

People of Advent, People of Hope

By Sister M. Florian Reichert, SSJ

Symbolically, Advent is a time of expectation, waiting in hope, looking forward. Our human hearts are forever looking to that which is not yet.

Even as we realize that there is much wrong with life, that we are badly afflicted, that there is evidence of much suffering, crime, impoverishment, war and disorders all about us, we tend to keep looking forward. We seek out the leadership of strong people — people of wisdom and vision — to point the way. The people who walk through Advent are such leaders. They are prophets of hope calling to us through the liturgical texts to straighten out our lives, to lift our souls to trust in God, for "no one who waits for you (God) is ever put to shame." (1st Sunday of Advent)

Who are these Advent people of hope? Isaiah — prophet of faithfulness, prophet of comfort; John — herald and baptizer of Jesus; Paul — apostle for all seasons; Mary — Virgin Mother of the Word-made-flesh.

Every return of the Advent Season brings us closer to the end. Advent 1975 forces us to realize, again, that Christ's final coming is nearer than ever. Prophets are messengers of hope, and Isaiah, true to his prophetic

INSIGHTS On Pastoral Liturgy

role, bids us take courage. Like the people returning from exile in Babylon, we feel frustration when events do not work out as we had hoped. Isaiah comforts us: "We have all withered away like leaves, and our guilt carries us away like the wind. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay and you the potter; we are all the work of your hands." With hope, we rouse ourselves and respond: "Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved." (1st Sunday of Advent) It is interesting to note the sense of urgency and intensity that builds up from Sunday to Sunday in Advent. The poetry of Isaiah reminds us of the goodness of God, the goodness which never wearies and which will endure and be manifested in the future.

Having awakened to the excitement of the coming event, it is John who proclaims the immediate coming of the Messiah. There must have been something very attractive about this man. In addition to living as an austere hermit, he was a man of vision,

courageous conviction and humility. His one work in life was to prepare others for Jesus' coming and his message. John's preaching, "prepare ye the way of

Cancer Grants In Effect

A total of \$2,027,573 in American Cancer Society research grants are in effect in the Society's New York State Division, it was announced by the division president, Dr. Frank C. Starpoli, Poughkeepsie.

The University of Rochester has \$392,155.00 in American Cancer Society research grants. Other institutions include Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo; the State Universities of New York at Albany and Buffalo; Cornell University, Ithaca; Albany Medical College; Trudeau Institute, Inc., Saranac Lake; and Syracuse University.

Funds for the cancer research grants are provided through the American Cancer Society's annual Cancer Crusade in April.

MAKE TODAY COUNT

Father Gary P. Shaw, associate pastor of St. Margaret Mary, will speak at the Make Today Count meeting at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 16, at the Monroe Developmental Center, 620 Westfall Rd.

Father Shaw is an active member of the organization, which was formed to help cancer patients and their families deal with the emotional impact of their situation. There are other clergymen, doctors and nurses in the group, besides those directly concerned. Anyone interested may join them. They meet once a month at the developmental center, under the auspices of the Monroe County Cancer and Leukemia Association.

GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. George Allen Cooney of Parkdale Terrace celebrated the 50th anniversary of their marriage Nov. 28 at a Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral and a buffet dinner for family and friends. They are the parents of Mrs. William Fay of Brighton, Mrs. Louis Wilhelm of Laurel, Md., James Cooney of Ridgefield, Conn., and Sister Alice Cooney, SSJ, of Canandaigua. There are 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mrs. Cooney is the former Ann Elizabeth Gougherty. The wedding took place Nov. 18, 1925, at St. Columba's, Caledonia. Mr. Cooney retired in 1965 after 24 years with Eastman Kodak.

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Fr. Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28. (R1) Is. 61:1-2, 10-11. (R2) 1 Thes. 5:16-24.

We hear so much talk today about identity crisis. Who am I? What am I? Why am I? And so on. It is important that we know who we are. Physically, if a person thinks he is well — but is not — he may do what he ought not do and drop dead. On the contrary, if he thinks he is sick — but is not — he might just as well be dead. Psychologically, it is equally important that we know who we are. "Know yourself," was the advice Socrates gave those seeking perfection.

So the Church spends three of the four Sundays of Advent identifying John the Baptist. Last Sunday, Christ identified John as "his messenger." This Sunday, John identified himself. "Just who are you?" he was asked. "Are you the Christ?" A man clothed in soft garments would have snatched the opportunity of being mistaken for the Messiah. A reed would have been shaken by public opinion, by the Gallup poll. But not John. He knew who he was, and he had the humility to admit it. "I am 'a herald's voice, in the desert'." A herald prepares the way for another. That other, John confessed, was One "whose sandal straps I am not even worthy to unfasten."

