

City Women to Join Pilgrim Virgin Tour

The Pilgrim Virgin, a statue of Our Lady that is associated with miraculous happenings in far-flung areas of the world, will be taken to the Orient, the Holy Land and the edge of the Iron Curtain between April 7 and May 14.

Three Rochester women will be among the 175 "courtiers" making the five-week Peace Flight. They are Alice and Mary Anne Boehm of St. Andrew's parish and Helen Neidert of St. James. The plane, purchased for this tour, is described as similar to President Carter's Air Force One. An altar has been built in, and the plane, painted blue is decorated with symbols related to Mary.

Stops of major significance will be at Hiroshima, at the Freedom Bridge in Korea where there will be a night-long vigil, and at the Berlin Wall. The party will go first to Asia, then to Jerusalem, Athens, Rome, Vienna and Budapest. The tour includes also three days in Poland

and stops at Lourdes and Fatima.

The flight is sponsored by a corporation named Queen of the World. The statue is the original Pilgrim Virgin that was carried from Fatima, Portugal, on May 13, 1947, and has been on the move ever since. Elaborate arrangements have been made for its reception in many cities.

Literature supplied by Blue Army members contains this explanation of the Catholic attitude toward the Pilgrim Virgin:

"Statues might be compared to a flag, before which we solemnly stand and to which we pledge allegiance... even though it is but a worthless piece of cloth. Religious statues and pictures in Christianity, unlike the idols of paganism, are mere symbols. No honor is due to them; no honor is given to them. Through them, and by their devout use, honor is given to the person they represent... just as a salute

to the flag is a salute to the country."

Conversions are seen as the principal effect of Pilgrim Virgin prayer vigils. Phenomena reported from previous tours include this "political miracle": the Franco-Spanish border, which Spain had kept closed

during and after its civil war, was reopened in 1947, following a vast gathering of French and Spanish people at a border prayer meeting. It is said also that thousands of Vietnamese, most of them Buddhists, go to a shrine outside Saigon where the Pilgrim Virgin "rested" for a day in 1974.



Photo By Terrance J. Brennan

IFCA Mass

Father Charles Lavery, CSB, president of St. John Fisher College addresses members of the Rochester Circle of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae in the Chapel of the Cenacle Retreat House. At a luncheon following the Mass, it was announced that the federation has established a chair of Catholic Education at the Catholic University of America in honor of St. Elizabeth Seton.

ALL IN THE FAMILY



Sarah Child

This Easter column first ran in 1975 and was a favorite with readers. In the spirit that Easter is ever new, we repeat its publication.

I do not know how parents who disdain the idea of a life hereafter explain death to their children. It is hard enough even when you trust that dying is but a rebirth.

On Friday the five-year-old who has been discussing cemeteries with her best friend got to the nitty gritty.

"But if we go to heaven why do we have to go into the ground?" she wanted to know.

It was bedtime and conversation then is usually a stalling technique. But the answer to this question wouldn't wait.

"The important part of us goes to heaven. We don't need our bodies."

She was adamant: "Well, I want mine!"

"God promised us our bodies and souls would all go back together later."

She, who has trouble differentiating between two days and a week wanted an exact time: "When, two years, three years, when?"

I was losing control of the conversation. I told her the truth as I understand it. "Jesus said if we loved Him and trusted Him we don't ever have to be afraid."

As she chewed on that I tried a diversionary tactic not immediately aware of

my own irony. "Think of something pleasant. Think about Easter." She settled down, her Easter a montage of a trip to her grandparents, a candy-filled basket and a new long, yellow dress.

On Saturday night we went to Mass fulfilling our obligation for what used to be known as Passion Sunday. I listened to the miracle of the sermon, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. A new peace settled on me and I looked over at the five-year-old but the afternoon of hard swimming had taken its toll and she was asleep on her father's shoulder.

On Sunday we were out of the house and on our way to the Montezuma Swamps by 9 a.m.

Just inside the entrance to the wild life refuge, we spotted three deer including a yearling and when the kids went to the chain fence the deer came bounding from the little thicket to munch the heavily salted pretzel that was offered.

Farther down the trail we watched the brilliant blue of the sky turn almost black as wave upon wave of Canada geese headed for the marsh.

On our left, the tall winter wheat they would feed on waved in the slight breeze. On our right the huge carp could be sighted in the icy water. Then a helicopter swooped low and a "zillion" geese took to the air in a frenzy of swooping wings and flashing white underbodies.

Winter weary, I took in the warmth of the sun, the melting and mixing of snow and mud and the honk of the geese.

I thought of Spring and new beginnings and Jesus raising Lazarus from the grave. A promise worth waiting for. A promise to trust in. I looked for the five-year-old to pass on new reassurance. But she was hunting snails in the mud and snow.

Some Thoughts to Consider

By Ed Sulewski

TALKING ABOUT THE DECEASED IS IMPORTANT. It is no help to say, "Don't talk about it." The survivor may well be going through an intense emotional crisis. He may need to speak and act out his feelings — denial, turning slowly to bewilderment, and finally to the weeping, despairing confrontation with the truth of his loss. If the person who mourns suppresses his feelings, he is adding one more burden to the many he already has to bear. Studies of mourning show that it is therapeutic to talk about the deceased. The visitor may also want to briefly recall some valued memories of the person who has died.

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MENU — EASTER SUNDAY, March 26, 1978

APPETIZERS

Choice of one: Soup du Jour, Tomato Juice
French Onion Soup

ENTREES

Roast Whole Cornish Hen w/Savory Stuffing and Country Gravy

OR

Roast Fancy Virginia Ham w/Pineapple Sauce
Choice of Potato, Tossed Green Salad, Rolls and Butter
Coffee, Tea, or Soft Drink

DESSERT

Choice of Ice Cream, Sherbet, or Home-Style Apple Pie
Please, no substitutions.

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But then Easter isn't every day. It's a time to spend with very special people. Your family. And we've made it our business to help you enjoy that togetherness even more.

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