

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bishop Joseph L. Hogan

Nature's Beauty — A Proclamation of His Presence

The roads leading South of Rochester into the beautiful countryside of the Finger Lakes, the Bristol Hills and the Southern Tier of our diocese remind us especially at this season that nature in this area proclaims loudly the marvelous works of the Lord.



With the Psalmist we can cry out: "The Heavens show forth the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork." As I write this column, the blush of Autumn has already begun to fade and the death of Winter fast approaches. Yet I do love to express my admiration for the rhythm of the Cycle of Seasons which is so visible in our portion of the world. While it at times brings nostalgia for days of sun and freedom that

have all too quickly passed, yet it also gives us each year a season of hope of an ever recurring Spring to be welcomed after the seemingly endless death of Winter. I have lived for short periods of time in areas of the world where the cycle of nature did not harmonize with the pattern of human life that reflects the changes of the seasons and I missed the sharp contrast as one season slipped practically unnoticed into another.

St. Augustine once reminded us that it is a human temptation to fail to admire the wonderful when it happens on a regular basis. We tend to be a 'ho-hum' people who take even His most beautiful gifts for granted. He insisted that there was a psychology for the miraculous — that the Lord, the greatest of teachers, needed to arouse us from our casual acceptance of the wonderful that occurs each day in

nature by allowing the unusual to happen as if to remind us: "Here I am as I have been every day!"

I have a 'holy card' as we called them years ago - a memento of the ordination of a young man to the priesthood. It differs greatly from the cards we bought some 30 years ago to give to friends we hoped would remember us each day in their prayers. Ours showed the Chalice and Eucharistic bread — symbols of the unique Eucharistic presence of the Lord among us. The modern cards seem to focus on the presence of the Lord in the wonders of nature. I suppose I could use the contrast as a launching pad for condemnation of the new breed. But I truly do not see one presence excluding the other. As a matter of fact, I am inclined to believe that those most sensitive to His Omnipresence each day have the greatest faith in His Eucharistic presence each day.

I love this beautiful poem of creation:
 Bless Yahweh, my soul.
 Yahweh my God, how great you are!
 Clothed in majesty and glory,
 wrapped in a robe of light!
 You stretch the heavens out like a tent,
 you build your palace on the waters above;
 using the clouds as your chariot,
 you advance on the wings of the wind;
 you use the winds as messengers
 and fiery flames as servants.
 You fixed the earth on its foundations,
 unshakable for ever and ever;
 you wrapped it with the deep as with a robe,
 the waters overtopping the mountains.
 At your reproof the waters took to flight,
 they fled at the sound of your thunder,
 cascading over the mountains, into the valleys,

down to the reservoir you made for them;
 you imposed the limits they must never cross again,
 or they would once more flood the land.
 You set springs gushing in ravines,
 running down between the mountains,
 supplying water for wild animals,
 attracting the thirsty wild donkeys;
 near there the birds of the air make their nests
 and sing among the branches.
 From your palace you water the uplands
 until the ground has had all that your heavens
 have to offer;
 you make fresh grass grow for cattle,
 and those plants made use of by man,
 for them to get food from the soil: wine to make
 them cheerful,
 oil to make them happy
 and bread to make them strong.
 (Ps. 104:1-15)

This beautiful poem of creation should never end. We should recite it often and even add to it some verses of our own. For God's Creation is His Message written on the things of nature. He speaks to us, teaches us and gives us His first revelation in the symbols of the created world. Not to look at nature and love it is to refuse to read a document God has specifically composed for us in His love. St. Francis understood this truth and made it his own. In his "Canticle of Creatures" he wrote: "My Lord be blessed for all His Creatures."

If only our hearts were always tender when we look at Creation, what a source of joy it would be as we make our way on our pilgrimage. It depends on us whether we pass by and see or fail to see.

Right to Information and Right to Truth

The following Message from Pope Paul VI was read at the solemn opening session of the 11th World Congress of the International Catholic Press Union, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of its foundation this year.



