

Holiday Gatherings

Advent Service of Scripture Readings and Gregorian Chants, Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, Sunday, Dec. 16, at 4 p.m. Entitled "How Far Is It to Bethlehem?" the choral work will be sung by the Gregorian Choral, directed by Father Benedict Ehman.

New Year's Eve Party St. Philip Neri School Hall, 1772 Clifford Ave., Monday, Dec. 31: buffet dinner at 8 p.m.; dancing to the music of Triple Play from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. Reservations: 482-2400, by Dec. 23.

Handel's Messiah by the National Choral Council, a sing-in version, Eastman Theatre, Dec. 28 at 8:30 p.m.

German Christmas Customs a workshop, Dec. 22, at the Rochester Waldorf School, 41 Westminster Rd. from 10 a.m. to noon, featuring songs, crafts, stories and language; Pre-registration: 275-0240.

A Christmas Carol, Tower Fine Arts Theatre at SUC Brockport, Dec. 13-15 at 8 p.m.

Get-Together, holiday gathering of Southeast Region Divorced Separated and Widowed Catholics, Good Shepherd Chapel annex, Sunday, Dec. 23 5-9 p.m. Contact: Paul Glogowski, 225-0382.

Vivaldi Gloria and holiday

music performed by Rochester City School District's Inter-High Choir at East High School auditorium, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16; Teryle Brewley, conductor.

The Star of Christmas, traditional fare at the Strasenburgh Planetarium, through Jan. 6, 1980; Monday-Friday, 8 p.m.; Saturday, 1:30 2:30, 3:30 and 8 p.m.; Sunday 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 and 8 p.m.

Holiday Spirit, traditional English and American music, Christmas trees with natural ornaments, and the traditions of Hanukkah, Rochester Museum and Science Center, Dec. 16, 1-5 p.m.

Sisters in Chapter Debate Obedience

By John Dash

In their final Chapter session, the diocesan Sisters of Mercy have accepted a number of statements that indicate their willingness to live out some of the most radical challenges Jesus gives Christians in the Gospels.

Specifically, the sisters had been deliberating how best to show the world that they live the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service. They had also been debating statements on the mission, or function, the sisters have in their day-to-day lives; and statements on this have been formally agreed on by the Chapter.

These statements, or affirmations, will now be incorporated into the congregation's "Interim Constitutions" by a special commission.

The Chapter delegates have agreed that obedience involves a "continuing call to accountability," which includes participation in and faithfulness to decisions that are made in common. The sisters also see that obedience springs from "mutual listening," a "wisdom to challenge" authority "lovingly," and "gracious reconciliation."

According to Sister Elaine Kolesnik, RSM, the congregation's spokesperson, "The most basic and deepest expression of the corporate nature of the vow of obedience was seen as coming from the congregation's rootedness in the mission of Jesus Christ so that 'Wherever a Sister of Mercy is commissioned to minister to the poor, sick and ignorant, she represents the congregation and her participation in this mission of the Church constitutes the work of the congregation.'"

Flowing from that four-fold understanding of

obedience as resulting from individual/collective response to Gospel/corporate demand resulted in a number of concrete resolutions, including:

To establish a congregational Ministry Board with advisory and consultative powers in the area of present and long-range planning for ministry.

To authorize study of the concept of the "works of the congregation."

To set the Election Committee in process for 1981 election of a Superior General and Executive Councilors.



Calendar

PRAYER CENTER—Theological reflection Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m. Advent evening of prayer Dec. 18, 7:30-9:30; at 428 Mt. Vernon Ave. Information: 244-1416.

REGIONAL TASK FORCE ON WOMEN IN THE CHURCH—"Celebration of the Gifts of Mary," a lecture and liturgy at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 19, St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt Street.

EASTMAN SCHOOL CONCERTS— Wind Orchestra, at 8 tonight in Kilbourn Hall; Studio Orchestra, 8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14, Eastman Theatre. Both free.

MEMORIAL ART GALLERY— Conducted tour, 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16; chamber music performed by Eastman students, 3 p.m. On show: The George Eastman Collection and Christmas Creches, through Jan. 13; craft show and sale through Jan. 4.

CLASSIC FILM SERIES— At Rochester Museum's Eisenhart Auditorium, 2 and 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18: John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara in The Quiet Man (1952).

SENIOR CITIZEN MATINEES— Broadway Melody of 1938, 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, Dec. 13, at Dryden Theatre, Eastman House.

DOWNTOWN FRIDAYS— Kincore Dance Circus, 8 p.m. Dec. 14, at Christ Church, East Avenue at Broadway; sponsored by Arts Council. No performances on following two Fridays.

VISUAL STUDIES WORKSHOP— Photographer John Pfahl of RIT faculty, slide lecture, at 8 tonight; Animated films, classic and contemporary, 8 p.m. tomorrow, Dec. 13. Both free, at 31 Prince.

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN— The Mikado, at 8 p.m. Dec. 15, 16, in Rochester Museum's Eisenhart Auditorium; local players directed by John Cieslinski, Flour Town Theatre manager.

Shelter For the Homeless

Some vital operations and projects that come within the purview of the diocesan Division of Social Ministries concern the provision of homes for people of various needs. "Shelter for the Homeless" is the title of a section inadvertently omitted from the division's report that appeared Nov. 28 in the Courier-Journal. The section follows.

"The Bishop Sheen Housing Foundation (BSHF) helped 17 families purchase or

maintain homes through no-interest loans totalling \$24,000. BSHF also loaned Project Reach (Steuben County) \$5,100 and the Keuka Housing Council, Inc. (Yates County) \$16,750 to rehabilitate housing. Working with parishes, the Catholic Family Center (CFC) helped 250 Vietnamese and Laotian refugees settle in the 12 counties of our diocese. CFC also arranged 76 legalized adoptions and supervised nearly 14,000 days of foster care for 98 children."

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