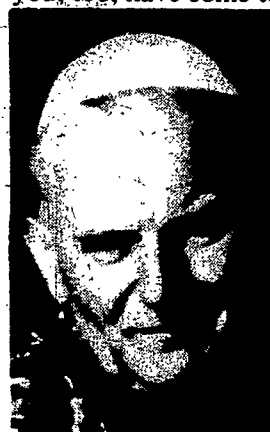


Jesus Is Our Support And Joy

Late last month, Pope John Paul II received a group of pilgrims from Naples. Following are excerpts from his address to them.

In the early time of the Church at Jerusalem, Antioch and Rome, the Christians used to go to meet Peter to hear his word, to listen to his experiences, to bring back courage and spiritual fervor. In this way you, too, have come to hear from his Successor a word



of love and life. And I, starting from the Lenten period, which we are going through, and from my first encyclical letter, will speak to you briefly of the presence of Christ the Redeemer in our daily life.

Jesus is first of all the support of our suffering.

Suffering is a reality that is terribly real and sometimes atrocious and heart-rending. Physical, moral, and spiritual pain torments poor mankind at all times. We must be grateful to science, technique, medicine and social and civil organizations which try in all ways to eliminate or at least assuage suffering; but it always remains victorious and the defeat weighs on afflicted and helpless man. It almost seems, in fact, that to greater social progress there corresponds a moral decline, with the consequence of other sufferings, fears and concerns.

Suffering is also a mysterious and overwhelming reality.

Well, we Christians, looking at the crucified Jesus, find the strength to accept this mystery. The Christian

knows that, after original sin, human history is always a risk. But he also knows that God himself willed to enter our grief, feel our pangs, pass through the agony of the spirit and the torment of the body. Faith in Christ does not take away suffering but illuminates it, raises it, purifies it, sublimates it and makes it efficacious for eternity.

In any pain of ours, moral or physical, let us look at the Crucified! Let the Crucified reign, clearly visible and venerated in our houses. Only he can comfort and reassure us! Let us love the Crucified as your great theologian and doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus Liguori desired.

In the second place Jesus is the foundation of our joy.

Christian joy is a reality that is not easy to describe, because it is spiritual and also belongs to the mystery. He who really believes that Jesus is the Word Incarnate, the Redeemer of man, cannot but feel within himself a sense of immense joy, which is consolation, peace, abandonment, resignation, bliss. The psalmist said: "O taste and see that the Lord is good!" And the French philosopher and scientist Blaise Pascal, on the famous night of his conversion wrote in the Testament, "Joy! Joy! Tears of Joy!" Do not extinguish this joy which springs from faith in Christ, the crucified and risen Christ! Bear witness to your joy! Educate to enjoyment of this joy!

It is the joy of interior light on the meaning of life and history.

It is the joy of God's presence in the soul, by means of grace.

It is the joy of God's forgiveness, by means of his

priests, when one has, unfortunately, offended his infinite love, and having repented, returns to his Father's arms.

It is the joy of the expectation of eternal happiness, as a result of which life is understood as an exodus, a pilgrimage, committed though we are in the affairs of the world.

To you as to the Apostles, Jesus says, "These things I have spoken to you that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." "No one will take your joy from you."

Finally, Jesus is the guarantee of our hope.

Man cannot live without hope; all men hope in someone and in something.

But there are, unfortunately, so many disappointments and, sometimes, even the abyss of despair appears. But we know that Jesus the Redeemer, who died crucified and rose again gloriously, is our hope! "Surrexit Christus spes mea!"

Jesus tells us that, in spite of the difficulties of life, it is worthwhile committing oneself with a tenacious and charitable will in the construction and improvement of the "earthly city," with one's spirit always straining towards the eternal one. The Christian makes every effort to realize the common good concretely; he overcomes his own selfishness with the sense of solidarity and in the commitment for the promotion of everything that serves for the dignity and integrity of the human person. The Church is a community of "servants" and every Christian must feel called to make his own city more and more beautiful, united and just.

Social Activism Has Roots In Gospel, Pontiff Says

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II told 13,000 Rome University students that a path to social activism could be found in Christianity and not in violence.

He also denied the Marxist contention that religion leads to resignation about earthly existence.

"Perhaps," the pontiff told the students gathered for a special Lenten Mass at St. Peter's Basilica, "you still lack an exact vision of your proper post in society, of the work for which you are preparing yourselves in your studies. Certainly this is a great difficulty, but difficulties of this sort cannot paralyze your initiatives."