The question the Levites asked John, "just who are you?" might well be asked of each of us. "Just who are we?" Oliver Wendell Holmes, in The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table speaks of three "me's" — the real me, the ideal me, and the people's me. The real me is the way I see myself. The ideal me is the way I want to be. The people's me is the way others see me.

Last Hallowe'en, one of our teachers had the children cut

from newspapers and magazines pictures, words or anything that would represent themselves as others saw them and paste them on the outside of the mask. On the inside they pasted pictures and words that represented them as they saw themselves. The third activity was to write a paragraph on the kind of person they really wanted to be.

Teachers discover that many students have a defeatist attitude. Many collegians today are wasting the precious little time they have for studies, for constructive and creative work, because they feel "doing things" is of greater value than "being someone."

No one is entirely what he thinks he is or what other people think he is or what he really wants to be. So what? John came to preach the good news. And you know, the good news is about each one of us. It proclaims: "Somebody loves us despite ourselves; Someone, no less than God's own Son. He stands in our midst — even today at Mass — so that we may have hope. Big hope! An Al Hirt has a lot to blow about, doesn't he? But don't we have a lot to blow about too? Everyone has in himself a piece of good news: God loves me! Therefore we are called to greatness, for God's love is creative. We love what is good. But God loves and makes what He loves good!

The good news in each of us is that we really don't know how great we can be, how much we can love, what we can accomplish, what our potential is. Heaven is the limit. How can you top good news like that?

Jan-Est Pharmacy

553 Plymouth Ave. South 546-8930

SPECIAL THIS WEEK

Lighter

49¢

Reg. 1.00

9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through
Saturday; Sunday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Buy Now For X-Mas

the Lord," is as fittingly sung today in our liturgy as when he heralded the coming of the kingdom of God. Advent keeps reminding us that now our salvation is nearer than we first believed.

Paul now cries out with increased urgency to us: "Rejoice! Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! The Lord is near." It is like a trumpet call to behold the Lamb of God pointed out to us by John.

The Fourth Sunday focuses on Mary: "Let the clouds rain down the just One and the earth bring forth a Savior." Mary, chosen by God to mother his Son, was hailed "Full of Grace." She who was of our earth, rooted in humanity, bore the seed of God-made-man. The first reading refers to building a house in which the Lord will dwell. Mary, and we, too, are temples that house the living God. The responses echo Mary's song of thanks and praise: "Forever will I sing the goodness of the Lord" and "I am the servant of the Lord; may his will for me be done." The time of waiting is coming to an end and a quiet peace settles over the joy which has changed from exuberance to something very deep as the gospel reviews, once again, the story of the Annunciation.

The prophetic vision of the Church is our authentic guide through this season. The Light of Christ within her illuminates the liturgy with words of revelation from both Old and New

Testament. Her vision sweeps across the ages before Christ — over prophecies, types, events and persons — into future glory, from the Lord of Christmas to the Parousia, flooding our darkness with peace.

FLOWER WORLD

WE SEND FLOWERS WORLDWIDE

MORE THAN JUST A FLOWER SHOP...

PLANTS
PLANTERS
POTTERY
SAND SCAPE
TERRARIUMS
DISH GARDENS
FLOWERS Fresh & Dried
Fruit & Gourmet Baskets
Wicker Accs. & Furniture
"Official" Disney World
Stuffed Animals
SPECIAL OCCASIONS
OFFICE
FUNERALS
HOSPITALS
WEDDINGS
FUNERALS
ANNIVERSARIES

PROMPT DELIVERY
COUNTY WIDE

Rosalie Snyder—Floral Designer

Todd Mart PLAZA

3000 Winton Rd. South
461-2890

Kar-Mac Manor

Routes 5 & 20, Between Geneva & Waterloo, Thruway Exit 42. Dinners from \$3.25 — Featuring Prime Rib — Char Broiled Steaks — Chicken Orzopano — Liver & Onions — Seafood — Beef & Sea Smorg. every Friday — Dancing nightly except Tues. & Thurs. Reservations — 789-1305 or 539-8044

JOHN J. CURRAN
FUNERAL HOME INC.

JOHN J. CURRAN
Licensed Manager

ROBERT E. KINGSTON
Licensed Funeral Director

535 Oxford St. 473-3170

Daniel Green
LEISURE FOOTWEAR

For Christmas Giving

DORMIE

TRUDI

LOTUS

Choose from Daniel Green's collection of footwear fashions, in a rainbow of kooky, new colors. Pick a pair for someone you love.

A BOOTERY GIFT CERTIFICATE IS ALWAYS WELCOME

FROM \$800 UP

ELMIRA 165 N. MAIN ST.
CORNING 22 E. MARKET ST.
Both Store Open Evenings TH 9 Except Sat.