



Father Donald Murphy, pastor emeritus of St. Pius Tenth Church in Chili, the parish which developed from St. Feehan's, poses before the old church, now on the museum grounds.

St. Feehan's to Open Doors to Worshipers

Mumford — St. Feehan's Church once again will house an assembly worshipping God. The 126-year-old building which once served as the parish church for what is now St. Pius Tenth Parish, will be formally opened on the grounds of the Genesee Country Museum, Saturday, June 14.

Father Donald J. Murphy who was the last pastor of St.

Feehan's and the first for St. Pius Tenth, will celebrate a Mass at 10 a.m. in the building. The Mass will be in Latin and parts of the old Latin Missa de Angelis will be sung. Guests invited to attend have been encouraged to wear period costume, Father Murphy said.

According to Father Murphy, St. Feehan's was in 1854, the parish church for Catholics in the vicinity of Chestnut Ridge Road in Chili. Originally called the "Swamp Church" because it was built on swamplands, St. Feehan's was in 1854 moved to higher ground and for many years served as a mission church of parishes in Scottsville and Churchville.

In 1976 work was begun on dismantling the church, board by board, prior to its move to the museum grounds.

Father Murphy said that a major surprise came in removing the church. The director of the museum felt that the steeple of the church was not authentic of 1854. He felt that it was added in 1882 when the church was first moved. He decided that the steeple should be removed and destroyed. In the process, to



The steeple topples.



When the church was relocated, the steeple was destroyed because it was not as old as the rest of the building. However, the metal cross which surmounted the steeple was saved, rejuvenated and remounted, this time as a summons to faith in the cemetery which used to surround the church. A plaque on the foundation reads: "This cross, Adorned the Steeple of St. Feehan's Church, our Parish Church from 1854 to 1954. It is now in the Genesee Country Museum."

the amazement of all, Father Murphy said, the original wood cross was revealed still erect on the small old church. It had been buried in the steeple for almost a hundred years.

Father Murphy apologized that "since the church is small and accomodates only around 125 people, there is naturally little space for the many who would like to participate in this event. But during later visits to the Genesee Country Museum, the church will be open and you can make a visit."

The restoration of the church, Father Murphy said, was greatly aided by Father Robert McNamara of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Area Hillel To Sponsor Jazz Concert

The Rochester area Hillel Foundation, headquartered at the Interfaith Chapel of the University of Rochester, will present a special "Donors" benefit performance, Rochester Jazz All Stars, Sunday, June 8 at 8 p.m. in the Interfaith Chapel.

Featured on the program are Sal Sparrazza, trumpet; John Beck, drums; Eddie Milburn, saxophone; Barney Mallon, bass; and Dave Remington, trombone.

Further information on the work of Hillel or about the concert is available by calling (716) 275-4323.

Seniors Club

The Senior Citizens Social Club will gather at the Church of the Annunciation hall, 1754 Norton Street from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 7. Dancing to the music of John Capone and Orchestra will be featured.

Insights in Liturgy

Silence In Life, Liturgy

By Father James E. Hewes

Recently I was spending a day at Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey at Piffard. It is one of the most peaceful places I know. Being there reminded me of a time I took some of our teenagers there. I asked the young people what they liked about the experience. One of the boys (from a large family) said: "I like the silence best, but it was so quiet it was deafening."

It was quite and insight and his reaction was probably not much different than most of us. We live today more than ever in a time of noise. It is practically impossible to escape from the radios, TV, stereos, traffic and so many other forms of noise that constantly surround us. We long for quiet and yet are so unaccustomed to it that we run from silence when we are confronted with it.

Silence is difficult in other areas too. We know on the human level that we are used to sharing and talking with our friends, but we find it hard just to be comfortable with mutual silence. This shows that our relationships need much growth until we can learn the value of one another's silent gift of self. This is illustrated by a story of a man in the early Church who approached a bishop for some words of wisdom. The bishop didn't say anything for quite awhile, so the young man left with great disappointment. The bishop responded by saying: "If he wasn't edified by my silence, he won't be edified by my words."

The idea of mutual silence was also brought home to me when I visited a person in the advanced stages of cancer. The person was unable to talk at all. I realized the deepest gift to give her at that time was just to be silent with her. There wasn't anything that words could add to the gentle touch and silent prayer of each other's presence. It was very difficult to be there in silence, and yet there was an unexplainable and attractive beauty of those quiet moments together.

