



Bishop Clark delivers his homily to the attentive congregation that included six charter members of the Nocturnal Adoration Society, above, right. From left, Al G. Miller, Leo F. Zeller, Joseph F. Schur of San Francisco, Louis P. Schlueter, Thomas P. Ryan and Frank E. Wolfe. Right, Schlueter receives his award from Father Hector C. Lemieux, National director of NAS, as Fred Leederman and Urban Kress look on.

Six Members Honored By Nocturnal Society

Joseph F. Schur flew in from San Francisco to join five other area men honored last Wednesday night for 50 years of faithful membership in the Rochester Nocturnal Adoration Society.

The celebration at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece included a Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, assisted by Father Hector C. Lemieux of New York City, national director of the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

Also on hand were the Spiritual Moderators of the five area Nocturnal Adoration Centers: Fathers Bernard F. Dollen of St. Andrew's Church (Northeast center),

William G. Endres of Sacred Heart Cathedral (Northwest center), Paul G. Wohlrab of Our Lady of Good Counsel (Southwest center), Thomas M. Reddington of the Holy Name of Jesus Center, and Thomas J. Valenti of Blessed Sacrament (Southeast center).

The gathering of some 400 people listened intently to the homily as Bishop Clark referred to the honored members as "beautiful men with a deep devotion to a beautiful God."

Members of Nocturnal Adoration attend one assigned hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, normally on the last Saturday of each month, and recite, as a group,

the order of prayers for the specific hour, usually between 10 p.m. Saturday and 6 a.m. Sunday.

The Nocturnal Adoration Society previously limited membership to men and boys, but in 1975 the charter was amended. It is now open to men, women and teen-agers. All in attendance share the privilege of a plenary indulgence.

Other charter members honored were Frank E. Wolfe, Al G. Miller, Thomas P. Ryan, Louis P. Schlueter and Leo F. Zeller. Another member, Richard L. Weider, now resides in Florida and was unable to attend.

The Church 1979

By Father Andrew Greeley

Institutional Sickness

The priesthood is institutionally sick. I use the word "institutionally" in this context to convey the same notion as does the adjective "institutional" when it modifies racism. "Institutional racism" means not that individuals are racists, but rather that the social structure (established patterns of relationships) and the culture (the norms and values that govern a community) have racial bigotry built into them independently of the intentions or the responsibility of any individual member of the community.

In the same way, established relationship patterns and value systems of the priesthood are badly disturbed independently of the responsibility of any particular priest for that disturbance.

Let me prove my assertion with four points:

1) Can you imagine dentists being indifferent if they discovered that most of their patients thought they were less than excellent at filling cavities? Can you imagine surgeons being untroubled if most of their patients thought they were not very skillful with the scalpel? Yet 80 percent of American Catholics are not

ready to rate their sermons as "excellent" and the priesthood is totally undisturbed by this negative judgment on its professional competence.

2) Can you imagine a lawyer seriously boasting that he knew nothing about contract law, or an airline pilot casually admitting that he was quite indifferently trained on matters of navigation? Yet how often does one hear a priest say, "I don't know anything about theology, but..." One can

substitute the sociology of religion or scripture or any of the other disciplines about which a priest ought to know something.

3) Can you imagine accountants or insurance brokers arranging and planning their professional work on the basis of ideological platitudes that were explicitly anti-intellectual? Yet the two most powerful thought systems guiding the exercise of the priesthood in the United States today are neo-fundamentalism and the vulgar Marxism of liberation theology, both systematically anti-intellectual — unconcerned with

nuance, qualifications, evidence or scholarship.

4) Finally, can you imagine any of the professions so obviously and explicitly using envy as a means of social control as does the priesthood? There is, of course, envy in every human profession, but can one imagine, say, a college professor using the potent weapon of envy to explicitly reinforce the lowest common denominator of mediocrity. The professor who does something outstanding is well rewarded with professional esteem even if he is subjected to the

negative sanctions of envy. The priest who does something well merely gets the envy. All esteem is reserved for the mediocre.

This is a powerful indictment and I want to reassert again that I am not charging individual priests with responsibility for the institutional sickness of the priesthood as a profession.

Doubtless I will be inundated with nasty mail from priests because of this column. Alas, fathers, the very letters you write only prove the validity of my argument.

Deaths

Sister M. Gabriel, RSM Teacher, Administrator

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at the Motherhouse Chapel of the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 25 for Sister Mary Gabriel Oster, a member of the congregation for 59 years, who died at the age of 80 on Sept. 23, 1979.

A native Rochesterian, Sister entered in 1920, and made her perpetual profession of vows in 1926.

She served as a diocesan music teacher from 1920 to 1961. She also was on the founding staff of Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1928.

In 1961 she was elected first councilor of the congregation, and in this capacity served as assistant to the major superior until 1967. For the next two years she was the superior at the

Motherhouse. She had served as a convent superior from 1955 to 1961.

Following her administrative service, Sister Mary Gabriel next ministered at St. James Mercy Hospital, Our Lady of Mercy High School Library and the Motherhouse. During her earlier life she taught music at Holy Cross, St. Mary's, St. Thomas the Apostle, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; St. Mary's, Corning; St. Ann's, Hornell; Holy Family, Auburn.

Sister Mary Gabriel survived by two brothers, Dr. Charles W. Oster, Rochester, and Arthur Oster of Pittsford; and two sisters, Mrs. Edward (Helen) Hammele, and Sister Joan the Cross, a Carmelite nun of Elysburg, Pa.

Ethnic Dinner

St. Nicholas Church is sponsoring a Lebanese Dinner, replete with music and entertainment, at Bishop Kearney High School, Saturday, Oct. 13 at 7 p.m. Reservations for the \$10 a person event are made by calling Bill Nealon, 182-1981, or, after 5 p.m., Fred Shaheen, 266-7816.



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