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Anointing a 'Joyous Occasion'

By MARTIN TOOMBS
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Many of the more than 200 persons who received the Sacrament of the Sick at Communal Anointing services at St. Patrick's Church June 4 were

visibly moved by the experience.

With transportation provided, and medical personnel on hand, the Mass and anointing were attended by many who are unable to attend Mass regularly.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan concelebrated the Mass with Msgr. Leo Schwab, and Fathers David Callan, Kevin Murphy, Joseph Gaynor, Albert Delmonte and Robert Beligotti.

As persons were anointed by Bishop Hogan at the altar, priests went through the pews to anoint those unable to come to the altar.

The anointing occurred following the homily. The priest lays his hand on the head of the sick person, and then anoints the forehead and hands, praying "Through this Holy Anointing may the Lord in His love and mercy help you with the grace of the Holy Spirit" and "May the Lord who frees you from sin, save you and raise you up," the recipient responding "Amen" to each part.

For several minutes after Mass, recipients of the sacrament stopped outside the church to express their appreciation to Bishop Hogan for his participation in the ceremony.

In his homily, Bishop Hogan told those about to receive the sacrament to "have no fear, this is a beautiful, joyous oc-

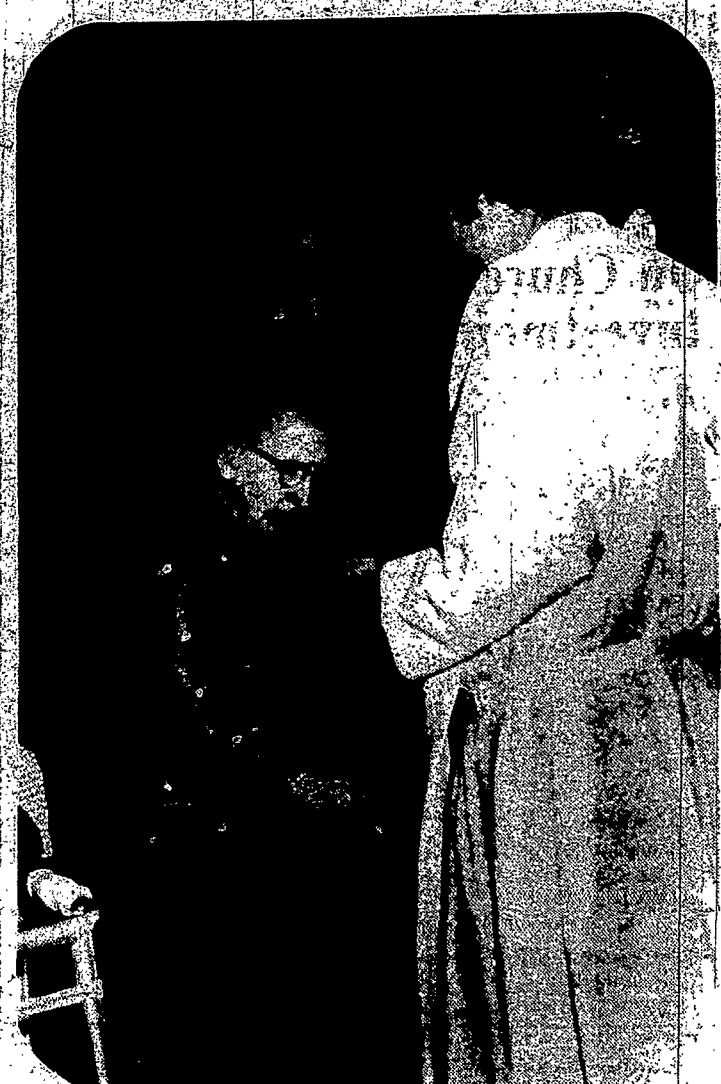
casion."

He stated that it was a "joy and a privilege, I assure you, to be here" for the Communal Anointing. He noted that he thanks God every day for the inspiration given to the second Vatican Council to change the sacraments, especially for the changes to the Sacrament of the Sick. The expanded use of the sacrament, he noted, is a beautiful and meaningful expression of the "healing of our Lord."

