

Arlo Guthrie Will Perform In Benefit

Internationally known folksinger Arlo Guthrie will perform in concert to benefit Cambodian Relief, on Palm Sunday, March 30, at 8 p.m. in the Nazareth Arts Center.

Father Joseph Reinhart, head of the diocesan Missions Office, the collecting point for funds to aid the refugees of Southeast Asia, said last week that Guthrie will appear with Rochester singer Bat McGrath to aid that fund.

Blue Army Tour

A three-stop pilgrimage, sponsored by the Blue Army, will take place on May 12-14. The tour will visit where Mother Seton was born in Emmitsburg, Maryland; the Blue Army Headquarters in Washington, New Jersey; and the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Those wishing to take the tour may contact Mary Kelly, (716) 586-1664. A \$20 reservation deposit is requested.

Coordinating the event is Jerome Vaiana, who has been working for the drive since a recent sojourn in the Cambodian refugee camp in Sa Kaew, Thailand.

Tickets are available at record stores in the Rochester area.

The drive is a joint effort of the Missions Office and the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission. Persons wishing to donate to the fund are asked to send contributions to:

Cambodian Relief
123 East Ave.
Rochester, N.Y. 14604



Papal Hostage

Archbishop Angelo Acerbi, Apostolic Nuncio to Columbia, looks anxiously out the window of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in Bogota, Columbia, on Feb. 29, where hostages — including a U.N. diplomat and ambassadors from several countries — were being held by left-wing terrorists. The diplomats were attending a Feb. 27 reception at the embassy when some 30 heavily armed guerrillas seized the facility and demanded the release of more than 300 jailed leftists facing trial in Columbia for subversive activity.

Pope Stresses Celibacy

Vatican City (RNS) — In a plea for more young people to enter the priesthood or the religious life, Pope John Paul II reaffirmed his firm stance in favor of priestly celibacy.

The pontiff addressed his remarks to a crowd in St. Peter's Square, March 2, for the customary Sunday noon appearance of the pope.

"We all pray," he said, "that our ecclesiastical seminaries and novitiates may be filled so that individual churches, as well as the communities — in parishes and religious congregations — might look toward the future with confidence, certain that there will be enough of those workers whom the Lord sends into his vineyard, certain that there will be enough priests, who will dedicate themselves exclusively to the reign of God . . . certain that there will be enough men and women, capable of a complete dedication of their life to the divine husband, in the spirit of poverty, chastity, and

obedience — in testimony to the future life, motivated by an unlimited love toward others."

Fr. Martin To Speak on Alcoholism

Father Joseph Martin, nationally known lecturer and consultant on alcoholism, will speak at Franklin High School Friday, March 21, at 8 p.m.

Father Martin is a priest of the Diocese of Baltimore and works full time in alcoholism. His lecture is being sponsored by the National Council on Alcoholism, Rochester Area. Admission is \$4.

Big Breakfast

Clyde — A Country Breakfast to benefit St. John's Church will be held Sunday, March 23 from 7 a.m. to noon. The entrance cost guarantees all you can eat of pancakes, eggs, sausage, home fries, juice, coffee and milk.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Bible: Future Not the Past

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 8:1-11. (R1) Is. 43:16-21. (R2) Phil. 3:8-14.

For some people the Bible is a book about the past.

For God's people the Bible is a promise of future greatness. The Bible always points to the future — future blessings.

In the first reading, Second-Isaiah says, "Remember not the events of the past" — these will pale in the light of what I am going to do for you.

When Second-Isaiah spoke these words, the Jewish people were on the verge of giving up their faith in the Lord, for the Lord seemed to have forgotten them. They had been in exile — some for 50 years. They wept by the rivers of Babylon, hung their harps on the willows. Gone was their temple. Gone the magnificent Hebrew liturgy. They had been scattered among a cruel people. No king now save harsh Babylon.

