

Aurivesville Italian Day Set Aug. 21

Aurivesville — The Jesuits who direct the National Shrine of the North American Martyrs are anticipating several diocesan representatives at the annual Italian Day observances at the shrine, slated this year for Sunday, Aug. 21.

New York's Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Pernicone will lead the celebration, which is expected to draw Italian-American groups from the six adjoining states.

Father Thomas Egan, SJ, director of the shrine noted recently that Italian Day is one of the oldest traditions in the annals of the 92-year-old institution.

The day recounts the work of an early Italian missionary, Father Giuseppe Francesco Bressani, who spent five months in captivity at the site of the present shrine, before being rescued by Dominie Jan Megapolensis, the same pioneer minister of the Dutch Reformed Church in Albany who came to the aid of Father Isaac Jogues when he had fallen afoul of the Mohawk Indians.

Events of the day include an 11:15 a.m. Mass sponsored by the Societa Femminale de Maria Madonna della Catena of Albany; a 1:30 p.m. gathering at the shrine's main gate, followed by religious exercises; a 4:15 pilgrimage Mass at which Bishop Pernicone will preside and sung by the 40-member choir of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church in Amsterdam.



Ms. Brzustowicz and one of her recent canvases.

Photo by Susan McKinney

Local Artists' Work Adorns New Book

By JOHN DASH

Victoria Brzustowicz, "Brustowits," forget about the zeas," is a painter of disturbingly powerful horses that slash across pale monumental canvases.

She also is the etcher of tiny prints, delicately tinted and carefully drawn musings which appeal to the less worldly among us, the children.

She is a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, the only artist in her family, and has illustrated a book soon to hit the shelves, *Once-Upon-a-Time Saints: Faith-Tales for Children*.

The book, written by Ethel Marbach is soon to be published in paperback by the St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Shortly after graduating from Wells College in Aurora, Victoria spent some time at her family's farm in Harborside, Me., where she met Mrs. Marbach. There the writer and the artist discovered they shared a mutual love of "the old-fashioned children's books," the illustrated fairy-tales "with the embossed covers," and the pale sepia illustrations that encapsule the moral of the tale told.

When Mrs. Marbach was contracted to write *Once-Upon-a-Time Saints*, Victoria agreed to illustrate the work.

But it is those fierce, black horses that draw Victoria to her work room these days, and which surround her at the home of her parents in Brighton.

She is especially happy that Pyramid Galleries—Rochester has agreed to display them.

Liturgy Weekend Aug. 19-20

"Parish Prayer" will be the theme of the diocesan Liturgy Institute 1977 scheduled this weekend, Aug. 19-20, at Keuka College in Keuka Park.

The weekend sessions will begin with a keynote address by Father Charles W. Gusmer of Newark, N.J. Father Gusmer is professor of Sacred Theology and Liturgy at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Mahwah, N.J., chairman of the Newark Commission on Divine Worship, and president of the North American Academy of Liturgy.

Father Gusmer also will conduct a general session Saturday morning on "The Eucharistic Prayer of the Community."

Workshops are scheduled the rest of Saturday. Joining diocesan liturgical officials in conducting the workshops will be Father Richard S. Vosko, liturgy director in Albany, and Father Patrick Byrne, assistant director of the Canadian Catholic Conference, and editor of the *National (Canadian) Bulletin on Liturgy*.

Parish Life -- Dreaming Pulls It Together

By JOHN DASH

Fair bursting with enthusiasm, two diocesan pastoral assistants stopped by the Courier-Journal offices last week, armed with a program they hope will help revitalize parish life in the area.

The two, Sister Elizabeth Mulcahy and Annette Truby, recently returned from New Orleans, where they and three other local pastoral ministers took an intensive course in parish planning.

Their journey south was sponsored by the office of Urban Ministry.

The experience was "hope-building, a life-giving process," said Sister Elizabeth who works out of St. Francis Xavier Church on Bay St.

For Ms. Truby, pastoral assistant at St. Peter and Paul, "Had I not gone, a big piece of my life would have been missing."

In sum, the course presented the view that a parish is either a living or a dying institution. Ms. Truby explained that the level of doubt, be it centered on the value of Church disciplines, or on the worth of doctrines, or on one's own place in the parish's life, is indicative of the dying stage of the parish.

To counteract this, to bring the parish back into a state of living, "dreaming" is used, she said.

Dreaming, according to Sister Elizabeth, is the tool one uses to ascertain the positive values of the parish. "Before, a lot of times, the parish is only looking at its problems. With dreaming, now you've got the tools to be positive about the parish."

In this process, the women were taught to use what they call "The Grid." The Grid is a visual representation of the dying and resurrecting aspects of parish life, a curve falling and rising again to an axis. By using the Grid one determines the present state of the parish's health and the work required to increase that health.

Of the course, given by the pastoral team of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Marrero, La., both women noted its practical application in parish life.

They remarked on the integration of the pastoral team. "You're bound to be happy working in that group with that attitude," Sister Elizabeth noted.

She pointed to the parish bulletin as an example of two outstanding aspects of the parish's life, first, the care with which even the smallest details of parochial

life are treated, and second, the atmosphere of celebration which surrounds the church.

Ms. Truby further noted the integration of all members of the parish into parish life — and, what both women noted — the extraordinary hospitality with which they were treated.

Out-of-towners taking the course stayed in the homes of parishioners, and "everyone really went out of their way," to extend a welcome to the participants.

