



Mrs. Evelyn Hartigan from the Association for the Blind explains to St. Lawrence students a typical day in her life.

A Special Learning Day

On Nov. 13, St. Lawrence School in North Greece had an enrichment day. The aim of the event was to raise the student awareness of people with physical handicaps. Representatives from the Rochester School for the Deaf, the Eye and Human Parts Bank, the Association for the Blind, Medi-Trans, and Disabled Veterans were on hand to speak and give demonstrations.

The children gained a sensitivity to lives very different than their own through learning some sign language and having their questions about artificial limbs and wheelchairs answered. They showed their appreciation by writing thank-you notes to the participants.

Fourth grader William Howard wrote, "I wish you could come back and tell us

more things so we can tell our parents more about you."

Mary Wiktorski, also a fourth grader, in writing to Anthony Volpe of the Disabled Veterans said it this way, "You taught me to understand about han-

dicapped people and because of you I want to be a person that helps handicapped people."

Tureen Supper In Penfield

About 175 persons attended a tureen supper sponsored by the Parish Life Committee at St. Joseph's parish in Penfield. Father John D. Malley, pastor emeritus, concelebrated a Mass before the supper with Father James Moynihan, pastor, and Father Steven Kraus, associate.

Senior citizens from Town Gate East were honored at the supper and they made the centerpieces for the various tables.



Spina Bifida

Joe Titus, McQuaid senior and a member of the Youth Group at St. Joseph's parish in Penfield presents a check for \$1,013 to Nancy Gullen for the Greater Rochester Spina Bifida Association. Funds were raised by a dance marathon at the parish. Another is scheduled for January.

Bazaar

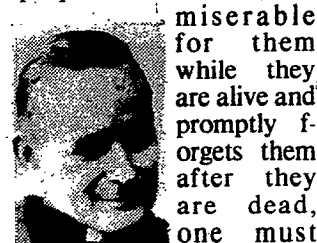
Van Etten — The annual Christmas bazaar at St. Pius Tenth will be held in the church hall Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The Church 1978

By Father Andrew Greeley

Catholics Destroying Their Talent

American Catholicism is very hard on its great people. It makes life miserable for them while they are alive and promptly forgets them after they are dead, one must conclude upon reading Thomas Gavin's new biography of Father Dan Lord and the article on John Courtney Murray by John Deedy in his "Seven American Catholics" (Thomas More Press).



One wonders why the two Jesuit giants bothered. They were harassed by bishops, viciously criticized by the clergy and neglected by their own religious orders. The frustration these two men must have experienced in their lifetimes was surely enormous. Yet they plowed ahead, Dan Lord pouring out his 30,000 words a month in pamphlets, and composing songs, musicals and plays, and John Courtney Murray plunging ever more deeply into the complex theology of the relationship between church and state. He lived to see his work vindicated at Vatican Council II and, indeed, concelebrated the final mass at the Council. However, he also lived to discover that he was old-hat and unfashionable among enthusiastic young Jesuit radicals of the 1960s. Shortly after he died, he was viciously dismissed by former Jesuit seminarian Garry Wills as a "theologian of the Cold War."

When Dan Lord died, his life's work was in shambles and vanished completely within a year of his death. When fashionable Catholics compare Dan Lord's writings with others they do so with contempt, and the Paulist Press dismisses the possibility of a

posthumous collection of Murray's papers as being of little interest. I can only say that the neglect of the greats out of your own immediate past is self-hatred with a vengeance.

I heard it argued recently in Rome just before the conclave that Murray was the most influential American Catholic theologian of the 20th century, and that the document on religious liberty at the Vatican Council, now translated into every language in which there are Catholics, has had a profound impact all over the world in linking the Catholic religious tradition with the cause of freedom. Yet here in America there is not enough interest in him to merit publication of a book of his essays. I suspect that the biography of Father Lord will not sell very well. Indeed, I can hear the phrase on the lips of today's young radical Jesuits, "Dan who?"

I'm not suggesting that we should return to singing "Mother Beloved" at the end of high-school proms, much less that we should imitate Murray's Eisenhower Republican politics. But I am suggesting that there might be a hard kernel of wisdom in both their lives and works from which we can learn and which we might more aptly apply to the present situation in America (and perhaps the rest of the world too, for that matter) than the jerry-built foreign import called liberation theology.

