

At Your Parish . . .



Bible School

St. Theodore's pastor, Father Gerald E. Dunn, joined the 60 children participating in the Vacation Bible School at a nearby swimming pool during a party that marked the closing of the program's fourth year at the Spencerport Road parish. Dave Faraone, a seminarian at St. Bernard's, coordinated the program that brought children from Grades 1 through 6 together for four weeks to learn from the Scriptures and put them into practice. Faraone lauded the nineteen teenagers who donated their time to assist him this summer. "It was their faith in action that brought the good news alive for the kids attending."

St. Charles Borromeo

The Education Committee at St. Charles Borromeo will sponsor a presentation on "Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong?" by Father Terence Fleming, chaplain at Brockport State University, on Tuesday, Sept. 9. The presentation will take place in the school library, 3003 Dewey Ave. beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Father Fleming's talk will include such areas as "the Church as former of conscience, the moral demand of the Gospel, new rite of Penance, and formation of conscience today," according to a parish release. All those interested in attending are welcome.

Sacred Heart Cathedral

The Rosary Guild at Sacred Heart Cathedral will hold its first meeting on Monday, Sept. 8 starting with Mass at 7:30 p.m. A teen supper will follow. Those interested in attending are asked to bring a

dish to pass. For further information or to make reservations members or prospective members are asked to call Peggy Best, 647-9758.

St. Thomas the Apostle

The annual parish picnic at St. Thomas the Apostle parish will take place this year on Sunday, Sept. 7, from 1:30 to

5:30 p.m. The picnic will be at the St. Paul Exempts on Thomas Avenue. All are invited.

Holy Family, Rochester

The Holy Family Theater will present the production "Guys and Dolls" on September 11-13 at the Holy Family Auditorium, on the

corner of Jay and Ames Streets in the city. The presentation will begin at 8 p.m. each evening. The public is invited to attend.

St. Margaret Mary,

Parish members at St. Margaret Mary recently welcomed a Laotian family which the parish is sponsoring. The Sae Chao family has been waiting for nearly two years in a refugee camp for sponsors to aid them in resettling.

The family members, Long Yoon Sae Chao and his wife Fani Pou; his parents Mou Ang Sin and Yao Kouan, and seventeen year old brother Ou Kouan, are currently residing on Hamilton Street in the city until permanent arrangements are completed.

Madeline Teremy and Mary Dee coordinated the sponsorship.



The Sae Chao Family arrived at the Rochester Airport and were greeted by (back row from left) Father Robert Smith, pastor, and Father Gerard Guli, associate pastor.

The annual opening dinner meeting of the Rosary Society at St. Margaret Mary will take place on Monday, Sept. 8 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Admission is by ticket only and may be purchased by contacting Mary Anne Santangelo, 544-3355. New parishioners are welcome to attend.

Good Shepherd

The Rosary Society at Good Shepherd has invited "all women of the parish" to attend the first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, Sept. 9 starting at 7:30 p.m. Those interested in attending may call Chris Matyjakowski, 359-1299.



Promise Fulfilled

St. John of Rochester Home School Association president Harold MacMillan, left, presents Father Bernard Dollen, pastor with a check for \$2,400 for the kindergarten building fund as Sister Marilyn Tripp, school principal, looks on. The check represents the completion of a promise by the Home School Association to raise that amount for the school.

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Fr. John Reedy

Looking for the Lord

A Vote Against Changes

The proposal to reduce the number of obligatory Holy Days for Catholics in the United States did not seem to be an issue which would generate strong reactions, for or against.

Neither did the change regarding the obligation of fast and abstinence.

I was present at the meeting of bishops when they decided to lighten the obligatory requirements for fast and abstinence. At the

time, no one seemed very excited about the issue.

The principal reason for the change seemed to be that the observance had taken on an exaggerated importance for Catholics. Some people regarded themselves as good Catholics if they ate fish on Fridays and observed the Lenten fast. For some of these people, the external observance had supplanted internal commitment.

Still, none of those bishops seemed to be crusading for the change, or against it. It just wasn't seen as very important. And, for the sake of honesty, I admit that I didn't see it as important.

But we all missed the symbolic significance of such a custom, its importance as a custom which served to identify the community of Catholics. Every community needs external signs, symbols, traditions as manifestations of its unity.

Most of those external signs of our tradition are now gone. I suspect that the children who grew up in homes devoid of all the symbols and traditions of Catholic life have, for this reason, a diminished sense of church.

Many of the changes that have come about as a result of Vatican II are genuinely important. Even though such changes might have done some damage to our sense of Catholic unity, they were justified because of the positive values they involved.

My point is that our Catholic leaders need a sensitivity to the psychology of change, a sensitivity to the indirect effects as well as those which are directly intended.

In direct results, I could make a pretty good argument for reducing the number of Holy Days of Obligation. Many Catholics do not observe them because of work and school schedules. Some people are bothered in conscience when they have legitimate excuses. A great many more simply ignore the law — and that makes for bad law.

But, in spite of these arguments, I still offer my vote against the change. The condition of American Catholics, still trying to absorb all the church has offered us during the last 15 years, calls for a period of restraint in further changes in our traditions.

Let's reserve any further adaptation for those matters which are truly important for the life and faith of the church.

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