



Science Honor

Kevin Curran, seventh grader, took first prize with his "The Riddle of Human Aging," in the St. Thomas Apostle Science Fair, March 29. The projects presented by seventh and eighth grades were judged by Sister Virginia Sweeney.

Mercy Federation Sets Goal

The Federation of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas has declared an intention to face up to "issues of justice in Church and society" in fulfillment of an inherited responsibility.

The issues will be chosen by the Executive Council, delegates decided at the 13th national meeting of the federation, held recently in Cincinnati. The Governing Board (major superiors) will be "a leadership voice" for the individual congregations.

Sister Mary Judith Heberle, superior general of the Rochester sisters, is a member of both administrative bodies. She was

reelected to a two-year term as secretary-treasurer of the federation.

She reported that tuition tax credit legislation and the ordination of women were among matters discussed. The executives were asked to prepare a statement backing continued dialogue between U.S. American bishops and American women on the ordination question.

Federation delegates from 28 provinces and congregations represented 10,000 Sisters of Mercy. Their statement of purpose concerning justice issues reads, in part, as follows:

"The Governing Board commits itself to this new responsibility in the light of our Mercy heritage of response to need. Catherine McAuley herself exhibited a tremendous openness and will to be governed and guided by the events of life and by the gifts and needs of people. A crying need today is to act on behalf of justice and to participate in the transformation of the world. . . . By making this our goal, we hope to fulfill our call to integrate Gospel values into contemporary society."

Delegates to the meeting included Sister Marie Joseph, assistant superior general of the Rochester congregation.

Land of Oz

St. Agnes Elementary School in Avon presented Frank Baum's "An Evening in Oz". The production was under the musical direction of Mrs. James Flick and stage director was Miss Sandra Di Pasquale. Leading roles were sung by Bridget Jones, Elise Bowers, Ronnie McAfee, Edward LaBore and Margaret Hess.

Talk Scheduled

The St. Augustine's Respect Life Committee will have its first public meeting at 8 p.m., Friday, April 21 at the school hall at 410 Chili Ave. Mrs. Nancy Murphy will speak on population control, food control, sterilization and sex education in her talk "Where to Turn, What to Do."

Word for Sunday

By Father Albert Shamon

Scripture Reading Strategy

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 14:1-12. (R1) Acts 6:1-7. (R2) 1 Pt. 2:4-9.



For me one of the loveliest nights of the year is Holy Thursday night. What peace to sit before the Fr. Shamon Repository from nine to twelve and, for once, pray or meditate or read leisurely — no hurry, no scurry.

Generally, I read the great chapters of John's gospel on Jesus' love for us — Chapters 13 through 17.

Ever since I made Marriage Encounter I have discovered a wonderful strategy for reading Scripture. I start with prayer to the Holy Spirit for light and love. Then I read a passage from Scripture (the same one we read each day in our Divine Office). I read the passage twice: first with my head, right through to get a general idea of it; then with my heart, line by line, with a pencil and notebook (I use a stenographer's pad; I find this best for taking notes).

I read a line or two and ask myself: how do I feel right now about the bit I have just read. This how-do-I-feel question is the Rosetta stone that unlocked the hieroglyphics of the Scriptures to me. Then I jot down my feelings. Slowly, without any intellectualizing but just listening to God's word with my heart, I go to the next line. Then note my feelings. In the Scripture our Lord speaks to me and I write down how I feel about what He says. A wonderful dialogue ensues and our relationship deepens.

How much time do I spend each day? Ten-ten — that is, ten minutes reading and reflecting, ten minutes or more writing and praying.

On last Holy Thursday night I did my ten-ten

with next Sunday's gospel. I would like to share with you part of my dialogue then with our Lord. I will simply copy it from my notebook.

Dear Lord, you make me feel so very small. Here you are on the night before you die, filled with sadness, grief and fear, and your concern is chiefly for others — their troubles, our troubles. It is true the apostles had troubles. You had told Peter he would deny you, that the rest would betray you, and that hardships and danger awaited them all. "Buy swords," you warned. You talked to help them. Not one of them talked to you to help you. How selfish we are!

To comfort them further, you even told them where you were going and why. "To prepare places for you in my Father's house." How much this was meant to comfort them! You were saying in fact that their defection would not be irrevocable. How good to tell them that!

Still, their concerns, like our own, centered mostly on self, ourselves. Gloomy Thomas blurted out, "We don't know where you are going — nor the way." You had just told them to the Father. For nearly three years you had been showing them the way. How discouraged I would have become! But not you.

Slow-witted Philip asked a stupid question, too. Yet gently, oh so gently, you chided him. "After all this time you still do not know me?"

I wondered why Peter was silent, dear Lord. How he loved you. Was his heart broken after you had revealed his denial? I am sure you had stunned him, hurt him deeply. Truth always does that. Good thing Peter loved you so much — that carried him through.

Dear Jesus, help me to be thoughtful, like you, patient, loving like Peter and trusting, Mary and Joseph. Keep me ever close to Jesus; never let me be separated from you all.

A bit rambly, but I hope you get the idea.

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