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Justice Is Theme Of 'Life' Program

My Dear People:

Respect for human life is an ongoing challenge and responsibility in today's world. Though situations abound in which the sanctity of human life is denied or ignored, nations and peoples have come to new understandings of human rights. There is reason for hope, but no grounds for complacency.

The annual RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM is meant to focus our attention on the enduring need for justice and for structures that will protect the dignity of persons and insure human rights. It is not simply to decry the existence of injustice in the world, but to emphasize the theological foundation of humankind's thirst for justice. The main theme of the 1975 Respect Life Program is family life, and this approach was taken for two reasons: education for justice and social harmony is learned first of all in the family and, secondly, the welfare of society is very much dependent on the stability and well-being of the family.

I take this opportunity to urge Parish Council Committees of education, human development and family life to make full use of the resources offered in the Respect Life Handbook in planning parish programs for this year. I ask members of the various renewal groups in the Diocese to incorporate Respect Life themes into their programs.

The success of the Respect Life Program is mainly attributable to the effort of each parish in proclaiming the sanctity of life and dignity of the person through its prayer life, its programs and its public image. We no longer live in a world where dignity of human life can be taken for granted. We live in a world of efficiency and expediency where abortion and euthanasia are acclaimed as signs of freedom and dignity. I pray that every parish in this diocese will give great attention to the Respect Life Program throughout the year.

With a blessing, I remain

Devotedly yours in Christ

Joseph L. Hogan

Merger: St. Patrick's and St. Anthony's

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

St. Patrick's parish in downtown Rochester, which traces its ancestry to 1818, will be merged with St. Anthony of Padua, Father Richard Masciangelo told the people at Masses last weekend.

Details must be worked out first for "ministry to the needs of all," he said, and there are matters of both ecclesiastical and civil law to be settled.

The joint parish council voted Sept. 22 for merger as the most practicable of three options that had been "studied in depth," Father Richard reported. The council has made its opinion known to the Pastoral Office, where the merger idea surfaced in 1971. Bishop Joseph L. Hogan is expected to authorize the merger.

Father Richard said that his weekend announcement capped

a series of reports on the parish council study. Everyone already realized, he said, that attendance had diminished, the treasury was dwindling and the facilities deteriorating.

St. Patrick's, the last remnant of the Old Cathedral, became a mission of nearby St. Anthony's in May 1971. Both parishes were put into the hands of the Precious Blood Fathers last year, with Father Richard as pastor.

Options considered by the joint parish council's evaluation committee included the proposition that the relationship of the two parishes be continued unchanged.

The committee found, however, that St. Patrick's would need an annual income of \$9,000, plus money to pay for heating, repairing and upkeep of the 70-year-old building. Increased rates for steam will put the heating bill

alone between \$9,400 and \$10,000, the pastor reported.

It was seen also, he said, that the basement couldn't be rented again without extensive renovation. The Edgerton Day Care Center, quartered there since fire destroyed Lake Avenue Baptist Church, put up with "emergency conditions" of necessity," Father Richard noted. The center moves Oct. 12 to the rebuilt Lake Avenue church.

A move to make St. Patrick's an independent parish, especially for the Spanish-speaking hit the same financial obstacles.

The Spanish-speaking members of the mission parish are in the care of the diocesan Spanish Apostolate and are a particular responsibility of Sister Julia

Hospital Closing 'Tabled'

The Genesee Region Health Planning Council has tabled the question of whether or not to recommend closing of St. Mary's Hospital obstetrical ward. Forty-one members of the council met last week and voted to table the issue indefinitely. Paul Lewis, director of development at the hospital, expressed pleasure over the vote.

Norton, pastoral assistant. Their Mass draws from 80 to 125 persons, including many children, Father Richard said. About 25 to 35 attend the English-language Mass.

Consolidation has been talked about openly since Father Charles Bennett, Father Richard's predecessor, became administrator of St. Patrick's in 1971. Not only the parish council, but such organizations as the Holy Name and Altar-Rosary societies have become "joint" in the interim.

The evaluation committee included two long-time

parishioners of St. Patrick's, Sam Zaccardo and Charles Buckovich; two from the Spanish community, Ismael Ramos and Angel Giabellini; and Sam Donofrio of St. Anthony's.

Father Richard and his associate, Father Albert DePascale, CPPS, also served. Sister Julia was a member, and Father Edward Golden joined the group in his capacity of field coordinator for the Spanish Apostolate, and as liaison with the Pastoral Office. Since assuming his new position of Vicar for Urban Ministry, Msgr. George Cocuzzi, has sat in on discussions.

Sisters Injured; Reception Off

Sister Jamesine Riley, the new superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and Sister Louise Weber of the community's central administration team were injured Sunday in an automobile collision and are in Rochester General Hospital.

A reception for them and other members of the new administration, scheduled for Sunday afternoon, Oct. 5, at the Motherhouse has been cancelled.

The sisters were on their way to Elmira for a public celebration at St. Joseph's Hospital. The accident took place on Routes 5

and 20 outside Canandaigua. Sisters Barbara Ann Foss and Mary David McCall, also of the administration, were injured but are not hospitalized. The driver of the other car, Grace Guinan, is in the Geneva hospital. She is an aunt of Sister Barbara Joan Lynaugh, SSJ, according to Sister Mary John VanAtta.

Sister Mary John reported that Sister Jamesine had a badly shattered ankle and would be unable to test it for three months. Sister Louise has a broken pelvis and is expected to remain in the hospital for two weeks.



Life Meet Draws 700

Photos by Bruce Genut

Part of the crowd which swelled to more than 700 people gives a standing ovation to Dr. Mildred Jefferson, above right. The occasion was the New York State Right to Life Convention, held in Rochester last weekend. Among the other notables gathered for the convention are (below left) Joan Allgaier, who spoke to the convention on political action on the state level, Professor Robert Byrn, who addressed the same issue on the federal level. Below right, another speaker, Rev. Charles P. Carroll, an Episcopalian priest and author, greets Sen. James L. Buckley, keynote speaker for the convention.

