

# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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### Family Aided

The cost of airline tickets from Malaysia and other expenses have been a problem for this Vietnamese family. Nguyen Thi Hanh and her mother Bui Thi Ba and father Nguyen Van Sanh arrived in Elmira in July. Among those assisting the family are the seventh and eighth grades of St. Mary Our Mother's evening religious education program. Representing the classes, are, from left, Leslie Baker, Ray Hoobler, Laurie Kasonic and Del Hoobler.

### Sr. Robert Mary Given 'Oppy'

Elmira—Sister Robert Mary Kosty, who works in the St. Joseph's Admissions Office, received the hospital's "Oppy" award Oct. 16, for her "deep concern for the patients not only on their entrance to the hospital, but during their hospitalization and ultimate discharge."

Several stories were recounted of her outstanding efforts to ease fears of patients, families and friends.

The youngest of 11 children, who all but sister continue to live in Corning, attended St. Patrick's School and Corning Free Academy. As a student at Nazareth College, she joined the Sisters of St. Joseph. She has taught in Dansville, Corning, Horseheads, Canandaigua, Auburn, and worked in various educational ministries.

Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, presented her with a plaque



SISTER ROBERT MARY

and pin. Sister Robert Mary was joined by her brothers and sisters and other family members for refreshments following the ceremony.

### Healing Workshop Nov. 4

Watkins Glen—The Charismatic Prayer Groups of the Southern Tier are sponsoring a workshop on healing Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Center, 10th and Decatur streets.

The workshop will be based on films made about the healing ministry of Father Francis MacNutt, OP, and his team. For more than 10 years Father MacNutt has spoken internationally on healing, written books and conducted workshops.

Everyone is welcome. Participants are asked to bring their own lunch; beverages will be provided. A Mass will close the day's program. Further information can be obtained by contacting St. Mary's House of Prayer in Corning, 936-4965.

### Walkathon Set Nov. 11

Elmira—Students of Chemung County Catholic schools are currently seeking sponsors for the fourth annual Walkathon, which will be Saturday, Nov. 11 at 1 p.m.

Anyone may become a sponsor by purchasing a ticket for \$1. Proceeds from the ticket sales will be used by the schools for tuition assistance and other expenses to maintain the quality of education for the students.

The Walkathon, sponsored by the Chemung County General Education Board's Ways and Means Committee, also is being participated in by Notre Dame High School and St. Mary Our Mother School, Horseheads.

Several hundred students, their families, friends and teachers, as well as clergy and local officials, are again expected to march. The walkers will begin at St. Patrick's Junior High, and walk to Notre Dame High School. There refreshments will be served, and prizes will be awarded.

### Pupil Wins Essay Contest

Auburn -- Darlene Fromel, a seventh grade pupil from St. Peter and Paul School was chosen queen for a day as part of National Fire Prevention Week at the school. She submitted the winning essay in appreciation of firefighters.

Darlene was escorted by Fire Chief William Maywalt to a demonstration of firefighting techniques and then traveled Engine No. 3 Company, via fire truck.

She was feted at lunch by Mayor Paul W. Lattimore, Chief Maywalt and Michael Peduto of the Chamber of Commerce which sponsored the queen for a day award.



### All Saints

Members of Mrs. Carol Raymond's sixth grade at St. Casimir's School, Elmira, displaying their costumes for All Saints Day. Students researched the history of the saint they are named for, and designed and made the costumes as part of the day's observance.

### D-S Unit to Gird for Holidays

Auburn -- "How to Handle the Holidays" will be the topic of the Nov. 16 meeting sponsored by the Auburn Area Divorced, Separated and Widowed organization at St. Mary's School on Clymer Street.

A covered dish supper slated for 7 p.m. will be followed by a panel discussion at 8 p.m. moderated by Sister Kathleen Kircher, diocesan coordinator of ministry to divorced, separated and remarried persons.

A spokesperson for the Auburn group explained that the holiday period is a time of loneliness, depression and family stress for those who have had marital breakups or who are widowed.

The meeting is open to the public and those attending are invited to bring a dish to pass and their own place setting.

The spokesperson said that relatives of divorced, separated and widowed persons also may find the meeting informational.

### Church Women

Auburn -- Church Women United of Cayuga County will celebrate World Community Day with a sandwich luncheon at 1 p.m., Friday, Nov. 3 at Owasco Reformed Church. Rev. Marion Gunn of Skaneateles will speak on human rights.

### Auburn Dinner

Auburn -- St. Mary's Home School Association will sponsor a spaghetti dinner Sunday, Nov. 12 from noon to 5 p.m. at the school on Clymer Street. Tickets are available at Nolan's Shoe Store, Cervo's News and Nicht's Garden and Pet Center.

### Breakfast

Scipio Center—Sister Walter Anne, principal of Blessed Trinity School in Auburn, was guest speaker at the recent communion breakfast of St. Bernard's Rosary Society, at Springside Inn. She was introduced by Father Robert Egan, pastor and moderator. Forty members and guests were present.

### Weedsport Novena

Weedsport -- The Solemn Novena to Our Lady of Fatima will continue Mondays at 7 p.m. until Nov. 27 at St. Joseph's Church here.

### Gerould's Pharmacies

S. Main St. and Church & Hoffman Elmira

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## The Open Window

By FATHER HOHMAN

### Indulgences Are Hard To Understand

Dear Father Hohman,

Recently I found a "holy card" which I had received many years ago. At the conclusion of the prayer on the reverse, there was the following: "Indulgence 300 days each time. Plenary once a month on the usual conditions."

I recall the Nuns, during

my early Catholic school days, teaching that saying these prayers helped remove all of or part of the temporal punishment due to our sins. In the case of Plenary Indulgence with the required conditions, we were taught, a removal of the eternal punishment due to our sins resulted. I also recall being taught that those indulgences removing the temporal punishment could be applied to freeing souls from Purgatory.

Would you please advise me through your column if the teaching of the Church has changed. I do not recall hearing or reading anything on indulgences in some time.

(signed) W.P.

Dear W.P.

Before saying anything else, it is necessary for me to correct you on Plenary Indulgences. The eternal punishment for sin is the everlasting alienation from God we would suffer because of having turned away from Him in a serious matter. That would be what we call Hell. Indulgences were never intended to remove such punishment. Only sorrow for sin with the forgiveness of the Church could bring that about. Indulgences relate to what has been described as the temporal punishment due to our sins. And this is the part which causes the most trouble today. We do not like to think in terms of simply being punished for sins which have already been forgiven, since that

certainly was not the mode of operation of the father of the Prodigal Son. He forgave his son and immediately took him back into sonship. When we speak of temporal punishment due to sin we must necessarily think of the need on our part after having been lovingly forgiven to do loving things in return for that forgiveness and to restore ourselves to our place in relationship to God our Father. We would be like the Prodigal in the sense that he must have worked very hard and tried very hard to be a good son after his return.

The concept of indulgences is certainly a fragile one although there seems to be some scriptural evidence for the authority of the Church having the

power of the keys. Precisely what this means about the need to make up for our sins is very difficult to understand. That is another reason why indulgences have had less attention given them since Vatican II. It is extremely difficult to picture why saying a simple three-word prayer would be the equivalent of 300 days of strict fast and abstinence. We do not like to encourage people to achieve bargains and to get off the easy way when love seeks to make full reparation and does not want a short cut. At the same time, we believe in the love of God our Father and we accept it graciously and humbly. As far as I am concerned, indulgences are really of very little importance in my total Christian life.