

Dom Helder to Address Eucharistic Congress

Archbishop Helder Pessoa Camara of Olinda-Recife, Brazil, who has been dubbed "the Apostle to the Poor" for his active role in helping the underprivileged of Brazil, will offer a major address at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress on Suffering People Day, Tuesday, Aug. 3.

Twenty years ago he organized the 36th International Eucharistic Congress in Rio de Janeiro.

Known throughout the world simply as Dom Helder, Archbishop Camara offers the following reflections on the true meaning of the congress.

"Today there is in all Eucharistic Congresses a difference, a change that I like very much. There was a time when the theme of the congresses, the great idea, was the glory of the risen Christ. It was the intention to show glorification.

"Today at the Eucharistic Congress, as in the congress in Brazil, my see, we are witnessing the presence of Christ in the Eucharist as a help for remembering that Christ is living in oppressed persons.

"As a Catholic approaching the Eucharist, and when I am offering Mass, the Eucharist is the presence of Christ. Really! It is the high moment of every day for me. But, when I am receiving Christ, I am praying: Christ, open my eyes, I wish to discover your presence in the poor and oppressed persons. Because when this world is over, we will be judged. The judgment will be: I was hungry, I was without clothes, I was without a house, surely, I was oppressed."

"For St. Francis of Assisi poverty was and always will be 'Lady Poverty.' But I don't believe that he

would call misery 'Lady Misery. Never! Misery is an insult to the Father.

"And for me, Francis of Assisi, if he were living today, always preaching about 'Lady Poverty,' would also present 'Lady Justice.' Because without 'Lady Justice,' peace would be impossible.

"I ask the indulgence of the theologians to say, for me, 'I learn from the Holy Eucharist to discover another Eucharist. The Eucharist for me is the appearance of bread, the presence of Christ. When I am facing the poor, for me it is the presence of misery, the reality of Christ."

One of 13 children, Dom Helder was born on Feb. 7, 1909 in the port city of Fortaleza, Brazil. He was ordained a priest in 1931 and consecrated a bishop in 1952.



His enthusiasm for social justice and concern about the plight of the poor have not always endeared the archbishop to everyone. At Vatican II one of his sermons was censored and destroyed because it was too strong; and, on the other hand, terrorists of his homeland attacked his residence with machine guns.

"My vocation," Padre Helder has stated publicly, "is to argue, argue, argue for moral pressure upon the lords."

A light-century away from the monastic disputations of the great Scholastics, Dom Helder's argument at the Eucharistic Congress should enliven concern for the hungers of the human family.

Mendon Parish Goal: A Community Center

St. Catherine's Church in Mendon proposes to build a center to serve not only the parish, but also the community in general.

A drive for pledges from parishioners was started last Sunday. The goal is \$150,000.

Plans call for a two-story building containing eight classrooms and a hall big enough to accommodate 400 persons. The structure would stand behind the church on the 32-acre parish property on Mendon-Ionia Road.

Members of the Parish Council have titled the project the Monsignor Schnacky Community Center, in tribute to Msgr. Albert H. Schnacky, pastor for 20 years.

Two-year pledges will be sought. Construction is expected to be undertaken soon with completion in October, if the drive is successful.

Monsignor Schnacky said the building would ease crowded conditions in the present church basement, particularly for the growing numbers of children, young people and adults participating in religious education courses. It also will provide space for large religious observances and will be available for social and recreational purposes of parish and community, Msgr. Schnacky said.

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Neiman to Be Speaker at Education 'Day'

Joseph Neiman, nationally known religious educator, will address parish staff members at the third annual Religious Education Day on May 5.

St. Paul's mandate to Timothy, "Promote that training in faith which God requires" has been chosen as the theme for the meeting from 9:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Tremholm East.

An experienced religious educator at the parish and diocesan levels, Neiman serves as director of Project Coordinator, a national research project on parish educational ministry. His insights will be shared during a day of interaction among participants addressing the questions: Is Religious Education a Profession? What Constitutes Teaching? Can Administration Be Faithful?

The Division of Religious Education, sponsor of this event, invites all parish staffs. Additional information may be obtained from Miss Jean Graham, 328-3210, at the Religious Education Office.

Business in the Diocese

John Gaffney, a parishioner of Saint Joseph's Church in Penfield, has joined WNYR Radio as an account executive. Gaffney is a 1970 graduate of Bishop Kearney High School and received his B.A. in Political Science from Marquette University in 1974. He coaches the Perinton team of the Rochester Junior Soccer League.

malpractice

Bad for you, your doctor, your budget. Last year, New York State residents paid \$244,000,000 to support the present malpractice insurance system. You paid this in taxes, increased medical and dental fees and rising health care costs. You will pay much more unless state legislators act now to control these costs. The McGill Commission—a Special State Advisory Panel on Malpractice Insurance—warns that without immediate reforms, malpractice insurance costs could soar to half-a-billion dollars in the next three years. We ask your support in calling for these reforms now, before the legislative session ends in May. Write your state legislators. Urge immediate approval of the McGill Commission bills that will reduce malpractice insurance costs by as much as 15 per cent. Sign the petitions that support these bills—at your doctor's office, your dentist's office or the Monroe County Medical Society. Let's hear it for good medicine. Call 473-4072 for the names and addresses of your legislators.

Monroe County Medical Society