

COURIER-JOURNAL

20 Pages

Wednesday, March 3, 1976

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

20 Cents

A Special Cause: Help the Homeless

My dear People:

Each year we hear the insistent call of the Ash Wednesday Gospel to turn away from sin and believe more wholeheartedly in the Good News. It challenges us to use yet another Season of Lent well by actively seeking to reconcile ourselves with God and our neighbor.

This year the challenging invitation to repentance is all the more provocative since the new Rite of Penance will go into effect in our diocese on Easter Sunday. The new rite is the final major liturgical revision called for by the Second Vatican Council.

Many educational meetings have already been conducted around the diocese to help you understand some of the background and reasons for the changes in the new rite, and I rely on the fact that your parishes have planned programs to further this understanding.

The most exciting part of the renewal of this sacrament for me is the way in which it is placed in the mainstream of our lives as Christians. Penance is a process that works to return us to the open, forgiving arms of the Father. It begins with sorrow for our waywardness, but also hope in the mercy of God. It moves through our

How the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation works
Page 2

Three Lenten Challenges,
an Editorial
Page 4

struggle to heal our broken relationships with God and neighbor, to the celebration of forgiveness in the sacrament. Finally, our conversion continues and is expressed in lives renewed according to the Gospel and more and more steeped in the love of God.

In speaking of the Season of Lent, the introduction to the new Rite of Penance strongly encourages us not only to celebrate this sacrament worthily but also to find ways of actively healing the brokenness around us. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving have traditionally been the forms of Lenten renewal and they remain fruitful means of reconciliation.

I would ask you to consider, as a special cause this Lent, our call from God to provide shelter for the homeless. Ever since I have been

Bishop, I have been a member of the Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation. I know the effective work that this group has accomplished in helping poor families buy homes, in helping people who are in danger of losing their home because of mortgage default, and in helping groups that work all over this Diocese to improve housing conditions. I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the statement of the National Bishops' Conference on this issue and also a list of ways in which you might help the Bishop Sheen Foundation through almsgiving. It provides us with a concrete way of making the reconciling power of Christ present in our diocese.

I pray that all of your personal and communal efforts of renewal and reconciliation will bear fruit in abundance.

With a prayer for a blessed Lenten Season, I am

Joseph L. Hogan
+ Most Reverend Joseph L. Hogan, D.D.
Bishop of Rochester

Pope Paul's Lenten Message

At a time when we are still filled with the spirit and graces of the Holy Year, we are beginning the liturgical season of Lent. Lent is the special period for spiritual reflection — a period in which each person is invited to examine himself or herself in prayer, and to act.

Let us make a sincere effort to prepare ourselves to re-live, in union with the Church, the mysteries of Christ who suffered, died and rose again for the Church herself and for all people.

Dear sons and daughters, this is why we beg you once again not to neglect the grace of God (2 Cor. 6: 1) — God who is love and self-giving. And we repeat to you the exhortation which we put forward as one of the conclusions of the Holy Year: "Love the brethren! Love those who need your love and your service (cf. 1 Jn. 4: 19-21). This will be fraternal and social love — revived and multiplied in good works — which will not only manifest our faithful commitment to the Holy Year, but will also manifest the fruitfulness and relevance of the Holy Year in the years to come." (Address at the General Audience of 17 December 1975.)

In order that you may have a part in establishing justice, and in order that the Gospel of love may have witnesses, we ask you to share what you have with those around you. Those who are truly poor always find someone who is poorer still. And share generously in the help that the Churches give to one another. Do this by responding to the yearly appeal that will be made to you by your local Church, for the purpose of helping the people — even though they may be far away from you — who are suffering from hunger and want.

Through your generosity you will be purified, and then you will be ready to enter into the life of Easter, a life lived in the spirit of the Risen Lord.

It is with this hope, dear sons and daughters, of the entire world, that we bless you, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LENTEN SERIES

In a special Lenten series, Father Louis Hohman will devote his Open Window column to explaining the new Rite of Reconciliation (Penance) which will go into effect on Easter Sunday, April 18. The first of this informative six-part series is on Page 2.



A Bishop's Gift

Bishop James E. Kearney graciously presents his crozier to Bishop Kearney High School on Wednesday, Feb. 25. Accepting the gift are sophomore Ken Africano, Brother William Stoldt, principal, Mary Panzetta, also a sophomore, and seniors Molly Sullivan, and Dave Cameron. The staff will be displayed in the school's foyer.



New Parish Council

Installation of the parish council took place at Guardian Angels Church in Henrietta this past Sunday. Bishop Joseph Hogan formally installed the members of the first council at the parish. The members are: Mary Kennedy, Eugene Eckert, Richard Werner, Gini Gradl, Sister Barbara Kuhn, Elizabeth Haglund, Barbara Stein, Terry Brady, Theresa Barone, Robert Juif, and Larry Nardone.

Photo by Ben Susso