Such healing especially appears in the Gospel of Luke, the physician, who describes many examples of the healing of Christ, the bishop noted, as Christ laid His hands on those who were sick.

"So today, my dear friends, it is a joy to extend" hands over the sick and anoint them, he said.

The Mass also marked the beginning of a continuing ministry to the sick and infirm. Bishop Hogan commissioned eight Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at the Mass, who will be taking the Eucharist to the shut-ins of St. Patrick's Parish.



Father Delmonte anointing Bishop Hogan greets parishioners.

Hornell to Start Make Today Count

Hornell—The first meeting of a chapter of "Make Today Count," sponsored by the Pastoral Care Department of St. James Mercy Hospital, will be Wednesday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m. in DeSales Hall, the education center of the hospital's school of nursing, Father Eugene Emo, hospital chaplain, has announced.

Make Today Count is a mutual support group for persons with life-threatening illnesses, their family members and other interested persons. Its purpose is to permit people to discuss their personal concerns so that they may deal with them in a positive way. By sharing and exchanging experiences of living with such illnesses, patients and their families will be helped to live their lives as fully and meaningfully as possible.

The Make Today County program was founded by Orville Kelly, a man who, after he was diagnosed as a person with cancer, recognized the need to meet and talk openly with other cancer patients and their families. As a result, he

founded Make Today Count in January 1974, in Burlington, Iowa. Kelly has said, "I lived more myself since I knew I had advanced cancer than before. I am trying to enjoy life as much as possible under the circumstances and to reach out and touch people around me. All we really have is today, so we have to make today count."

Father Emo noted that Make Today Count is not a religious organization, a therapy group, or a source of financial assistance. Also, it is not a meeting for the comparison or promotion of medical treatments.

The program, Father Emo explained, is to help people help themselves and each other in learning to cope with an illness and also to improve the quality of life of all persons with a serious illness.

Interested persons are invited to attend the meeting or to contact the Pastoral Care Department at the hospital for further information.



Anniversary

Father William Hickey greeted friends and former parishioners from throughout the diocese last week at his 25th anniversary as a priest. Father Hickey is shown here with his mother Mrs. Gertrude Hickey.

Divorced Group To Meet

Auburn—"Living with Loneliness" will be the topic of the June 15 meeting of Auburn's Divorced Separated and Widowed group scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's School on Clymer Street.

"We selected this theme for an evening of sharing to encourage people to put this very human condition into perspective," said a

spokesperson for the Auburn Area Divorced, Separated and Widowed Core Group who is sponsoring the program.

"The secret of success seems to be developing a creative response so that loneliness can become a key to unlock new meaning in our lives," she said.

The meeting is open to the public.

Discussion Set by DSG

Elmira—The Elmira Divorced, Separated Catholics Group is sponsoring a program to help persons interested in re-entering school Sunday, June 18 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Hall, Clinton Street.

Judy Fairbanks of Corning Community College will discuss financial aid, credit for life experiences, adult student organizations and other issues important to those returning to school.

All interested persons are invited.

Father Tobin To Be Feted

Elmira—A dinner in honor of Father William D. Tobin, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, will be held tonight, Wednesday, June 14, at 7 p.m. in the church basement.

Theresa Hofbauer is organizing the event, which is being sponsored by the

women of the parish. Local clergy and friends of Father Tobin have been invited.

Father Tobin is retiring from active ministry. He served as pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish for 15 years.

Waverly Festival Slated

Waverly—The St. James Parish Festival will be Saturday, June 17 and Sunday June 18 from 1 to 9

The festival also will be a community activity as some local non-profit organizations will be



Seminar Scheduled

Elmira—Conjoint Marital Therapy will be the subject at this month's alcoholism seminar at St. Joseph's Hospital. The discussion will take place in the Doctors Meeting Room Thursday, June 15 at 12:15 p.m.

Further information is available from the Social Work-STARs Department at St. Joseph's Hospital, 733-6541.

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