The Society of Jesus ought to hang its head in shame over its treatment of Murray and Lord. Murray was denounced as a theologian of the Cold War, and only the secular priest George Higgins rose in his defense. Jesuits are not the only ones to be blamed. Still caught in our immigrant inferiority complex and self-hatred, American Catholics still try to destroy our men of talent and genius when they are alive and forget about them after they're dead.

Merton Celebration Set

The 10th anniversary of the death of Thomas Merton will be commemorated at Nazareth College Sunday, Dec. 10, in a Eucharistic Liturgy at noon. The dedication of the college library's Merton collection will follow. The program is open to the public.

Among the speakers at the dedication ceremony will be Father Irenaeus Herscher, OFM, librarian emeritus of St. Bonaventure University, who was a friend of Merton.

The program is sponsored by the Thomas Merton Society of Rochester, whose members believe it to be the

only organization in the world formed specifically "to bring together persons eager to share the spiritual legacy" of the Trappist monk. The two-year-old society has about 180 members. Director is Msgr. William Shannon, religious studies chairman at Nazareth.

Merton first gained fame with The Seven Storey Mountain, an account of his struggle to find God.

The Memorial Mass will be celebrated in the Alma Mater chapel of the Otto A. Shults Community Center. Msgr. Shannon will give the homily and the Sisters' Concert Chorale will sing under the

direction of Sister Virginia Hogan.

Part of the dedication ceremony will be a "Dramatic Collage of Merton's Writing and Life," performed by members of the college theater department. Merton's poem, Slowly, Slowly Comes Christ through the Garden, will be sung by the chorale in a setting by Albion Gruber, a professor in Nazareth's music department. Silk screen prints of the poem, designed by Sister Kristin Malone, will be distributed, with a Thomas Merton Collection bookplate designed by Sister Magdalen LaRow, art department chairman.

Around the Diocese in Brief

First Friday

Father John F. Gagnier, assistant pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece, will celebrate the First Friday Mass at the Knights of Columbus, 670 Thurston Road at Brooks, at 11:45 a.m. Dec. 1, and will speak at the luncheon afterward. Father

Gagnier holds the office of Faithful Friar in the Fourth Degree, Bishop Kearney Assembly. He received the assembly's chalice upon his ordination last April. Urban G. Kress, chairman, invites the public to the First Friday celebration.

NFP Followup Sessions

Because advances are continuously being made in Natural Family Planning research, any couple or individual who has been instructed to use NFP over the past six years should contact the NFP office in Rochester for their nearest NFP instructors. Followup is essential for

successful use. Followup sessions will be scheduled to provide information and more instruction for NFP users. For more information, the NFP office should be contacted at 716-464-8705 or mail should go to NFP Education of Rochester, N.Y., Inc., 89 Genesee St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611.

Workshops

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) has announced workshops for adults working with youth. They will be conducted at the CYO, 50 Chestnut St., 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. as follows: **Programs for Youth**

Development, Tuesday, Dec. 5; fee, \$5. Helping Leadership Emerge, Thursday, Dec. 7; fee \$3. Persons interested in registering for one or both workshops should call (716) 454-2020.

Advent Festival

The East Rochester Association of Churches will hold an Advent festival and Christmas charity bazaar tomorrow through Saturday, Dec. 2, in the former Big N store at Country Club Plaza. The proceeds will be used for needy people of the area. Mary Connors has charge. The festival will be open from 10 a.m. until 9 p.m. on all three days.

Sicily Sketches

Elinor Townsend of LeRoy, an artist and art historian, will give a pre-publication show of her sketch book, Sicily, this Sunday afternoon at the Casa Italiana, Nazareth College. The public is invited, without charge, to the preview and reception, 4-6 p.m., Dec. 3. Ms. Townsend's water color sketches of Sicily's people, scenery and architecture are accompanied by a text in English and Italian.

Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place at Our Lady of Lourdes Church on First Friday, Dec. 1, from the close of the 9 a.m. Mass until shortly before the opening of the 5:30 p.m. Mass with recitation of the rosary at 9:45. The church is at Rhinecliff and Imperial, in Brighton.

Brother Sun

A film about the life of St. Francis of Assisi — Brother Sun-Sister Moon — will be shown in Rochester at 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3 in the parish hall of the Whitney Street Church, dedicated to the saint. The price of admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children under 12.

Divorced

The St. Charles Divorced Catholic Group will sponsor a Reconciliation Mass, followed by a wine and cheese party, at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 3, in St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave. Greece.

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