At this moment when the Jews were nearest despair, God spoke to them in words of exquisite beauty through a now-unknown poet, Second-Isaiah. His writing is called "The Book of Consolation" (Is. 40-55).

His words of unsurpassed splendor interpreted the long history of Israel as one great promise of future glory. The people listened to his words, and became ever after a future-looking people. They awaited God's definitive intervention into history through His Messiah.

When the Messiah came, He focussed the new Israel toward a new future — His Second Coming. At first the early Christians looked for His Coming in their lifetime.

As years proved them wrong, they discovered the other part of God's future promise — the after life. Since then heaven has always been an important part of Christian teaching.

The story in Sunday's gospel hints at this teaching. The woman taken in adultery is forgiven by Jesus and then sent off to a happy future. Jesus in His healing mercy blots out her crimson past and frees her to build a new life — a new future!

It seemed that the future was what steeled Paul too to grapple with and conquer the present. "I wish to know Christ . . . and how to share in his sufferings . . . Thus do I hope that I may arrive at resurrection from the dead" (R2).

For Paul the sufferings of the present were as nothing compared with the glory to come. His whole attention was fixed on the finish line as he ran toward the prize to which God called him.

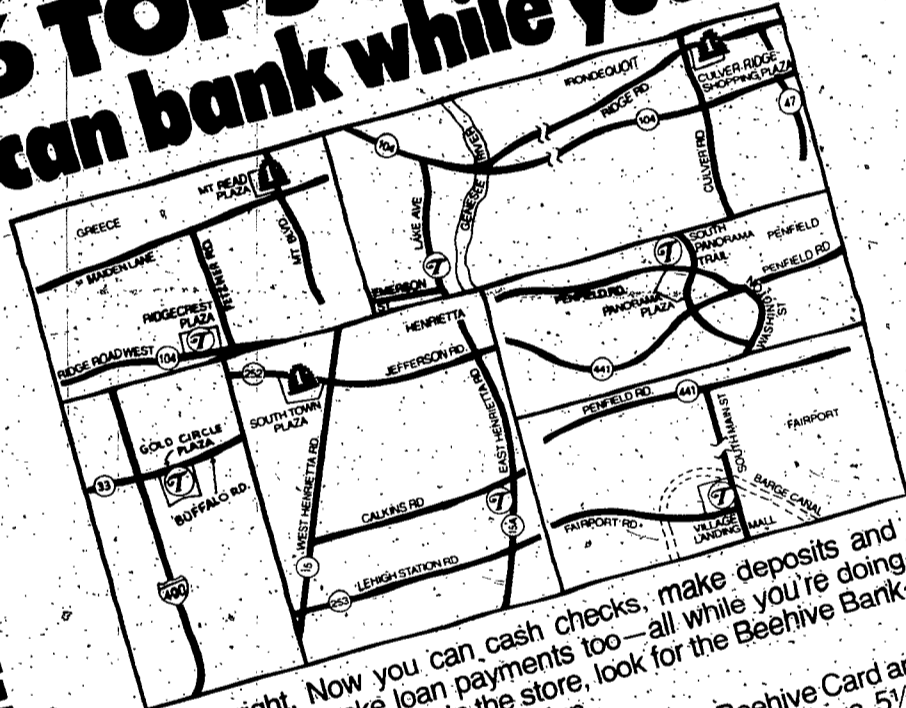
We know little about heaven. But Paul said, "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor. 2:9).

When Hannibal was crossing the Alps and there was danger of discouragement among his soldiers, he kept reminding them, "Post Alpes, Italia" — after the cold Alps, the sunny clime of Italy with its fruited field.

The great things the Lord has done for His people in the past are meant to prove His enduring love and strengthen our hope in the far greater things He will do for us in the future. And our hope in the future should spur us on to greater effort in the present — the intensity of our present interest in the Lord and the depth of our present love will somehow be the measure of our enjoyment in the life to come.

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