The uncomfortable feeling with silence is because it seems like a vacuum, like something is missing. Yet silence is not an absence of sound but the occasion or ultimate understanding. Silence is as necessary to our heart as oxygen is to our lungs. For without silence our activities become mere business, our conversions become hollow and our prayer becomes empty. We begin to doubt our own convictions and lose the freshness and centeredness of our lives. Silence gives honesty to our words, love to our gift of service and depth to our prayer. It gives a sense of completeness to our lives.

We need to find time and places for exterior silence. Yet this is only a preparation for the deeper silence we must find within ourselves. We cannot acquire this interior silence of stillness without an effort. For a

stillness has a language all its own that requires as much learning and discipline as any foreign language that is known. This can be helped by learning ways of breathing, relaxation, handling distractions and many other practical aids. These methods and techniques can help us prepare for silence, but ultimately it lies on our own attitude and openness to God's grace. We must be willing to forget everything else as important except waiting trustingly in the hands of our Beloved. For the deepest silence we can find is not something we acquire with our effort alone, but rather a gift we accept from our gracious God.

Silence is the recognition of the presence of God: We can say nothing because God has spoken His ultimate Word in Christ. Prayer is our response to Christ's presence within us. In silence we listen to God so that we might respond in prayer. In silence we forget ourselves and the usual control of our lives, while we wait in stillness for the person we love to speak. In silence we become aware of being touched by God, deeper than any words could express. It is through that we realize who we are and what we are about. We truly become aware of the source

of our lives, God's dwelling within us.

Silence is essential for prayer and this is especially true for the prayer of the Church — the liturgy. Therefore silence must be a vital part of all our liturgical celebrations. The silent pauses at the Sunday Eucharist, for example, are not meant to make the liturgy longer or an invitation to nervous inactivity. These silent moments can be the most active and personal times in the entire celebration, when each person, out of the stillness of his/her heart, reinforces the spirit of the worship performed by the whole community. It provides for the depth of our worship and offsets the mechanical style or excessive wordiness that can creep into the liturgy.

Silence in the liturgy is the sacred quiet which opens up to God's Spirit. It is out of such moments that God can really get through to us and move us to truly uplifting vocal praise and song. These silent moments serve to embrace and emphasize the words that have gone before. It allows us a chance to catch our breath. Silent pauses allow us to reflect on what we are really doing. It gives us a chance to listen to God in our hearts and to make real in our own lives the words of the psalmist: "Be still and know that I am God."

Charismatic Weekend Planned June 27-29

Catholics interested or involved in the charismatic renewal will have the opportunity to take part in a Pastoral Training Weekend scheduled in the Rochester area, June 27-29, according to Bill Beatty of Charismatic Renewal Service in South Bend, Ind.

"The Pastoral Training Weekend is a carefully designed learning experience which utilizes videotaped teachings from the National Leaders Conference held at Notre Dame in August 1979," Beatty said.

The weekend will take place at Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road in Rochester. Nationally recognized leaders in charismatic renewal will be seen on 13 half-hour talks to be viewed on a large screen. In addition, discussion periods, worship sessions and a Mass will be on the program.

Videotapes will feature Auxiliary Bishop Joseph McKinney of Grand Rapids, Mich.; Ralph Martin of Brussels, Belgium; Jesuit Father Harold Cohen of New Orleans; Sister Anne Therese

Shields of Steubenville, Ohio; Sister Brieghe McKenna of Tampa, Fla., and Dorothy Ranaghan of South Bend.

Further information is available from Pastoral Training Weekend, 237 N. Michigan St., South Bend, Ind. 46601 or by telephoning (219) 234-6021. Anyone wishing to register should send \$20 together with name and address to the South Bend address.

Fr. Brennan To Speak

Father Joseph P. Brennan, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, will give a presentation on the Future of Church-Synagogue Relations on Wednesday, June 11, starting at 7:30 p.m. at Temple B'rith Kodesh.

Father Brennan will leave this summer for new duties as dean of St. Edmund's House at Cambridge University in England. Temple B'rith Kodesh is located at 2131 Elmwood Ave. A reception will follow Father Brennan's lecture.

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