

'BRING ON THE CLOWN'

Father Mura Sees Playing That Role As Useful in Working with Teens

By Margaret Connolly

When Father Robert Hammond gives up his youth retreat projects this Fall, his successor can come on as a clown. This may ease the transition. Father David Mura said last week.

"After all," he said, "these programs are so closely identified with Bob...it has been a concern to us. He kind of got all these things started."

Father Mura has been studying the art of clowning, and its uses in the interpretation of Scripture. He will attend a conference next month at Oberlin College in Ohio that will concern clowning, mime, puppetry and dancing, and the religious uses of these arts. His own



FR. D. MURA

workshop will be on the "humor and humanity of Christ."

He expects to continue Father Hammond's

programs— Teen Seminar and follow-up programs. He is thinking about a "youth ministry of clowning."

Sister Roberta Tierney noted this proclivity in a statement welcoming Father Mura to the Education Division that she heads. She pointed out also his experience in youth retreats—he has been helping with them during the eight years of his priesthood.

"Our diocese has been a leader in the Teen Seminar, Genesis and Antioch retreats due to the zeal and enthusiasm of Father Robert Hammond," Sister Roberta continued. "The spirit of community and love for Christ engendered by the retreats is evidenced in the

continuity of practice in everyday life . . ."

Father Mura, associate pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake in Watkins Glen and of St. Benedict's, Odessa, said he awaited the final report on a Youth Ministry study conducted in the diocese this Spring. The conclusions of John Roberto, a specialist in this field, will be "the cornerstone" of program structure. Retreats at the Notre Dame House in Canandaigua no doubt will be continued, Father Mura said, and "all of the support people are staying on." According to guidelines issued by the Priests Personnel Board, the director is expected to develop youth retreat teams in parishes, "extend awareness of his work."

All in the Family

By Sarah Child

Where to Get Bear Facts

On the offchance that readers may like a change from the usual headlines



Sarah Child

found in city newspapers, we herewith bring you the news from Smethport, population 1800 or thereabouts, reliably reported from the oldest who is visiting her Pennsylvania grandparents.

At 5 a.m. on a recent morning a 5-foot-tall bear walked down Water Street directly in front of her grandfather's store. The people who live across the street say it appeared to be a yearling.

Her uncle Sam, not to be outdone by the Water Street bear, reports that another bear, a larger one we can presume since nobody in Smethport ever tells a story about a smaller anything, walked across the field from Sam's house in East Smethport, through his lawn and was last seen ambling up the mountain behind the house.

Everybody in McKean and Potter Counties has bear stories. The one that showed up at my Uncle Joe's camp was over six feet and stopped long enough to scratch its back on one of the towering evergreens. Another wandered down the banks along side Marvin Crick (if you say creek instead of crick it means you're from out of town) scaring the pants off a hapless fisherman.

But enough about bears. Great Grandma B. on Monday night tied another patchwork quilt with the help of the oldest and her Cousin Annie, also 14, from New York City. At age 83,

Gram has been producing an average of two quilts a year since she was married at 20 assuring that every child, grandchild and great grandchild has at least one keepsake.

And finally the garden news. Our daughter's grandfather says his radishes have never been so good. They're big as golf balls he reports and he will undoubtedly try to preserve some. In which case the oldest's grandmother will say "humbbug" and stalk off with her golf clubs having decided five years ago or so that there's a lot more future in teeing off than filling mason jars.

Spiritual Singles

Jo Ann Weber will speak on "How the Church Addresses the Sexuality of the Single Adult" at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5, at St. Bernard's Seminary. Further information is available from Patty Genco at 663-3990 or Father Robert Werth at St. Andrew's rectory, 342-8686.

At Your Parish . . .

St. Monica's Holds 78th Graduation

The 78th graduating class of St. Monica's School held closing exercises at the church on Genesee Street June 25. The 28 graduates were addressed by Rev. Barbara Young, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, who told them to seek out "real heroism" in their lives, and to remember that real heroism only comes from lasting spiritual and moral values.

Father Edward Zimmer, pastor at St. Monica's and Sister Clare Francis Mogenhan, SSJ, who is leaving the parish after four years as school principal, presided at the ceremony. Each gave short addresses to the assembly.

The school, which recently

closed due to financial problems, survived another year, and the parish council has voted to keep the facility open indefinitely.

This year's graduates are Clayton Abram, Tanya Allen, Sherwin Bethel, Melvin Bryant, Joanne Buckley, Lesslie Cannon, Deborah Carr, Bathsheba Culver, Asonte Ellenwood, Richard Gibble, Reuben Griffith, Yvette Harden, Carla Herring, Marie Jeffries, Elton Johnson, Wanda Kimble, Monica Laurin, Maureen Lynah, Carrie McNeice, Jacqueline McEwen, Keith Merrill, Annette Miller, Jacqueline Mogenhan, Martha Nelson, Jeffrey Nichols, Ellen Papp, Darnell Sanders, and Robin Turner.

Church of the Holy Name

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, St. Martin's Way in Greece, will mark the 15th anniversary of its founding on Sunday, July 29. Bishop Matthew Clark will offer a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 12:30 p.m. Father Thomas Reddington, pastor, and Fathers David Simon and Emmett Davis will join the bishop as concelebrants.

The liturgical celebration was planned by Anthony Rimore, pastoral musician, in conjunction with the Liturgy Committee, headed by Mrs. John Leary. The liturgy will keynote the parish goal for the new year that is summarized in the slogan, "Magnify Our Ministry," a parish release said.

Following Mass there will be continuous music and entertainment, various outdoor activities and refreshments culminating with a street dance in the evening. All activities will take place on parish grounds.

St. Helen's, Gates

The annual Country Fair at St. Helen's is scheduled for Aug. 3-5, at 310 Hinchey Road, Gates. Rain or shine, the fair will be open from 6 until 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. On Sunday, the time is 1:30-10 p.m., with an Italian dinner served from 2 to 7:30.

St. Patrick, Seneca Falls

St. Patrick's Parish in Seneca Falls has scheduled its church festival for Aug. 2-4 beginning at 5 p.m. each evening. The festival will feature a wide variety of food booths as well as arts and crafts and a white elephant booth.

On Thursday, Aug. 2, an auction will be held with auctioneer Jim Bush

St. John, Port Byron

St. John's Parish in Port Byron has scheduled its annual chicken and pork barbecue and bazaar for Saturday, Aug. 4 beginning at 7 p.m.

Parishioners who worked on this year's event include Josephine Van Acora,

presiding. Antiques, appliances and furniture will be auctioned off. On Friday night a special event for the children will feature the arrival of famous animal characters, according to a St. Patrick's release. On Saturday night the Senior Citizen Kitchen Band will give a performance starting at 7:30 p.m. All friends of St. Patrick's are invited.

Margaret Young, Marie and Theresa Van Detto, Frank Dalesio, Elizabeth Barrows, Mary Conley, Pauline Seamans, Barbara Jean Van Ditto, and Henry Young. Father Bernard Kuchman, pastor of St. John's and St. Michael's, Montezuma, will serve as honorary chairman.

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