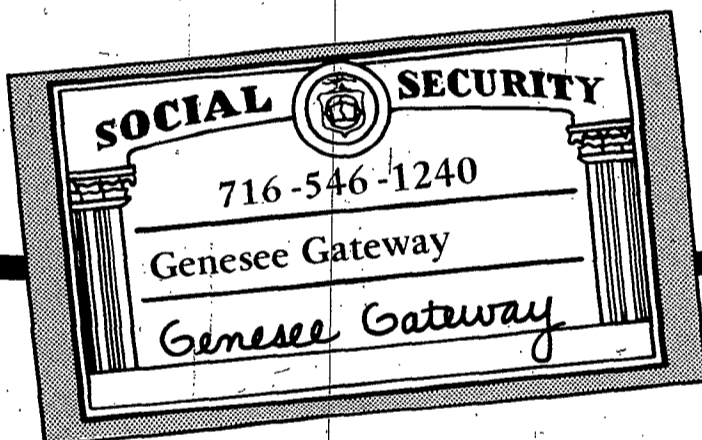
In addition to games and booths for all age groups the festival will boast a wide assortment of good things to eat, including hots and hamburgs for the kids . . . Italian sausage and peppers for their parents . . . plus pizza, baked goods and assorted beverages for everyone. Children's rides also!

Proceeds from the festival are used to support St. Philip Neri School. Rain date is July 27.

**CYO FAMILY NIGHT AT THE BALL PARK**

This Saturday will be CYO Family Night at Silver Stadium. Festivities begin at 7:30 p.m. The Red Wings-Memphis baseball game will be preceded by a two-inning slow pitch softball contest between teams from St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Joseph elementary schools. Tickets are available at \$1.25 through the CYO, 454-2030.

**ST. CHARLES BORROMEO  
DEWEY AVE.  
PHARMACY**  
Prescription Specialists  
COSMETICS — TOILETRIES  
PHOTO FINISHING  
2918 Dewey Avenue 885-2218



**Genesee Gateway offers "social security"!**

Plus other benefits for Senior Citizen residents

Available for residents use are air conditioned recreation rooms, to relax and talk, play cards, hold meetings, have parties or linger in the library, do whatever you enjoy. Genesee Gateway is a home you'll enjoy and be proud of. The place to meet new friends and visit with dear friends.

- Studio and one bedroom apartments available
- Special accommodations for the handicapped
- All utilities included
- Fully carpeted
- Furnished kitchens with refrigerator, stove, disposal
- Individual heat regulation
- Master TV antenna tie-in
- 24 hour maintenance service

Living is enjoyable in Genesee Gateway Midrise. The view provides an overlooking of the city towards Lake Ontario, spanning the Genesee River and Gateway Park and a blending of city and suburbs.

Rent Supplement funds are available for eligible low income elderly or handicapped persons and families

Office Hours  
Weekdays 9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Sat. & Sun. 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Call 546-1240  
185 Mt. Hope Ave., Rochester

\* Rentals depending upon annual household income in accordance with federal & state regulations  
A UDC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

