



Lo Curto Honored

Joseph J. LoCurto, right, is congratulated by Alessandro Cortese-DeBosis, consul general of Italy in New York, on being honored as "Cavaliere Ufficiale" in the Order of Merit of the Republic of Italy. LoCurto was honored for his efforts to promote Italian language and culture and for his role in the development of the Casa Italiana at Nazareth College.

Confession Transforms

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 9:28-31. (R1) Gn. 15:5-12. (R2) Phil. 3:17, 4:1.

Everyone, I am sure, has at one time or another seen how love in marriage has turned a lonely and anxious person into a confident, warm and happy one. One of the joys at a Marriage Encounter is to witness this transfiguration in a married couple.

When we turn in faith to Christ, there is an even more profound transformation. "He will give a new form to this lowly body of ours," wrote St. Paul, "and remake it according to the pattern of his glorified body." (R2).

At the beginning of Lent, the gospel gives us a glimpse of Christ's glory before He begins his fateful journey to Jerusalem. This glimpse is meant to strengthen us and give us courage to share the journey with Him so that we can share in His triumphal resurrection from the tomb. When we share in His sufferings, we can look forward to a transfiguration — "a new form to this lowly body."

The process of this transfiguration is a painful one. We must share the physical and emotional exhaustion that Peter, James and John must have experienced when they clambered up the mount of transfiguration.

A Civil War story is told of a group of soldiers drafted into battle after many weeks of drilling and marching. It

Puzzle on Page 19

PUZZLE ANSWERS

I. 1. cloud 2. voice 3. Rome 4. stone 5. hose 6. Dinah 7. crisis 8. hymn 9. feast 10. hay 11. Mom 12. Hi

Key Passages I. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my son, my chosen one; hear him."

II. God took Abram outside and said: "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the Lord, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

III: Be imitators of me, my brothers. Take as your guide those who follow the example that we set. Unfortunately, many go about in a way which shows them to be enemies of the cross of Christ. I have often said this to you before; this time I say it with tears.

Fr. Albert Shamon

Word for Sunday



was to be their first taste of war, their first meeting with blood and wounds and killing. One young soldier could hardly cloak his fear. He feared the prospect of battle and, even more, he feared the growing temptation inside him to run away. And when the crisis came, that temptation proved too much for him: he threw his rifle down and ran.

A few days later he found his way back to his company. They had presumed him killed. When they saw him, they were relieved and warmly welcomed him. He kept the guilty secret from them. But the thought of it weighed him down. Finally, he could bear it no longer. He took a friend of his aside and revealed the secret to him. His friend listened calmly and then told him not to feel ashamed, for after the initial fighting, the whole company had fallen back. With a huge sigh of relief, the young soldier smiled and said, "You know, it is good to make a confession. It makes you feel clean again."

In that moment, the

young soldier learned two important things. First, that the fear, weakness and shame he had felt in himself is the common lot of all men. Second, that to confess our sin is an act of humility and sorrow that not only relieves the burden on our conscience, but positively transforms and revitalizes our life.

During Lent will we let the power of God "give a new form to this lowly body of ours?" His power is infinite: "by his power He can subject everything to himself." But this power to transfigure us depends in the final analysis on our willingness to go to confession.

For many, this can be the hardest penance this Lent: to admit we were wrong and to ask God to forgive us. God calls us to perform this hardest penance of all so that, like Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration, we can one day appear with Christ in His resurrection.

Robert MacNeil To Speak Here

Robert MacNeil, executive editor of the news analysis program, "The MacNeil/Lehrer Report," will speak at the 1980 Matrix Dinner of the Rochester Chapter of Women in Communications on April 22, according to Dorothy Cotton of Channel 10, Matrix chairperson.

"The MacNeil/Lehrer Report," seen on WXXI, Monday through Friday at 7:30 p.m., recently won the Dupont-Columbia and George Foster Peabody awards for broadcast journalism. MacNeil became its executive producer in 1975.

MacNeil moderated "Washington Week in Review" from 1971-73, and with Jim Lehrer co-anchored

public television's Emmy Award-winning coverage of the Senate Watergate hearings. He has worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and the British Broadcasting Corporation.

In addition to MacNeil's talk, the Matrix program will feature the presentation of the annual WICI Matrix award to an outstanding area communicator.

