

## PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

## In the Good Old Summertime

## PART II

Today we live in an age of leisure. One time in our society it posed no problem because it was a blessed opportunity to sleep and to be restored to strength to survive in a society of labor. But times have changed and, for better or for worse, a new age of leisure has been presented to us. And leisure now is offered as a challenge to those who are awake. And, I guess, it all adds up to what keeps us awake. For free time can be barren and boring or productive — depending not on Summer or Winter or Autumn or Spring — not on seashore nor mountains — nor the beauty of valleys and lakes — but on the condition of our soul that alone has the power to make free time fruitful.

The prevailing mood at many an oasis of leisure is ennui — boredom — where God fails to come on stage and so the meaninglessness of life becomes heightened. Maxim Gorky saw the problem years ago at the seashore which I described last week as my preferred climate for recreation and personal inspiration. Seeing the crowds at Coney Island — wading in the surf or in each others' salad — he observed that it is a dull people that spends its leisure at Coney Island.

Joseph Peifer has written a THEOLOGY of LEISURE and made a clear distinction between leisure as a mood and leisure as free time. "Leisure is a mental and spiritual attitude. It is not simply the result of external factors. It is not the inevitable result of spare time. It is, in the first place, an attitude of mind, a condition of the soul."

Vance Packard remarked "that leisure has become a real problem for our younger generation for whom work has become standardized, schooling has become formalized and leisure mechanized by TV, movies, radio, records and cars. Leisure has been identified by this generation as escape,

entertainment and indiscriminate excursions. Which all adds up to more time on our hands but less leisure. For leisure is not a matter of clock and calendar nor artificial living amid others' exploitations — but creative living among one's own enthusiasms."

In his "THE THEORY of the LEISURE CLASS," Thorstein Veblen offered the opinion that leisure shapes the world. I am sure that it is at least indicative of our personal values.

A few years ago, Father Albert P. Bartlett, SJ, then rector of our own McQuaid Jesuit High School, expressed his concern about the way we use our leisure time in a letter to parents of the student body. His thesis, simply stated, was that, with the expanded opportunities for leisure which society provides us today, we as educators should prepare our students to use it as a blessing.

"We should believe that one essential function of education is to equip for and ensure an elevated use of leisure. Without such orientation, leisure can lead to listlessness and boredom, which for many, undermine the educational process, and for some in life, prompts them to look about for the exit sign."

Father Bartlett believed that a quality education could elevate leisure to the status of personal blessing by stirring a personal enthusiasm for the values to be found in the quiet moments of life. It has always saddened me to see the same hectic pace that accompanies our days of labor as the companion of our moments of leisure:

How can quality education accomplish this? Father Bartlett believed that a good education could stir the enthusiasm that could make leisure time the blessing it was intended to be, by enabling us to discover ourselves in the serenity and solitude of moments removed from the sheltered and splintered busyness of daily demands — in moments that allow us to dream dreams — to realize the uniqueness of our own personalities — the possibilities of doing something incredibly our own.

Leisure provides the opportunity to find

new flowers of culture to plant in the garden of our personal genius — to develop an attitude of curiosity and wonder and an appreciation of our personal gifts.

William Butler Yeats said it all so well as he reflected on the beauty and blessing of moments apart from the drudgery of daily routine:

"I will arise and go now, and go to  
Inisfree,  
And a small cabin build there, of clay and  
wattles made:  
Nine bean-rows will I have there, a hive for  
the honeybee,  
And live alone in the bee-loud glade.

"And I shall have some peace there,  
for peace comes dropping slow,  
Dropping from the veils of the morning to  
where the cricket sings;  
There midnight's all aglimmer, and noon a  
purple glow,  
And evening full of the linnet's wings.

"I will arise and go now, for always  
night and day  
I hear lake water lapping with low sounds by  
the shore;  
While I stand on the roadway, or on the  
pavements grey,  
I hear it in the deep heart's core."

A theology of leisure is summed up in St. Paul's first letter to his beloved Timothy. (1 Tim. 6:17) Here he bids his co-worker to urge the rich to cease trusting in uncertain riches and in the fleeting powers of wealth and to put their confidence in a God Who gives us everything for our enjoyment. Leisure is no exception to His total giving.

