



Parish "apostles" from St. Paul's review literature on the Homecoming project. From left are Debby and Robert Zeman, Maureen Keegan and Peter Erhardt.

St. Pauls, Webster Sets Evangelization Program

"While extensive home visitation is not the entire answer to the evangelization of an increasingly secular society, it is at least a beginning. It is a personal touch in an impersonal world..." (Bishop Hogan, Jan. 11, 1978 Pastoral Perspective.)

Home visitation, by invitation, is a key element in the focus on the unchurched within the parish at St. Paul's in Webster. The parish sees this personal touch as essential in bringing the Good News to their unchurched neighbors and friends.

Their focus on the unchurched began last July, generated from a similar effort made at St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Alpharetta, Ga. in the fall of 1977. Important aspects of the program include identifying the unchurched neighbors. Father John Walsh, pastor and Father Ronald Harley, associate pastor, sent a letter saying that an "apostle" parishioner will be calling them to set up an appointment to visit their home. The home visit serves as an invitation to

look more closely at the Catholic Church today, and more specifically, St. Paul's. An invitation to attend specially selected Lenten seminars will also be extended.

According to a St. Paul release, the "apostles" are those parishioners who will make the personal contact with the unchurched. This is the key: unless people of the church are seen as real, live, "normal" human beings with daily struggles and joys, the unchurched cannot relate.

Ideally, the home visit will allow the apostle to convey, in everyday language and examples, the experience of his faith and its importance to him, and the gift that is the church community. The foremost disposition of the apostles, however, will be to minister to the unchurched neighbor's needs and concerns.

Whatever happens during the visit, care will be shown and an invitation to belong extended.

St. Paul's evangelists are

trying to follow Bishop Hogan's advice when he said: "Our Lord commanded His apostles to go and teach. He did not invite them to sit and wait. The unchurched will remain deaf to Christ's call unless it is brought to them...they will be impoverished by being deprived of the fullness of truth and the instruments of grace..."

The seminars are open to all. They will be given by: Father James Lawlor, associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo, who will discuss "Divorce and Re-marriage" on March 14; Father John Walsh, who will speak on "Birth Control" on March 21; the St. Paul Human Development, Liturgy and Education Committees who will present "Changes in the Church" on March 28; and Father Ronald Harley, who will speak on "Whatever Happened to Sin" on April 4.

Anyone interested should contact the rectory (716-671-2100) or Bob and Debby Zeman (716-671-1399).

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

The Drama And Comedy Of Dining In

It takes a real talent to entertain others, as most people will agree.



We have a friend who can play tennis all afternoon, return home 30 minutes before 10 guests arrive and greet them with a dozen different appetizers, individual beef Wellingtons and a seven layer mocha torte for dessert. What's worse she makes it all seem as effortless as dishing up bologna sandwiches.

I, on the other hand, do not approach such an event lightly. Not only does it take me weeks to gird up to relaying invitations, but go into agonies over what to serve, where to serve it (dining room or let them balance plates on laps in assorted other places) and worrying whether the dog will escape this time to terrorize the more timid guests.

Other people simply give the house a good cleaning in preparation for com-

pany. It's not so easy here. Dusting and sweeping of course but shall we take it one step further and replace the door somebody has dented in a fit of pique, repaint ceiling where the blender went amok during a milkshake binge, reseal the front lawn -- uh soccer field?

Our children have hot done much to bolster my confidence in giving parties. One of our most disastrous affairs ended up with a dampish two-year-old sitting on the knee of a fastidious, black-suited gentleman.

Once they consumed the relatively fancy dessert I had ready leaving me with ice cream sandwiches and McDonald's cookies to pass around.

Sometimes it's not what they do, but what they say. Such as checking with a lavender tressed woman if that's her real hair and pointing out to a male guest that he has on two different color socks.

Actually, they are improving with only occasional lapses now and then. It has been some time now since a very nice lady from Lima arrived at our house with dessert stressing it was not only for the dinner crowd but our kids as well.

The booty included two magnificent fresh peach pies loaded with whipped cream, a beautiful apple pie plus a basket of freshly picked fruit.

Telling the children I would call them when it was time, we all sat down. The meal progressed nicely enough and soon I was in the kitchen cutting the pastry.

The youngest who had opted for the apple pie was told to go to the family room with the admonition to be sure and tell Mrs. Brooks how much she had enjoyed the treat when she finished.

She disappeared but not to the family room. When I returned to take my seat in the dining room I found it occupied by an interloper sipping water from somebody else's glass and regaling the whole table with some story fit for family ears only.

Unwilling to make a scene, I watched her fork plunge into the pie but before she ever got a taste sang out in loud, clear tones hoping to insure her welcome, "Boy is this good pie!"

The nice lady from Lima smiled back at the culprit but she didn't see it being too busy stuffing her mouth with pie. She chewed, swallowed and was about to cram more in when I heard in surprised, stentorian tones, "Hey, this really IS good."

The Open Window

By Father Louis J. Hohman

It's Not So Easy To Believe

Dear Father Hohman,

Just read your answer to S.E.C. in Courier and was much surprised at your answer.



Father Hohman come to pass."

He has already given man power over all things. (Mark 11:23-24).

I recently was "led" to the realization that the "word" applied to me personally, and took it and received instantly what I said. I know it works and the word is "true." Thank you, Jesus.

I am distressed to know the Church is unable to use the word as it was meant to be used.

Interpretation is non-existent for Catholics. Too bad.

(Signed) G.E.M.

Dear G.E.M.,

When you say you are distressed to know the Church is unable to use the word as it was meant to be used, you imply that you have a wealth of knowledge that the Church does not. Are you really the one to say how the word was meant to be used? If so, what are your credentials? The fact is that to simply make the statement "whatever you say in faith, believing shall come to pass" is not a reality. It would be a reality if our faith were much greater than it is. But we are weak limited human beings and as such fail to exercise the power

that Jesus makes available to us.

If you received more benefits through the word applied to you personally, this is not a matter for boasting but rather for humble acknowledgement of the power of the Lord Jesus. I realize that you did thank Jesus in your letter, but it seems as though you are saying that somehow you are superior to the rest of us. That remains to be seen.

If it were literally and simply true that whatever we say in faith, believing would come to pass, then just about all the ills of the world would be overcome by now. You have built into that sentence a catch -- it is contained in the word believing. It is not all that easy to believe as you would make it out to be. Our journey toward faith is just as much a pilgrimage as our journey toward eternity. I hope you will exercise a little more charity toward those whose faith is weaker.

ME Reunion, Information Set

Ithaca-Ithaca Area Marriage Encounter is sponsoring two upcoming events.

On Saturday, March 10, at 8 p.m., there will be a monthly renewal meeting for couples who have completed an encounter weekend, in the Newfield Methodist Church, Newfield.

There will be a Marriage Encounter information night, open to interested couples, the following day, Sunday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Immaculate Conception School, Ithaca.

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