

Catholic Family Center Opens Nutrition Site For Seniors

By MICHAEL GRODEN

Being a senior citizen today can be a lonely, sometimes frightening experience. Seniors are usually forced to live on fixed incomes, in spite of ever-increasing living costs. They are most easily victimized by crime and too often thought of as people who aren't useful enough to care about.

There are people and organizations, however, who do care about our senior citizens and are fighting to make their life a little more liveable.

One such organization is Catholic Family Center, a division of Catholic Charities, headed by James

Maloney. On Wednesday of last week, CFC, in conjunction with the Monroe County Office for the Aging, formally opened the Charlotte Senior Citizens Nutrition Site at Holy Cross School Cafeteria, 4488 Lake Ave.

The grand opening culminated a lengthy process of surveys, searching for a proper location and lining up workers for the center.

Candy Cange, president of the "site council," explained that the Holy Cross site was selected after a survey taken by Kathleen Cole, indicated the Charlotte area had the highest contingent of senior citizens in Rochester. The

school cafeteria, selected from a list of five area church facilities, also has a first floor entrance making it accessible to ambulatory seniors, she said.

In addition to serving inexpensive, wholesome meals to area seniors, the site also "provides a social outlet for the seniors," explained Roger Battaglia, director of inner-city programs for CFC. Arts and crafts are taught, weekly bingo and sometimes dancing are offered.

Since its unofficial opening on April 11 of this year, the center has served an average of 140 persons per day, according to Battaglia. When notified one week in advance specially

prepared meals, such as salt free food, are also available.

Meals can also be prepared to take out for people who aren't able to get to the site, Ms. Cange said.

The nutrition site is open Monday through Friday from 3:15-6:30 p.m. Persons over 60-years-old are welcome. There is no charge for the meal but a donation of 50 cents is suggested.

A second site, sponsored by CFC, will open at St. Michael's Parish Hall at Clinton and Clifford Avenues June 20.

Further information about both sites may be obtained by calling Ms. Karen Richards, site coordinator, at 663-4374 or Roger Battaglia, 546-3046.



Louise Foubister and Peter G. May work up their appetites on the dance floor. Music for the opening was donated by the local musicians union.



Terri Robach, wife of State Assemblyman Roger Robach, Pat Bell, Monroe County Legislator, and Beatrice Montgomery, Executive Director of the Monroe County Office for the Aging, cut the ribbon opening the center.



Chef John Ferraro takes a break just prior to serving some 150 people dinner.



Enjoying their meal are from left; Floyd Dodge, Mary Clapp, Fayre and Finn Giaver.

Regional Highlights

Tompkins-Tioga Region

The newly elected officers for the Tompkins-Tioga Regional Assembly are; Marion Geiser, president; Dennis Geiser, vice-president; Emily Stuhmiller, secretary; and Ron Jones, treasurer.

presence of ramps, wide doors, proper rest room facilities, drinking fountains, access to phones and others. For further information contact Father Albert Cason at (607) 687-1068.

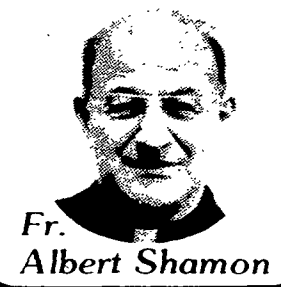
North Region

Father Conrad Sundholm, North Region Coordinator, nounced recently that Sister Mary Bernard has resigned as assistant coordinator. In her letter of resignation, read to the May meeting of the North Regional Assembly, Sister Mary said that she has accepted a teaching position at St. James next fall. Father Sundholm thanked her for her dedication to the region and said that she will be greatly missed.

At the same Meeting Dolores Fisher was introduced as a new assembly delegate from Christ the King Parish.

In its newsletter, Moorings, the region has surveyed each parish on how available their facilities are to the handicapped. Church buildings, halls and parish grounds were all examined for such things as

WORD FOR SUNDAY



Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 9:11-17 (R1) Gn. 14:18-20. (R2) 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

The origin of Corpus Christi goes back to the 13th century. St. Juliana of Mont-Cornillon saw in a vision the moon with a black spot on it. She asked our Lord what it meant, and He said, "The moon represents the Church Year; the black spot, the absence of a feast in honor of the Eucharist." Through her influence, such a feast was established in Liege. When the bishop of Liege became Pope Urban IV, he extended the feast to the entire Church in 1264. St. Thomas Aquinas composed the flawless liturgical texts for the feast.

Corpus Christi means Body of Christ. But what does Body of Christ mean? Earnest Larsen in his book, Body of Christ, has written many beautiful reflections on the meaning of the words.

One point Larsen makes is this: some theologians today are too preoccupied with what the Body of Christ

is, and not with what it means. Fantastic amounts of energy are expended on what things are, rather than on what they mean. Sacraments, for instance, are analyzed, torn apart, dissected and probed as to what they are. When all the while what counts today for so many is - what do they mean?

Suppose you had a friend who was deaf and dumb, who could communicate only by sign language. But you could not read sign language. Suppose such a friend tried to tell you something like this: "I want you to take me to the airport to meet a friend of ours who is arriving on the 5:30 p.m. plane." Suppose all you could decipher was the idea of plane. Of course you know what a plane is, but if you didn't grasp what he meant regarding the plane all would be in vain.

Can we not well imagination the frustration of Christ in the Eucharist. Again and again, a thousand times over, priests proclaim to myriads of communicants: "The Body of Christ!" And they answer, "Amen." That is what the Eucharist is - Bread that is Christ! The priest knows that and so does the communicant, as his "amen" shows.

But the key question is not what Body of Christ is, but what does it mean?

There is an old saying that there are no right answers to the wrong questions. The

questions, "What is the Body of Christ?" "What is the Eucharist?" "Can transubstantiation really happen?" are not bad questions. But for a time and people disastrously perishing from spiritual hunger, they aren't the most vital. For today's people, they are the wrong questions. People aren't hungering for intellectual dispute.

People aren't just good and bad. People are just plain hungry. We all are. We are spiritually hungry for love and a wanting to love. The lonely heart needs to know that the Body of Christ means power - power to cast out fear and instill love, that those who labor and are burdened can find rest for themselves simply by coming to the Body of Christ.

I know we all believe that the Body of Christ is God present among us. But what, it seems, we don't believe is that He can make any difference in our lives. The problem is, we think religion is concerned with our giving, is dealing with how good we can be; all the onus is put on ourselves. The

heart of everything is that Christ is God's gift to us. The Body of Christ is given to us. The first question then of religion is, "Will we accept this gift? Will we allow ourselves to be loved?" What a shift this entails, not an intellectual assent to His presence, but "Will I accept that I am loved by God?" That is basically what Body of Christ means.

LIBRARY

The central library at 115 South Ave is eliminating one evening a week from its schedule. Because of budget cuts, the library will close at 6 p.m. Fridays through the year, beginning June 10.

PARENTS ANON

Parents Anonymous holds regular meetings on Thursday mornings and Wednesday and Thursday evenings, providing child care without charge. Specific information may be obtained through Lifeline, 275-5151.

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