



Some 1,000 Fresh Air children will be arriving in the area this summer, anxious to share the fun and love of a host family.

Host Families Needed For Fresh Air Program

With many children looking forward to summer vacation right around the corner, the Fresh Air Friendly Town Program is looking for new host families who will volunteer to give New York City youngsters a two-week break from crowded homes and battered, dangerous streets in July this year.

The program is sponsored by the Fresh Air Fund. Host families are invited to choose a child most suited to their own family, aged five to twelve of either sex. The host family is asked to provide a bed, food and love for the child. All other expenses, including transportation and medical services, are provided for by the Fresh Air Fund.

Many of the previous host families have their own treasured memories of past summers and of the young children whom they helped to find new hope and new life just in living with them

and sharing their life for a two-week period.

The children who benefit each year from the Friendly Town Program have their happy memories also. The bracing freshness of the early morning air, a barefooted walk down a tree-lined country lane, a summer sunset, the generous sharing in childhood games and adventures. "These are wonderful gifts to offer a child whose life is confined during the rest of the year to the streets and tenements of New York City," said Fran Wissick, publicity chairman for the local program.

New York has thousands of these youngsters. It is hoped that all those families who have been part of the Friendly Town Program in the past, will welcome them back again this year. And, hopefully, a host of new families in towns and villages throughout the

Rochester and Monroe County area will join the Friendly Town Program of the Fresh Air Fund and welcome New York's young who will otherwise not benefit from a two-week vacation this summer.

This summer, more than ever, the children need the generosity and love of people who will open their doors and their hearts, offering them and their brothers and sisters a short vacation in their homes.

Approximately 1,000 Fresh Air children will be arriving in the area this summer. The first group arrives July 9 and returns July 23. The second group arrives July 25 for their two-week stay, with a host family. For more information on sponsoring a child, please contact the local Fresh Air Fund representative, Sarah Capriotti, at 586-7155, or Fran Wissick at 223-6352.

Community Residence Week

In an effort to better educate the community concerning group homes the Mary Cariola Children's Center will sponsor Community Residence Week on May 19-23. The children's center, a non-profit agency housed at the Al Sigi Center, opened the first group home for severely multiply handicapped children in Monroe County last December.

"Because of their severe handicapping conditions these children are unable to live in their own homes or with foster families, and their needs are better served in a small family modeled group rather than in a large institution," said Kathleen Russell, residential director.

Persons interested in seeing the residence are asked to call Ms. Russell between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at 385-1082 to arrange individual or group tours.

Charismatic Mass

The diocesan Committee for Charismatic Renewal will sponsor a Charismatic Mass on Sunday, May 25, beginning at 2:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua.

Homilist will be Father Richard Schiblin, C.S.S.R., from Oakland, Calif. Father James Connolly, SJ, diocesan liaison, will celebrate the Mass. All are invited.

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Insights in Liturgy

Celebrating In Special Times

By Father Robert J. Kennedy

It is no secret that the Office of Liturgy, and the present writer in particular, take a position which is not very supportive of "theme Masses." This is especially true when the theme is decided by the planning group without any reference to the season, feast, occasion, scripture or prayer texts. Themes, if they are to be used at all, should always emerge from the texts of the celebration (which usually offer several possibilities) and never be imposed from outside.

However it is also true that liturgy is the expression of the people who worship in a particular time and place. These celebrations are the prayer, the sacrifice of praise, of this particular faithful community. Thus, there are times when particular "themes" should be celebrated by the worshipping community because of the needs and situation of that community.

For this reason, parish liturgy planners should become familiar with two sections of the Sacramentary and Lectionary that are largely overlooked: Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, and Votive Masses.

In the first section for Various Needs and Occasions,

there are 56 sets of prayer texts and multiple readings related to almost as many needs and occasions. These cover situations of church life, civil life and various human needs. Included would be a Mass for the Bishop which could be used on May 27 which is the anniversary of Bishop Clark's ordination as bishop or June 26 which is the anniversary of his installation. There are also Masses for Vocations, the Unity of Christians, the Spread of the Gospel and Pastoral and Spiritual Meetings; there are Masses for Those Who Serve in Public Office; for the Progress of Peoples, and for Peace and Justice; there are Masses for Productive Land, After the Harvest, for the Sick, for Prisoners, and in Thanksgiving. There is a wealth of possibilities.

In the section of Votive Masses, there are 18 possible Masses presented, again with multiple readings suggested. These Masses cover such devotional themes as the Holy Eucharist, the Sacred Heart, the Holy Spirit, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Apostles, and so on.

Now, having suggested some of these possible "themes" for celebrations, let me comment on why, when and how these Masses can and should be used, lest I appear to deny my opening statement.

(1) Why? This answer has already been given: because liturgy is the expression of prayer and faith of the people. When a particular worshipping community finds itself in a special situation of

praise or need, an appropriate celebration can be planned to focus on that situation and to place it in the presence of God. Planners should keep in mind, however, that every Eucharist has a universal theme: God is thanked for all things, and all the needs of all his people are commended to his care. Focus on a particular aspect of God's mystery or a particular situation or need takes nothing away from this universal character.

(2) When? The use of these Special and Votive Masses is restricted to when no other celebration takes precedence. These are occasional, not regular, celebrations. The center of the liturgical celebrations is the whole mystery of Christ as it unfolds during the liturgical seasons, and especially as it is celebrated on each Sunday. The solemnities, feasts and memorials of the Lord, the Blessed Mother, the apostles and saints also take precedence over any special Mass. However, this still leaves plenty of opportunities for these occasions as the need arises. Planners should check the General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar in the front of the Sacramentary, or an Ordo for Mass, to find out when these Masses are permitted.

(3) How? Special and Votive Masses can be used when allowable, at daily Mass or with special groups. Special Masses either praise God for his work and presence in some situation or ask him for help and strength in some need. Votive Masses are celebrated out of the devotion prompted in the hearts of people by some aspect of our faith,

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