

ights into Liturgy

Family Book of Prayer

By FATHER ROBERT J. KENNEDY

Each day is special because it is a gift from God. From Christians, it is a time in which the wonderful works of the Lord may be experienced and our mission of proclaiming the Good News of Christ Jesus is carried out. From the time of the apostles, the Church has sanctified the day and all human activity by the celebration of daily prayer known as the Liturgy of the Hours. It is principally a prayer of praise and supplication, the prayer of the Church with Christ and to Christ.

In recent centuries, the Liturgy of the Hours has been prayed almost exclusively by priests and religious. However, when the Hours were revised in 1971, there was a strong and urgent call that these prayers, so rich in the biblical traditions, be restored to the whole Church and that, wherever possible, they be celebrated in common. The instruction especially encourages the parish and family celebration of morning and evening prayer, the "two hinges on which this liturgy turns."

To encourage this restoration, many

publications are being produced, among which is a very fine parish and family prayer book entitled, Come Aside and Rest Awhile, published this month by Paulist Press. It is a collection of evening prayers compiled and edited by Joseph G. Kelly, professor of Old Testament at St. Bernard's Seminary. It is a book for those people, probably the great majority of faithful Christians, who, at the end of a hectic day, want to praise and thank God in a simple way with their families or by themselves.

This book is brief and simple, but it is a treasury of prayer compiled in the spirit of the revised Liturgy of the Hours. Kelly has drawn from the rich heritage of Jewish, Roman Catholic and Orthodox prayer traditions to provide us with a very useful and contemporary book. There are three full settings of evening prayer contained in this book, as well as the Night Prayer of the Church, Compline. Also included are a variety of additional litanies and prayers. There is a section of evening prayers for special evenings — the Sabbath, Christmas Eve and Easter — as well as a very rich compilation of "thoughts for evening meditation" drawn from both ancient and modern

sources. Eight pages are also provided for the inclusion of one's own personal favorite prayers.

No less prayer-provoking are the two dozen illustrations provided by Kelly's sister, Coleen Kelly Spelley. These insightful combinations of drawings and quotations would be beneficial also for meditation, and they fill this book with a charm that would appeal to even the smallest members of a family.

Come Aside and Rest Awhile is a perfect help for those families who have been trying to pray regularly together. They will find built into these evening prayer forms a comfortable format they can rely on, but also a flexibility that will make the prayer time together meaningful to each one in the family.

Parishes, too, could find this little book useful. They could easily purchase twenty-five copies and use them before or after parish council or committee meetings. It would allow for a very important ten or fifteen minutes of prayer and a necessary realization of the need for God's guidance and support.

In addition, in any place Christians pray this rich resource will be most fruitful. Come Aside and Rest Awhile is available from Paulist Press, 545 Island Road, Ramsey, N.J., or from local distributors. Cost is \$1.45.

GROUNDHOG DAY

Emigrés from Punxsutawney, Pa., will gather Saturday night in Barry's Party House, 4370 Dewey, for a premature celebration of Ground Hog Day. Anyone who wants to attend the dinner-dance should call Mrs. David Klender at 342-5413.

Regional Highlights

According to NERVE, the Northeast Region newsletter, an introduction to directed retreats will be offered at the Cenacle beginning Thursday, Feb. 24, under the direction of Sister Catherine Carney, of the Boston Cenacle Retreat House. For information, interested persons may call Sister Betty Rogers, 271-8755.

Northeast region parishes raised more than \$9,000 for Mount Carmel's parish hall. The money was used to install a new heating system for the building. Regional parishes also donated food, clothing, sewing machines and photographic equipment for Mount Carmel.

COURIER-CALENDAR

St. James — Rosary Society meeting 8:15 p.m. Feb. 1. Beginning with recitation of rosary in church. Barbara Robin-Fern, account executive with investment firm, guest speaker. Holy Name men invited.

St. Thomas More — Showboat, 8 p.m. Jan. 29. School gym: games, auction, dancing, refreshments.

St. Ambrose — Mother-daughter tureen supper 6 p.m. tomorrow, Dailey Hall, with vaudeville show, produced by Mrs. Edward J. Lynd and Mrs. William F. Ouwelen; sponsored by Rosary Society. Tickets from Mrs. Vito Calzone or Mrs. Anthony Lima. "Rooftop" card party Feb. 7, also sponsored by Rosary Society. Tickets from Bea Civilett, 482-2300, or Helen Cimino, 288-2058; deadline today.

Holy Name, Greece — Square dance, 8-11 p.m. Jan. 29, for adults and teens; singles welcome.

St. Rita's, Webster — Card party 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 29, in The Barn, Maple Drive.

St. Thomas the Apostle — February Fling, dinner-dance in parish hall 8:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 4, sponsored by Rosary Society. Reservations by Jan. 31 through 342-0689 or 342-4844.

St. Joseph's, Penfield — Las Vegas Night, 8 p.m. Feb. 5, school hall, Gebhardt Road. Buffet supper.

St. Pius X — Sunday dinner Jan. 30, 2-6 p.m., 3000 Chili Ave. Roast beef, salad bar, home-made desserts. Advance reservations (cheaper) through 247-3382 or 247-3866.

Forum on Justice — Reaction to report of Citizens Advisory Committee on Police Affairs, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2, 101-S, Plymouth.

Church Women United — 17th annual Legislative Institute 9:30 a.m. Feb. 4, Third Presbyterian Church, Meigs Street at East Avenue. Dr. Gerald Eggert and reacting panel on Long-Term Health Care.

Spina Bifida Association — Public meeting tomorrow at 8 p.m., Al Sigl Center, 1000 Elmwood Dr. Christopher Hodgman of Strong Memorial guest speaker. Information: 481-3359.

Association for Retarded Citizens — Open House at Al Sigl Center, 1000 Elmwood, 3-5 and 6-8 p.m. today.

Retired Social Workers — Annual winter meeting Thursday noon, Feb. 3, University Club, Broadway at East Avenue. Reservations: Mrs. Monica Mahoney, 442-6913.

GeVa Theatre — Harold Pinter's Birthday Party opens tonight at 8, for three-week run, 168 S. Clinton. Wednesday through Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 4 p.m. Workshops for children and teenagers every Saturday, 10 a.m.

Rochester Philharmonic — Pittsford School District bands, choruses, orchestras join RPO in 8 p.m. concert Friday, Jan. 28, Pittsford-Mendon High School.

Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra — At Monroe Community College Little Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 30; at Eastview Mall, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 31, at Greece Towne Mall, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 1.

Eastman InterMusica — Three student ensembles in free concert, 8 p.m. tomorrow, Kilbourn Hall.

Latin Excellence — Invitational exhibit of contemporary Hispanic art at Xerox Square, Broad and Chestnut, through March 19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10-6 Saturday, 1-6 Sunday.

Icon Exhibit — Paintings by the Rev. John H. Walsted of Mt. Calvary Retreat House, Santa Barbara, Calif., on show at Harley School's Wilson Center Gallery, 1981 Clover, throughout February, except during Winter Break, Feb. 18-22. Visitors welcome Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Gallery Concert — Eastman School students, at 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 30, Memorial Art Gallery.

Art History — At Memorial Art Gallery Tuesday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m., The Treasures of Tutankhamen, lecture by Renee Beller, associate curator.

Calendar items should be mailed to the Courier-Journal Calendar Desk, 67 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. Deadline is Wednesday noon, one week ahead of the publication date.

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