We are happy to join in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the International Catholic Press Union. If such an anniversary may seem a stage of longevity for persons, it is rather a sign of youth for an association. It is nevertheless an opportunity to recall the great events that have marked and often overwhelmed the life of the world in the last 50 years. It will have been the merit and the honor of

your association to have helped its members to bring the light of a Christian glance upon current events that are often confused and disconcerting.

We thank with you the God of all grace for this jubilee which gathers you together in celebration of the benefits received from him. We find again, in the subject for consideration of your meeting, that which animated the recent Holy Year Jubilee of the universal Church: to renew and vivify all the bonds that unite men with one another and with God.

You have chosen as the subject of your deliberations "A press for man: the relationship between the newspaper and the reader". Is this not, in fact, pursuit of these bonds, these bonds which give the press the true sense of its mission? Allow us to make our contribution to your reflection on this subject.

The relationship of journalists with readers rests today, it seems to us, on the concern to meet the prime right of users: that of being formed to grasp the truth as well as possible themselves. This means that the more the journalist endeavors, in his own investigations, to determine the realities of the lives of persons, the different aspects of events, the complexity of the problems in question, the more he will serve his readers' interests.

It is also the responsibility of the journalist, in presenting his information, to take into consideration the centers of interest of readers, their real needs and deep aspirations as citizens and, in a great many cases, as believers and Christians. That is what real respect and real service for the reader consists of.

And yet this concern for closeness is accompanied by a risk which it is perhaps more difficult than ever for the journalist of today to avoid, under the pressure of interests that are often demagogical or commercial, the risk of gratifying only superficial needs, unhealthy curiosity or sectarian sentiments, because, it is said, that is what readers want.

It is up to you, Catholic journalists, to open people up to what is worth knowing and appreciating, even if it is often beyond the usual horizon; to make them discover, for example, the exalting aspects and signs of hope in events; to make them understand also the

life of the Church, which often escapes the great secular press.

Taking such paths, Catholic journalists carry out, in a certain way, God's plan. Not only on the moral plane — in this sense that approach to and knowledge of truth, solidarity of efforts, communion of spirits and hearts, correspond to God's will for men — but at the very level of God's mystery and the economy of the Revelation; for God made himself known and effected the supernatural salvation of men through deeds and words that are closely linked with each other. God brought forth a communication of this Word among persons. He constituted a people assiduous in reading it, in meditating on his Word and putting it into practice. In this sacred history, everything is a message transmitted, acceptance of witness, dialogue. Could it not be said that the Bible is, as it were, the "Newspaper of God's Covenant with

Mankind"? By helping to make the press become one of the privileged places where the signs of the times are discerned most clearly, Catholic journalists put themselves without any doubt in the service of this great divine pedagogy.

It is our dearest wish that, in this year of its 50th anniversary, the International Catholic Press Union will intensify all the efforts already undertaken in this direction. May it assist in particular the Catholic press and Catholic journalists in countries in which the Church has limited means to support them. In this connection also, your association can and must be an instrument of communion and solidarity.

Calling the graces of the Lord on the work of your Congress, we willingly send our fatherly Apostolic Blessing to you, Mr. President, to leaders and members of the International Catholic Press Union, as well as to all those who benefit from its action.

COURIER-CALENDAR

Harvest Luncheon, Christmas Bazaar — At St. Mary's, Scottsville, Thursday, Nov. 17, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Holy Redeemer Fall Festival — In school hall, Hudson at Alphonse, Nov. 11 and 12, 7-11 p.m. Jack Miller chairman. Special features: Polish sausage made by Edna Dedoszak, handicrafts.

St. Salome Women's Arts and Crafts — In school hall, 4250 Culver, Sunday, Nov. 13, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. holiday decorations, macrame, jewelry, candles, plants, etc.; coffee and dessert. Also, Barbie Boutique by Court Our Lady of the Cenacle, CDA.

St. Louis Christmas Boutique — In school auditorium, 54 S. Main, Pittsford, Saturday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. hand-mades, lunch, movies for kids.

Cardinal Mooney Antique Show — Thirty-five dealers selling their wares Friday, Nov. 11, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday, 10-6, at school, 800 Maiden Lane. Lunch and dinner available.

