

# ... So I Came to You'

## — Pope John XXIII

In his first year as pontiff, Pope John XXIII surprised the world by visiting inmates of a Rome prison at Christmas. He gave as his reason the quote above.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan this year also chose this penitential season to visit the incarcerated — the residents of the Auburn Correctional Facility.

Under the sponsorship of the facility's Legion of Mary, Carlo E. Vallarini-Cejas, president, families of residents from as far away as New York City as well as members of area Legion of Mary chapters, were on hand for a special liturgy and holiday party. Bishop Hogan, Father Clarence Gardner, chaplain; Father Paul Cloonan, chaplain for the Finger Lakes Curia, Legion of Mary, and Father Michael Conboy concelebrated the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Hogan alluded to a quote from Mother Theresa of India:

"I have come more and more to realize that being unwanted is the worst disease that any human being can ever experience. Nowadays we have found medicine for leprosy and lepers can be cured. There's medicine for TB and consumptives can be cured. But for being unwanted, except there are willing hands to serve and there's a loving heart to love, I don't think this terrible disease can be cured."

At a party after the Mass, Santa Claus handed out candy bars to children of the visiting families — gifts from the residents paid for by work within the facility.

A buffet dinner also was served.



The procession before Mass. Families residents and members of the area Legion of Mary attended.



... the second reading.



Bishop Hogan delivers homily; Father Cloonan in background.



Father Clarence Gardner, facility chaplain; Carlo E. Vallarini-Cejas, president of the facility Legion of Mary; Bishop Hogan, and Robert J. Henderson, facility superintendent.

Photos by Anthony J. Costello