

Fathers Kellner and Bruggemann, Schmidt, Father Bennett, Saeum.

Oktoberfest Will Open With a Mass, Procession

A few years back, Leo P. Saeum decided that as long as Rochester was going to have an Oktoberfest it should be done right — with the Catholic population opening up the festival with a Mass and a procession.

Saeum, president of the Rochester Kolping Society, contacted interested clergy and the area's many German speaking associations and the special Mass became as much an institution for the event as the sauerkraut, the oompah music and the Uncle Otto figure.

No matter that Oktoberfest will open in August this year, that it celebrates the idea that downtown is good for you more than any other idea, and that the real thrust of the weeklong party in Manhattan Square Park is to make money. The roots of Oktoberfest are Bavarian

and Catholic. A celebration of both.

Saeum, Father Charles Bennett, associate pastor at Old St. Mary's; Killian Schmidt, Father Heinrich Bruggemann and Father Winfried Kellner gathered last week to complete their plans for the Oktoberfest Mass and procession.

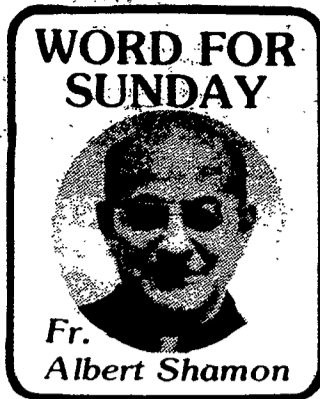
The rites are slated to begin at 2.30 p.m. The Knights of St. John, German societies, a band and the clergy will gather at the Chestnut Street entrance to the park and form a procession down Monroe Avenue to Old St. Mary's.

Father Kellner, associate pastor at St. Andrew's Church, will be the principal concelebrant for the

German-language Mass of Thanksgiving. Father Bruggemann, a priest of the diocese of Muenster in Westphalia, will preach. Father Benedict Ehmann will lead the congregation in song.

A special feature of the Mass will be the commemoration of Msgr. George Eckl, who died recently at the age of 99 and who was once praeses of the Rochester Kolping and a supporter of area German societies.

Elements traditional to the Oktoberfest Mass, such as the dipping of national colors to the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ at the minor elevation and the sounding of drums also at that time, will mark the Eucharistic Prayer.



Fr. Albert Shamon

Humility is holding the torch of truth before one's eyes and walking by its light. Humility, therefore, is first of all truth. It is the realization of what we truly are — not in relation to our neighbor — but in relation to God. Fundamentally, it is a vertical virtue, an I-Thou relationship. Humility comes from the Latin word humus, which means ground. A humble hut is one close to the ground. A humble man is one who has his feet on the ground. He is no dreamer, no unrealist. He has no identity crisis. He knows exactly who he is in reference to God: dust and ashes crowned by grace.

But, of course, knowledge alone is never virtue. To know is not to be good. Not every PhD is a saint. Humility is truth — yes? But that's only half the truth! The other half is to admit it. Humility is truth-wedded to justice. It is truth acted on! The torch of truth is lit so that we may walk by it. We know, in order to serve. It is knowing who we are in relation to God and then acting according to this knowledge.

For instance, when Gabriel came to ask Mary to be the mother of God's Son, she declared she was "the servant of the Lord." And that was the truth. But her humility consisted not in her knowing this, but in her acting on that knowledge. She did what every servant does in relation to the master: she obeyed. Her "let it be done to me as you say" was the sign of her humility.

As for ourselves, we are dust and ashes. That is the truth. And if we are graced by God, this is his free gift — undeserved, unmerited. That too is the truth. To

conduct ourselves in any way that contradicts these truths is a form of pride. The man who neglects prayer and the sacraments denies in practice that he is dust and ashes. The man who glories in what he has and is, as though not received from God, and contemns others as though beneath him, especially the poor, he is proud. To be insensitive to others, indifferent as to whether or not one's words or manners hurt, to be easily offended, puffed up with one's own self-importance, to be impatient, opinionated — ah, then streaks of the Satanic fault run through us. These faults are to be corrected, not by attacking them one by one; trying to be patient and so on, but by laying the axe at the root, our pride; thinking we are self-made men, and forgetting that God is the maker both of us and whatever is good in us. The only thing we can lay claim to in our lives is our sins!

CLOTHESLINE SHOW

The Memorial Art Gallery has announced two new conditions for visitors at the annual Clothesline Art Show and Sale — a 50-cent admission fee and no dogs at any price. The first is explained in terms of a budget deficit at the gallery; the second, as a result of "the number of complaints registered last year." The show is scheduled for Sept. 10 and 11, and if it is rained out totally it will be rescheduled for the next weekend. Rain on only one day will reduce it to a one-day show.

A DELICATE BALANCE
Edward Albee's Pulitzer Prize drama, A Delicate Balance, will be performed this weekend at Bristol Valley Playhouse, north of Naples. Curtain time is 8 p.m. Aug. 26 and 27; 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 28. For reservations: (716) 374-6318.

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