St. Thomas More Deck-the-Halls — Ideas for Christmas decorating demonstrated by Lois Farnsworth of Rochester Garden Center, 8 tonight in school gym. coffee and dessert.

Mother Cabrini Circle Spaghetti Dinner — At Memorial AME Zion Church, Clarissa Street, Sunday, Nov. 13, noon until 5:30 p.m.

St. Stanislaus Garage Sale — In auditorium, Hudson and Norton, Friday, Nov. 11, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9-3.

80th Seton — Monthly meeting, at 8:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 14, with Mrs. Peter Formicola, Firestone Drive.

Job Services — From 12:05 until 1 p.m. tomorrow, an opportunity for unemployed or under-employed persons to talk with representatives of various employment agencies, at Rundel Auditorium, 115 South Ave. courtesy of Rochester Public Library.

Books Sandwiched In — The Public Burning, by Robert Coover, reviewed by James Lavilla-Havelin, 12:12-12:52 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, Rundel Library, 115 South Ave.

Mozart Festival — Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in Mozart program, 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, Wilson Arts Center, Harley School, 1981 Clover; repeat performance at Christ Church, East Avenue, 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13.

Choral Concert — Men's and women's glee clubs of University of Rochester, 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, Strong Auditorium, River Campus. Free.

Ballet Film — Rudolf Nureyev's I Am a Dancer, 8 p.m. tomorrow, Eastman Theatre.

Classic Film Series — Marilyn Monroe in 1950 Marx Brothers film, Love Happy, 2 and 8 p.m. tomorrow, Rochester Museum.

Chamber Music — By Eastman School faculty and students, 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, Memorial Art Gallery.

Memorial Art Gallery — Exhibitions through Nov. 13: The Chicago Connection, Creative Workshop selection, Robert F. Metzendorf Collection, Modern Glass Gallery closed Tuesday, Nov. 15 through Friday, Nov. 18 during installation of extensive tapestry show.

Native American Cultural Center — Pottery, sculpture, painting, weaving, bead work by contemporary Indian artists, through Nov. 23 at 8 Prince St. on show Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Exhibition organized by Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, from Bureau of Indian Affairs collection.

Plaza Gallery, Lincoln First Tower — Exhibition of paintings, prints, sculptures owned by area business firms, open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. - 9:30 p.m., through Dec. 31.

Bevier Gallery, RIT — The Kodak Photographers, exhibition of work by Kodak Office Photographic Illustration Department, through Nov. 20, open Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. Friday, 9-4, Saturday, 1-5, Sunday 2-5.

Spanish Cultural Program — Songs, dances, music, poetry, presented by Nazareth College students, faculty, members of Hispanic community, 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 13, Nazareth Arts Center, room A13. Free.

MIME Workshop — Magic Fantastik, John Young's family show, with audience participation, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 18, on Saturday, Nov. 19, A Family Mime Show by Michael Henry, with Jeremy Seligman on flute, 2:30 p.m., and A Trio Mime Concert, 8 p.m. — all at 50 Chestnut Plaza.

King-and-I Auditions — For singers, dancers, actors, other than children, tonight at 8:30, Rochester Community Players, 5 Clinton at Meigs.

Zonta Club Boutique — Hand-made gifts, home-made takeout foods, at rear of Pittsford Library, 24 State, Friday, Nov. 11, 4-9 p.m., Saturday, 9-4, money raiser for charity projects.

Irish Fest — Sponsored by Rochester Hibernians Saturday, Nov. 12, 9:30 p.m., at Mother of Sorrows Church hall, Mt. Read and Latta, American and Irish folk music by Dady Brothers.

Lectures at St. John Fisher — Prof. James M. Cameron of St. Michael's, Toronto, opens Bishop Kearney Lecture Series tomorrow at 8 p.m. with The Idea of the University, in St. Basil Hall, William Bevan, psychology professor at Duke, on Educating for the Human Prospect, 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, Basil, room 135, Nick DiMartino of Community Video Center, Washington, D.C., on film vs. video, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, in Basil 215.