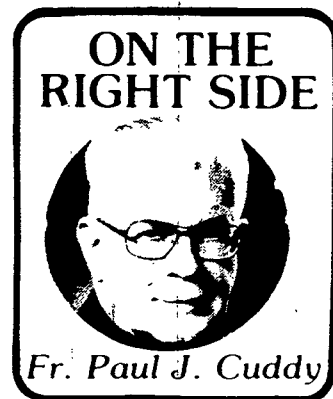


**Keepsakes for Father Murphy**

Aspects of parish life at St. Pius Tenth in Chili are illustrated in the blocks of this quilt, put together by 30 women of the parish for their retired pastor, Father Donald J. Murphy. The priest holds a scale model of the church's bell tower, made by George Wegman, as Sonia Cimino, coordinator of the quilt operation, presents the women's gift.



Mass responses and acclamations with ease. They sang hymns in their native tongue. My own inability to share the language of the Mass with them deepened my admiration for their own fidelity; i.e., their coming to our English language Mass with regularity, able to follow only the form of the Mass, without verbal participation.

Again I wondered. What training did these people have that they are so faithful?

Sunday, July 10, after our 8:30 Mass in Webster I was at the side entrance of the church, greeting the people. The big Vietnamese family of 11 came trooping out together. They stopped to tell me there was to be a gathering of the Catholic Vietnamese of Rochester at St. Anne's Church, Mt Hope Avenue, that afternoon. Confessions from 1 to 3; Mass at 3, and a meeting in the school after Mass.

So at 2:45 I arrived at St. Anne's, was enthusiastically greeted by our Holy Trinity Vietnamese parishioners, and went into the church. Since confessions continued until 3:15, I returned outside to meet more of the people. Then back to the sacristy to meet Father Peter Tien, who works out of St. Paul's Church, Binghamton, as priest to the scattered Vietnamese. After the introductions, Father Tien, probably impressed by my white hair, venerable age and prodigious weight, asked anxiously, "I could not hear all of the confessions. Do you think it would be all right to give General Absolution for the rest?" "Oh, yes, indeed. General Absolution is for just such emergencies." I was pleased that he cared about respecting the laws of the Church.

Father Tien celebrated Mass in the same rite we use. The congregation was about 140, nearly 100 per cent of the Catholic Vietnamese community of Rochester. They made the

structure was not that smooth, but the information and heart were clear. "I would like to, but I have a hospital call to make. Later in the week let me come." So on Wednesday I popped into the Moun quarters, where the mother and three of the children were at home to greet me heartily. Their one living room had been festooned into a pretty chapel. Colorful streamers hung from the ceiling. The statue of Our Blessed Mother was surrounded with flowers. The room had an aura of a people who love the Mother of God. Each day they recited the rosary at the shrine, and the statue goes to another family the following week. The Mouns and I recited an Ave together, each in our own tongue.

I have been speculating why all of this meeting was carried out independent of diocesan bureaux, excepting to get canonical permission from Father Conboy for Father Tien to hear confessions, and to preach; or why no civic or religious group, not even the Legion of Mary, was there to assist.

My conclusion is this: these people are grateful for having been received by our Country; for having been assisted in getting settled, but they want neither charity nor dependence upon others. The people of this Vietnamese Catholic Community (I cannot speak of others, because of no knowledge or contact) work hard. They are intelligent. They are thrifty. They are frugal. They are family-oriented. And they are a wonderful example of fidelity to the Catholic Faith. And I still wonder what kind of training did they have to make them so.

After Mass all trooped over to St. Anne's school hall. The families milled about cheerfully and evidently liking one another. Adorable little tots waddled around. There were a few babies in arms. In the nearly three hours I spent with the group, I did not hear one child cry. Parents were really "parenting" their families. I was especially struck by the many teen-agers, who wore American style clothes, but both clothes and hair were neat and trim. They were well-behaved, with a nice respect for their families and themselves.

After a short socializing, with cookies and pop, Father Tien gave a ten-minute talk. Then they held elections for president, vice president and treasurer of The Catholic Vietnamese Community of Rochester. It was orderly, cheerful, democratic, and the men elected are men of quality.

Focal point in the church and hall proceedings was a statue of Our Blessed Mother. It was enshrined on a side altar during confessions and Mass. It was placed in the midst of the community during the meeting and elections. After all was done, Mr. Moun from our parish said to me, "My family is having the statue of Our Blessed Mother this week, beginning tonight, and we would like you to join us." (The English

**BATH FESTIVAL AUGUST 13**

Bath—St. Mary's Parish will conduct their annual festival Saturday, August 13. All are welcome.

**Churches Join To Help Needy**

Hun-Gar (Hunger-Gardens), has announced the opening of its fresh produce market in the Church of the Assumption parking lot in Penfield. The market will be open every weekend during August to sell fresh produce at or below retail price.

The project, a coalition of local churches, involves members who donate produce from their backyard gardens. All proceeds go to the Emergency Food Shelf, a project of Church Women United, which supplies food to needy people in the Rochester-Monroe County area.

of these parishes serve on the Coalition Board. Each of the four participating parishes is responsible for staffing the produce stand for one week.

Anyone wishing to donate produce is asked to bring it to the Hun-Gar stand in the Assumption parking lot by 9:30 a.m. on any Thursday, Friday or Saturday in August. Produce may also be brought to St. Joseph's Church or to 20 Nettlecreek Road on these days.

Transportation arrangements for large quantities of produce can be made by calling Glenn Alexander at 377-0697 or Marian Sunderland at 223-1371.

**FATIMA**

Lewiston—An afternoon and evening of special services is planned for the Feast of the Coronation of Our Lady, on Sunday Aug. 14, at Our Lady of Fatima Shrine.

The popular center for Marian devotion has slated a religious pageant at 2 p.m.; a solemn rosary procession and crowning of the 13 foot statue atop the dome, and a sermon and benediction at 4 p.m.

Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m. The day will close with a candlelight rosary procession at 8:30 p.m.

The shrine is located a short distance from Niagara Falls, on Swan Road, off Route 18, between Lewiston and Youngstown.

**Regional Highlights**

Tompkins-Tioga Region

Adult Religious Education courses will be offered at St. Margaret Mary's, Apalachin, this fall. The courses range from how to understand the Bible to how parents can deal more effectively with their children. Classes begin on consecutive Thursdays from Sept. 15 to Dec. 15. The morning sessions are from 9:30-11 a.m. and evening classes are 7-8:30 p.m.

The Tompkins-Tioga Region is planning a parish council workshop for member parishes on October 16. Further details will be announced soon.

The region is looking for volunteers to attend a Right to Life booth at this year's Tioga County Fair. Interested persons are asked by the region to call 625-2007.

**Holloway House**

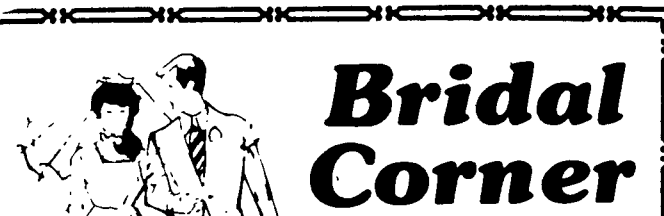
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**Bridal Corner**

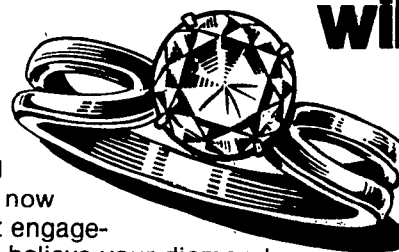
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