At the same time, the Pope warned against violent aggression in the pursuit of objectives deemed praiseworthy.

"Aggression," he said, "solves nothing. It will not make life better. Aggression only makes life evil in a different way."

The pope continued: "I hear you denounce, in your honest language, the senility of the ideologies and the inadequacy of ideals in the 'social machine.' Well, then, to promote true dignity, including the intellectual dignity, of man and to avoid becoming entangled in a net of differing ideologies, never forget the indispensability of becoming well educated in

the teachings which Christ left us in his words and life.

"Seek to accept the problems which you must confront as a part of that test which makes up every man's life. It is necessary to take this test with full responsibility. It is a responsibility that is personal — for my life, for its value — and at the same time it is a responsibility that is social — for justice and peace, for the moral side of the environment and of society. It is a responsibility for the authentic common good. The person who has such a consciousness of the sense of life does not destroy, but builds, the future. Christ teaches us this."

Region To Fete Teachers

A Teacher Recognition night for the religious education teachers of the 17 parishes in the Northwest Region will be held at Cardinal Mooney High School, 800 Maiden Lane, Greece, on Wednesday, April 25

The fete will begin with a concelebrated Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. A buffet dinner will follow. The evening will conclude with a talk by Sister Marie Brown, SSJ. Her address will commence the Phase III "Sacraments" portion of the Diocesan Continuing Education for Religious Teachers program.

Sister Marie's talk is open to all religious education personnel in the diocese and will begin at 8:30 p.m.

Deaths

Sr. Blanche McGrath, SSJ

Sister Blanche McGrath, SSJ, who taught in diocesan elementary schools for 45 years, died April 2, 1979 at the age of 81.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on April 4 in the Motherhouse Chapel on East Avenue.

Sister Blanche entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1911. She was a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament. She retired from teaching in 1962 because of poor health.

She is survived by four sisters: Sister Rita Marie and Sister Agnes Clare of the St. Joseph order, Mrs. Louis Weider of Henrietta and Mrs. George White of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. Father James P. Collins, and six other priests, concelebrated the funeral Mass.

Mrs. Frawley

Elmira — Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Mrs. Alice Frawley at St. Mary's Church Monday, April 9.

Regional Congress Scheduled

Spencerport — Plans are nearing completion for a Mini-Congress to be held in the Southwest Region on Sunday, April 29. St. John's Church here will be the host of the event which will run from 1:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The assembly will draw priests, sisters, parish staff members, parish council members and standing committee members from throughout the region.

The congress was prepared through efforts of the Pastoral Office, Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg,

Mrs. Frawley, of 701 Broadway, Elmira, and a communicant of St. Mary's Church, died April 6.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was principal celebrant for the Mass; co-celebrants were Fathers John J. Leary and Joseph Egan. Also present were Fathers Paul J. McCabe, Timothy McGough, OCD, Richard Murphy, and Gerald O'Connor.

The Ladies of Charity formed an honor guard; committal ceremonies in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery were conducted by Father Egan.

Surviving Mrs. Frawley are four sons: Dr. Carroll of McLain, Virginia; Elmira Records Court Judge John D.; Gerald of Newtown Conn.; and J. Robert of Elmira; two daughters, Sister Claire, SSJ, a teacher at Notre Dame High School, and Rose Alice of Elmira. Also surviving are 21 grandchildren and is a sister-in-law, Mrs. Mary Mallon of Elmira, three great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Frawley was a member of the parish Rosary and Altar Society,

the Ladies of Charity, and the Legion of Mary.

C.F. Schoen

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Peter and Paul Church on March 9 for Charles F. Schoen who died on March 6, 1979.

Mr. Schoen of Southampton Drive (formerly of Brown St.) was 86 at the time of his death. With his brothers, Edward and Herman, he ran a Nash dealership for 28 years in the Bulls Head district. For several years he was a treasurer of the Rochester Liederkranz Club. He was a life-long member of the Moose.

He is survived by his wife Irene (Dengler) Schoen; three daughters, Miss Mary Elizabeth Schoen, Mrs. Donald (Jean) O'Connell and Mrs. Ronald (Dorothy) Thibault; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Since his retirement, Mr. Schoen and his wife spent their winters in Florida and their summers in Braddocks Bay.



Photo by Susan McKinney

Essay Winner

Ann Maria Nedimala, a citizen of India and a pupil at St. Rita's School, has won Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary annual essay contest, on both the local and state level. Carolyn Schum, area coordinator for the contest, presents Ann Maria with her award certificate.

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