The processes, coincidentally, that the women were taught are actually already in use in the diocese. It seems that Father Martin Gomes, SSSC, who, for a time, was stationed at St. Peter and Paul, brought the process to the parish council there, where, according to Ms. Truby, it has been working well indeed.

The tools used in the course were devised by Management Design Incorporated (MDI) of Cincinnati, O., a firm whose clientele consists of non-profit corporations.

belief in a hereafter, there is one aspect of the experience that must give them pause for thought.

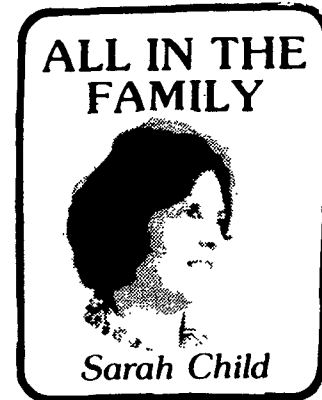
It is the question we all ask ourselves eventually. The ultimate exam: What Have You Done With Your Life?

After intense scrutiny some of us may well wish we had something as good as the Explorer Scout answer to proffer.

One housewife and mother of three of whom I have intimate knowledge TOOK THE TEST. The answers were nothing to write home about, so to speak, particularly when one tries to evaluate one's contribution on a daily basis.

Dear Light of Light: Heaven knows I have tried although trying isn't the same as being or doing as you well know.

Is there a cumulative effect for little efforts? Yesterday I gave the dog an extra scratch or two under the chin because she looked lonely, served spaghetti for the third time in one week at my children's request without complaining and refrained from commenting about the post-vacation growth on my husband's upper lip. Dear Heavenly Light how do you feel about grading on the curve?



ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sarah Child

The current rage in literary circles, in case you haven't noticed, is books on life after death or as they are more popularly known life after life.

Accounts from people who have been seriously ill, in some cases pronounced dead and then revive, all speak of similar experiences in another world. They mention feelings of great peace plus experiencing a wonderful sense of love emanating from a Being of Light. Some identify the Light as Jesus, others simply as a Power of Goodness.

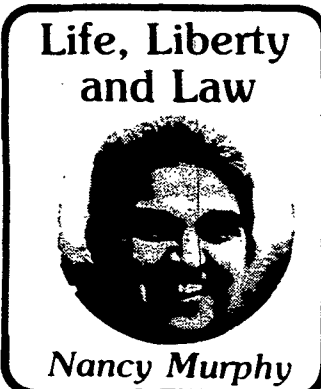
In the presence of this Light all the people mention being asked one particular question.

The Query: What have you done with your Life?

Many persons report that they have trouble thinking of anything particularly worthwhile. They sometimes have to scrape the bottom of their memory barrel to come up with an answer.

Sometimes the answers are ludicrous as one survivor pointed out. He recounted telling the Light that he had been an Explorer Scout, to which the Light, he said, responded in kind, exhibiting a keen sense of humor.

Most of us would like to believe these accounts, reinforcing as they do what we have been taught since early childhood. Even for those who have no faith or



Life, Liberty and Law

Nancy Murphy

To me, one of the most intriguing things about today's dissenters within the Catholic community is their obsession with defending their right to disagree with the Vatican. This is of course my personal conclusion, my personal evaluation, and has no validity outside that framework.

But most conversations with these people, though stimulating, are dominated by thoughtful expressions of the popes' limited infallibility and the theologians' obligation to question and perhaps dissent from any but ex cathedra proclamations. But there is a much graver point which tends to become obscured in the thick of the dialog. It has become increasingly difficult to obtain exact texts of what the popes have said and what the Magisterium actually teaches. We have become almost inebriated with the excitement of free debate among ourselves; we are overconcerned with the attractiveness and convenience (workshops, publishers' aids, etc.) of religion textbooks like the Sadlier series. And the result is that we have lost sight of verbatim texts of major

Vatican documents. They are simply omitted. It is far easier to get basic Christian teaching than it is to obtain the actual teaching of the Magisterium of the Roman Catholic Church.

There ARE sources of authentic Catholic teachings. I am grateful to them (most of whom are outside the Rochester area) for three reasons: 1— they have given me the opportunity to study the undiluted Vatican teachings on specific topics, 2— they have provided the resources with which we may knowledgeably supplement our children's religious education, and 3— they provide the premises on which I may build an objective evaluation and a sincere appreciation of dissenting views. I am deeply grateful.

One of the topics I have pursued is sterilization. And I pursued it because of a distraught letter received some 14 months ago after my brief mention of sterilization in this column. The complete Vatican position appeared first in *L'Osservatore Romano*, English edition, then in the Buffalo diocesan newspaper and most recently in the *Linacre Quarterly* (the official journal of the National Federation of Catholic Physicians Guilds). It is a very short statement, and I shall share it in its historical entirety.

The dissenters do indeed have the right to dissent. But the Vatican has the right to be heard. Next week: Sterilization, the Vatican view.

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PAPER 'FUEL' Another paper drive for the benefit of Holy Redeemer Church will culminate Saturday morning, Aug. 27, with loading from 9 until noon in the parking lot, 634 Hudson. Papers and magazines may be left at the rectory any time, meanwhile, or pickup can be arranged by calling 544-2442. The paper collection is part of the Angel Choir's Winter Fuel Fund endeavor.