

Red Mass Friday

In a local continuation of an ancient tradition, a Red Mass will be celebrated here Friday, Sept. 7 to note the reopening of the court systems after summer recess.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be celebrant and homilist for the Mass at 12:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 15 South St. The public is invited.

The Mass will ask God's spiritual guidance and blessing on the legal profession, law enforcement and fire department agencies.

Following the Mass, the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild Auxiliary has planned a reception to allow those present to greet Bishop Clark.



CWC Membership

The Catholic Women's Club hopes to bring in "at least 100 new, active members" by Sept. 15, according to an announcement of the 60th annual membership drive. Shown here, reviewing membership lists, are Mrs. John McLaughlin, left, club president, and Mrs. Lewis Boyce, development chairman. Tomorrow, at 6:30 p.m., drive captains will be entertained at the home of Mrs. Norman Fertig, second vice president and membership chairman. The drive opens the following day, Sept. 7.

Insights in Liturgy

By Msgr. William H. Shannon

The Eucharist Makes The Church

Part II

The Eucharist makes the Church by ritualizing the transformation into Christ that must be a continuous, on-going reality in our lives. The Eucharist does not produce our transformation into Christ — as if by magic. Rather the Eucharist presupposes the on-going transformation into Christ that is the heart of our everyday existence. That is why we can say that the Eucharist celebrates life: for it celebrates our daily effort to become more fully the sign of Christ's presence in the world.

This means that we do not go to the Eucharist in order to be transformed into Christ; we go to the Eucharist because we are, in our daily lives, in the process of being transformed into Christ. We are in the process of becoming more fully the Church. Each day in our lives, as we try to live out our baptismal commitment, we are undergoing this process of transformation into Christ. We gather for the Eucharist to ritualize, to celebrate, to express and to deepen the on-going conversion to the Lord that is continually taking place. The Eucharist intensifies the process whereby we are continually becoming the Church. *Eucharistia facit ecclesiam*. The Eucharist is making the Church ever more fully Church.

This understanding of the Eucharist as the expression and intensification of our transformation into Christ is, I think, a new perspective in Eucharistic thought. In the past our emphasis was going to the Eucharist as on the transformation of the bread and wine into Christ. The emphasis is con-

temporary thinking about the Eucharist is on the transformation of God's people into Christ — a transformation that is celebrated and intensified in the Eucharist.

We used to think of the Eucharist as primarily the action of the priest producing Christ on our altar, so that we could receive Him in Holy Communion. And Communion was looked upon as a momentary transformation of our lives whereby Christ was present to us for a short time.

Today we are coming to realize that this older understanding of the Eucharist, while not incorrect in itself, is inadequate to express the deep richness of the Eucharistic reality. The Eucharist, we are beginning to see, is not simply the sign of bread and wine being transformed into Christ and Christ being momentarily present to us in Communion. Rather the Eucharist is the sign of the community of God's people being transformed into Christ in a permanent way and ever more deeply. And surely it is infinitely more important that people be transformed into Christ than that bread and wine be transformed into Him. Indeed, without the transformation of people, the transformation of bread and wine would be totally without meaning. The transformation of the bread and wine is meaningful precisely because they are a sign of our transformation. Receiving Christ in Holy Communion is a temporary sign of the permanent presence of Christ in our lives by grace. Communion celebrates and expresses the reality of His permanent presence in our lives and deepens that reality.

Thus the Eucharist, by celebrating and intensifying our transformation into Christ, celebrates and intensifies the process of our becoming Church. *Eucharistia facit ecclesiam*. The Eucharist is ever making the Church to be more fully Church.

St. Michael's Begins New School Year

Newark — St. Michael School in Newark began its 26th year this week with an enrollment of 335 students in grades kindergarten through 8th grade.

It also has an enrollment of 50 students in a half-day pre-kindergarten program.

The first day of class was Wednesday, Sept. 5.

Sister Joyce McGinn, principal, heads a teaching staff of 18. This includes two nuns and 16 lay teachers.

Among the teachers is one new name this year. Mrs. Diane Welch, 26, a graduate of St. John's University in Jamaica will teach the fourth grade. She previously taught second grade at Livingston Manor School in Livingston Manor. Mrs. Welch lives in Palmyra.

For the fifth year, St. Michael will offer an "advanced placement" course for eighth grade mathematics students under the tutelage of Miss Jean Hummel.

In successfully completing the course, students earn the same credit as if they had taken one year of high school freshman math. They enroll in high school immediately ready for course II mathematics.

This year's advanced class of five students will be piloting a new program that includes logic in addition to algebra and geometry. This course, also being piloted at the high school level, is a change from the traditional curriculum.

Charlotte Pitrella is vice principal of the school and teaches eighth grade English.

RFWC Meets

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs will meet Thursday, Sept. 13 at the AAUW, 494 East Ave. A board meeting will begin at 11 a.m. Luncheon will be held at noon, and the general meeting will begin at 1 p.m. Reservations for luncheon are being taken prior to Sept. 11 by Delores Newton, Mary O'Keefe and Muriel Taenzer.

Seminary Gift

St. Bernard's Seminary has received an annual matched gift of \$30,000 from an unnamed benefactor. The gift, according to Father Frank E. Lioi, rector, is in recognition

of the seminary's service to the Church and community and will be used to assist it in meeting the rising cost of education.



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NFP Class Sept. 26

A Natural Family Planning class has been scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 26, at St. Cecilia's in Rochester to be conducted by Norm and Sandy Pawlak.

Classes are limited to six engaged and married couples, wishing instruction to use NFP. A \$30 fee includes three instruction sessions, books and supplies.

Registration is required by calling the NFP office at 464-8705.



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