



Chrism Mass Draws
1,000 Worshippers
To Hornell 6

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Friends

During a special audience at Vatican City recently, Pope John Paul II stops to talk with a little boy dressed as a Swiss Guard.

Pledge Your Love For All Eternity, Priest Tells Couples

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira — The more than 80 couples attending Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes April 6 accepted Father Paul McCabe's suggestion that, as the Mass was for married couples, they take the "kiss of peace," literally.

Later in the program, the couples renewed their marriage vows, again pledging their love "until death do us part," which was the theme of

the Mass, sponsored by the Chemung-Schuylers Family Enrichment Committee.

Father McCabe questioned this theme in his homily, noting that many couples don't consider death an end to their love. He reported that some couples he has instructed for marriage have changed their wedding vows, pledging instead to "love you in this life, and, please God, into the next."

Father McCabe also said

that the "person whose life we share" is the only one that matters in the bad times.

He related a response a woman gave to the question "What is the most important thing in your life?"

She responded "all we really got is each other," he said, noting his agreement, and pointing out its meaning to married couples.

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Catholic Charities Gets \$1.4 Million from Chest

Five agencies of Catholic Charities will receive more than \$1.4 million from the United Community Chest, as part of the Chest's \$13 million package to support services provided by 74 county agencies, including 20 day-care centers.

The allocations were approved by the Chest's board of directors on April 5.

The Catholic Family Center will receive \$582,800; Genesee Settlement House \$321,015; Catholic Youth

Organization, \$218,353; Charles Settlement House \$209,986; and DePaul Clinic, \$98,426.

In a different action, St. Joseph's Villa this year requested and received \$75,000. The Villa has not received Chest support since 1974, when Monroe County adopted a "true cost" reimbursement rate for services it purchased from the facility, thus eliminating the need for Chest funding.

However, the reimbursement rate for services

has not covered costs the Villa must incur to meet state and federal requirements for service. The agency has appealed the rates with the State Department of Social Services.

The \$75,000 is being allocated to the Villa from the Chest's contingent fund reserves, and will provide operating cash to the agency to meet expenses in the short term. Villa officials have agreed to return the \$75,000 provided the rates are adjusted.

Pope Reaffirms Celibacy Rule

Vatican City (RNS) — In a Holy Thursday letter addressed to priests of Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II strongly reaffirmed the requirement of priestly celibacy, called on priests not to leave the ministry and criticized secularization of the clergy.

The pontiff's 37-page letter, timed to coincide with the annual feast commemorating the institution of the Holy Eucharist, was presented to the press on April 9, by Archbishop Maximino Romero de Lena, secretary of the Vatican Congregation for the Clergy, and Father

Romeo Panciroli, head of the Vatican Press Office.

In a chapter of the text devoted to the "Meaning of Celibacy," the pope emphasized that the choice of celibacy was a "decision that the Latin Church took so many centuries ago and to which she has sought to be faithful and desires to maintain this fidelity also in the future." He justified the requirement by arguing that a priest's full attention must go to his vocation.

Calling celibacy "a sign of freedom that exists for the sake of service," the pope compared a priest's com-

mitment to the Catholics he serves to a spouse's commitment to his or her family.

The Church requires celibacy, he said, "because celibacy for the sake of the kingdom is not only an eschatological sign; it also has a great social meaning, in the present life, for the service of the People of God.

"Through his celibacy," the pontiff stated, "The priest becomes a 'man for others,' in a different way from the man who, by binding himself in conjugal union with a woman, also becomes, as husband and father, a man 'for others,' especially in the radius of his

own family: for his wife, and, together with her, for the children, to whom he gives life.

"The priest, by renouncing this fatherhood proper to married men, seeks another fatherhood and, as it were, even another motherhood, recalling the words of the Apostle (Paul) about the children whom he begets in suffering."

Pope John Paul pointed out that priests are ordained knowing that they are required to remain celibate and thus must undertake their vocations only with great responsibility. "It is obvious,"

he commented, "that such a decision obliges not only by virtue of a law laid down by the Church but also by virtue of personal responsibility. It is a matter here of keeping one's word to Christ and the Church."

"Keeping one's word is, at one and the same time, a duty and a proof of the priest's inner maturity — it is the expression of his personal dignity," he added.

From his discussion of celibacy, the pontiff turned in a chapter called "Test and Responsibility," to the necessity of priests remaining in the ministry. Priests, he

insisted "must not have recourse to a dispensation, understood as an administrative intervention," as though in fact it were not, on the contrary, a matter of a profound question of conscience and a test of humanity."

Despite periods of personal difficulties and spiritual waverings that many priests encounter, he said, the clergyman must through prayer keep faith in God as a source of strength. The acceptance of this, he said, "constitutes the basis of fidelity to the promise made to

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