I pray that we accept it as His gift for personal renewal and as a partial experience of the joy of eternity resounding in our "deep heart's core" even as we walk along the gray pavements of our day-to-day living.

May these welcome days of Summer bring all of you the divine blessing uttered by the psalmist:

"Have leisure and know that I am God."  
Ps. 65:11.

## SVD Missionaries Beatification Oct. 19

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul has chosen Mission Sunday, Oct. 19, as the day he will beatify the founder of the missionary Society of the Divine Word (SVD). At the same time he will beatify one of the first SVD missionaries to China.

The beatification of Father Arnold Janssen, a German priest who founded the Society in Holland in 1875, and of Father Joseph Freinademetz, a Tyrolean priest who went to China as a missionary in 1879, will come just weeks after the 5,300 Divine

Word missionary brothers and priests in the U.S. and 35 other countries celebrate the 100th anniversary of their order on Sept. 8.

Father Janssen, born Nov. 5, 1837, at Goch, a town near the

Holland border, served as parish priest in the Diocese of Muenster.

He left Germany for Holland during Bismark's "Kulturkampf," a period of religious repression that was paralyzing the activity of the Catholic Church. The first

headquarters of his newly founded missionary Society were in an old inn in the tiny village of Steyl.

Father Janssen drew men from all over Europe for service in the then colonized countries around the world.

Divine Word missionaries first came to the U.S. in 1898. Three months before his death in Rome on Jan. 15, Father Janssen gave his approval for the founding of the Divine Word Seminary in Techny, Ill., the first seminary in the country designed to train missionaries for foreign work.

Father Freinademetz was born April 15, 1852, at the town of Badia in what was then the Austrian Tyrol. He joined the young missionary society in 1878, just three years after his ordination. A year later, he was sent to China to work in the South Shantung Province.

During the Boxer Rebellion in 1900, when members of a Chinese secret society attacked foreigners and native Christians and besieged foreign legations in Peking, the missionary remained with his people, refusing to seek safety in the guarded city of Tsingtao.

After 30 years of uninterrupted missionary work in South Shantung Province, Father Freinademetz died in a typhoid epidemic in 1908 at the provincial town of Publi.

## The Bishop's Public Appointments



## September

- 3—Confirmation guidelines Task Force Meeting, Mercy Motherhouse — 7:30 p.m.
- 4—Pastoral Office Staff Meeting — 9 a.m.
- 4—Department of Education meeting and celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Sisters of St. Joseph's Cottage, Conesus Lake — 4 p.m.
- 7—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, St. Ambrose Church — 9:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
- 8—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Triduum in honor of Mother Elizabeth Seton, St. Mary's Hospital Chapel — 12 Noon.
- 10-18—Pilgrimage to Rome for Canonization Ceremony of Mother Elizabeth Seton.
- 19—Priesthood Ordination, Our Mother of Sorrows Church — 7:30 p.m.
- 20—Diocesan Pastoral Council Meeting, DeSales High School, Geneva — 1 p.m.
- 21—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, 50th Jubilee

of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece — 11 a.m.

- 23—Chemung-Schuyler Regional Meeting, St. Charles Borromeo Rectory, Elmira Heights — 12 Noon.
- 23—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, in honor of the Holy Spirit for Elmira School Children, Notre Dame High School Stadium, Elmira — 7:30 p.m.
- 25—Lopez Training Program, Pastoral Office — 8:30 a.m.
- 26—Priesthood Ordination, St. Margaret Mary Church, Rochester — 7:30 p.m.
- 27—Intercultural Understandings Workshop, Immaculate Conception Parish — 10 a.m.
- 27—Radio Message, Family Rosary Network — 7 p.m.
- 28—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Centenary of St. Theresa Parish, Stanley — 2 p.m.
- 30—Tompkins-Tioga Regional Meeting, St. John the Evangelist Parish, Newark Valley — 12 Noon.
- 30—Celebration of the Eucharist and Homily, Pastoral Assistants' Workshop, Notre Dame Retreat House — 5 p.m.