

# Today's Courier May 16, 1979

## Portrait Blessed . . . . . 9

More than 1000 persons crowded into St. Stanislaus Church recently for the unveiling and blessing of a portrait of Pope John Paul II. The portrait of the first Polish-born pontiff was painted by well known Rochester artist Stanley Gordon. Presiding at the ceremonies was Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty.

## Legion Asks Aid . . . . . 8

The Legion praedium of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament can use some help in its outreach program. The group is working with another legion praedium — one in the Auburn Correctional Facility to deter young people from lives of crime and imprisonment. The Rochester group also serves as a place of spiritual encouragement for people freed from prison.

## Family Stress . . . . . 14

Father William B. Smith, dean of St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie and, a frequent spokesman on issues such as abortion, euthanasia, family life and morals, addressed the Women's Club at St. Patrick's in Elmira recently. He spoke on the stresses facing families. He commented on some of the problems facing families, and said that some people hold the idea that families are "obsolete," "an obstacle," and "some kind of cultural leftover."

## Help Missions . . . . . 1A-4A

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan has proclaimed the week end of May 19 and 20 as the 11th annual observance of Diocesan Missions Sunday. Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan mission director, has asked, "Help us achieve solidarity with the men and women of our Mission areas. Help us share their hunger and thirst after justice as we and they strive to build God's Kingdom on Earth. Help us work with them to achieve their full Human and Christian Freedom."

## 'Mainstreaming' . . . . . 10

While the process of "Mainstreaming" handicapped persons into the "normal" flow of the non-handicapped society has been criticized by some, for at least one person it has worked well. Marca Grattet, a senior at St. Agnes High School, is a victim of cerebral palsy. She stated recently that her parents' decision to mainstream her was "the most important decision they made in my life."

## Love Children . . . . . 14

Loving the children in one's own neighborhood was described recently as one of the best ways of observing the International Year of the Child. The speaker was Mrs. Herbert Gordon, religious education administrator of the Liverpool United Methodist Church, who spoke to the Cayuga County Church Women United. Mrs. Gordon also observed that to effectively minister to families, church people must "recognize the existence of the broken family."

## SALT Support . . . . . 13

The Administrative Board of the United States Catholic Conference has authorized congressional testimony by the USCC in support of the strategic arms limitation treaty. The announcement of the authorization was made by Bishop Thomas Kelly.

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then there has been no veil on the tabernacle.

Kinsman stated that some have continued to report visions on the tabernacle itself.

Kinsman said that Father Conmy had never expressed to him the wish to have the veil buried with him. He said that the priest wanted the veil "treated with all the sacredness that man can provide for it."

While expressing a close affinity to Father Conmy, Kinsman said that the new administrator seems to be "doing everything he can" to discourage outsiders from visiting the church.

His actions, Kinsman stated, "have saddened the whole community."

Kinsman said that there have been occasions when the church has been locked during the day. That was not the case May 8, even though Father McCawley was on retreat.

Even during the height of interest in the visions, some parishioners expressed the wish that the events had never happened.

And in the parish bulletin of May 6, the anniversary date, no mention was made of the events that had drawn thousands to the church.

Father McCawley has been reported as saying that he is handling the situation as he feels the parishioners want him to, noting their interest in worshipping in their church without distractions.

Father Thomas Lynn, pastor of neighboring St. Peter and Paul Church in Towanda, reported that most of those interested in the visions were not from the parish, but traveled many miles to get there, especially from the Rochester diocese. His assessment of the situation, he said, was a "strong feeling" that the whole thing "revolved around the one man who was there."

Those who report frequent trips to the church also

describe a close relationship with Father Conmy.

Beverly Hart of Elmira visited the church 27 times between June, 1977, and Father Conmy's death, but has not been there since, due to being ill herself, she stated.

She called Father Conmy "beautiful, beautiful man."

Describing herself as "high Episcopalian," Mrs. Hart said that it was her estimation that "he would have wanted the veil" to remain in the church, "because so many people had so much grace" from viewing it.

Mrs. Hart reported that "we have documented most of what we've seen," including healings, both spiritual and physical, that took place as a result of a visit to the church.

A visit to the church May 8 showed a contrast to earlier times. While in the past there had been a constant stream of visitors to the church, it stood empty.

The church's rug, worn out by the constant traffic, has been replaced and the table of rosaries and scapulars that had stood in the rear of the church is gone. The tabernacle, on the side altar to the left of the main altar, once the object of attention for thousands of visitors, reflects light from the windows off its golden, unveiled, dome.

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