The dinner, which is open to the public, will begin with a reception at Kodak's Marketing Education Center on River Road at 6:30 p.m. Dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by contacting Madeline Hecht at Hutchins Y&R, 400 Midtown Tower.

Inflation Hits Church Building

By Beth Spring

Washington (RT) — Unprecedented levels of inflation are beginning to stagnate the pace of church construction.

However, the sluggishness of the marketplace is in no way reflected in the plans and innovations of church officials, who are coming to look at inflation as a matter of dollars and sense — common sense.

Overall, the construction market is faced with an "increasingly hostile environment," according to a trade publication, and nowhere has the effect been more chilling than in the segment of nonresidential building which includes religious, educational and health facilities.

In an assessment of the outlook for religious construction, the U.S. Commerce Department dubs this sector "a no-frills market" and predicts a real decline of three percent in 1980 in spite of record expenditures of \$1.55

billion for "value put in place."

Formidable economic realities are demanding creative responses from church financial officers and architects — not to mention pastors and deacons for stewardship — among all denominations.

It appears that church families feeling the threat of inflation are finding ways to tame its hostility, much the way the individual families are forced to adapt. In fact, a sampling of major denominations turned up remarkably little pessimism in spite of growing concern over the need to retrench with plans for building and renovating in the coming year.

The largest U.S. Protestant denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, has not encountered serious difficulties due to inflation yet, according to Howard McAdams, department architect for the SBC's Sunday School Board.

"I can't say it's hurt us too much. In fact, the denomination has set itself some pretty ambitious goals. But inflation has caused us to plan more closely, more accurately."

McAdams' department provides free consultation to individual Southern Baptist congregations in evaluating sites and designs for new construction starts. A total of 9,000 congregations have plans to build, remodel, or add to existing buildings this year. This is nearly three times the number of churches with which McAdams consulted last year.

Similar figures are unavailable for the 49-million member Catholic Church, largest religious body in the U.S. Each of the 117 American dioceses is considered "the local church" and compiles independent statistics.

Russel Shaw, secretary for public affairs at the U.S. Catholic Conference (USCC), said, "I think the amount of construction in the Catholic sector has decreased substantially but this phenomenon started before the extreme increases in inflation."

In the Archdiocese of Phoenix, John McGuire, executive director of construction, emphasized the "no-frills" approach, saying that new buildings will tend to be simple and not extravagant. Simplicity often enhances the design quality of a church building, he feels.

McGuire believes another way to combat inflation is to "bring the church back to the people." Specifically, he would like to see churches locate themselves where people tend to congregate: in shopping centers.

"A church has a tendency to sit unused for some time during the week, so increased flexibility in multiple use by the church and by the community" is essential, he said.

With the price of building sanctuaries, classrooms and auditoriums climbing to between \$35 and \$45 per square foot, SBC's McAdams said that in 1970, the cost per square foot averaged \$20 to \$25.

A large part of this increase is in the cost of building materials, which represent fully 50 cents of every construction dollar spent, excluding property costs. Following a record increase of 16 per cent in 1974, leaps in the cost of building materials

have averaged roughly 10 percent each year since.

The price tag on utilities presents another major challenge to church budgets and design plans. "We are studying solar heating and cooling as a way to reduce costs," McAdams said, even though churches are not able to take advantage of government grants for experimental energy conservation measures.

New buildings are being adapted to solar heating simply through basic design and positioning rather than the installation of new technology.

Richard Class To Assemble At Holy Name

The Gabriel Richard Institute of Rochester is organizing evening classes to meet at Holy Name parish hall, beginning March 13. In 10 weekly sessions, the course is "instrumental in helping people from all walks of life to speak more effectively, unlock hidden talents, gain vital confidence and skills needed to motivate others and to turn good ideas into action," the

announcement said. Classes are limited to 30. A free demonstration preview is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. March 6 at Holy Name, Bonesteel Street and St. Martin's Way. Further information may be obtained from Mrs. Bernadine Begley, 663-8722; Dave Proud, 225-7672, or Pauline Scullin, 663-7146.

The combined realism and equanimity of church officials confronting inflation in one of the most depressed sectors of the construction industry is heartening. Perhaps churches will take the lead in promoting conservation throughout society by shifting attention toward the opportunities for change and innovation, which, of necessity, it affords.

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