



St. Feehan's

This charming water color, entitled, "St. Feehan's Church from the Garden," done by Virginia Dryer, is part of an exhibit of watercolor paintings of the 19th century village at Genesee Country Museum in Mumford. The display is on view at the Town Hall in the village from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Labor Day.

Fr. Joseph M. Champlin



Our Church Family

New Spirit In Diocese

Four years ago Catholics in California's Orange County were cut off from the Los Angeles archdiocese and made into a unit of their own by the Holy Father.

The pope appointed easy-going, soft-speaking, gently smiling Bishop William Johnson, an auxiliary in Los Angeles, as Chief Shepherd of the new diocese.

One of Bishop Johnson's initial moves was to inaugurate a program of monthly, round-the-clock eucharistic adoration in all parishes. His office assigned a date to each church and the people then began every month on that day to keep a prayer vigil for 24 hours before the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Couples, families, and individuals now sign up for a half-hour period of private worship on the parish's "official prayer day."

The bishop requested at the onset that his people have two main intentions before their minds throughout these holy moments: the spiritual renewal of the Orange diocese, and the fostering of vocations to the priesthood or the religious life.

This diocesan network of eucharistic worship would draw applause from Pope John Paul II, in his letter of last Lent on the "Mystery and Worship of the Holy Eucharist," he urged that eucharistic prayer "fill our churches also outside the timetable of Masses."

More specifically, the Holy Father stated: "Adoration of Christ in this sacrament of love must also find expression in various forms of eucharistic devotion: personal prayer before the blessed sacrament, hours of adoration, periods of exposition — short, prolonged and annual."

Those two petitions — diocesan spiritual renewal and increase of vocations — also seem to have been answered.

In June, the majority of priests gathered at the University of San Diego's

campus for their annual week's retreat. They had voted to make this as a group rather than split into smaller sections or go off as individuals to various retreat houses. The spirit of joy, fraternity, support and prayerfulness so evident suggested to me that the Orange diocese may have a model for other U.S. dioceses to follow.

Only a minimal number of priests remained behind; sufficient personnel to cover emergency calls. The total withdrawal of most clergy from parishes for a week of prayer must speak eloquently to the religious and laity of the prime importance given to spiritual renewal in the diocese.

Bishop Johnson was at the retreat from beginning to end — sitting through every conference, eating with the priests, sharing in the optional discussion sessions, celebrating the different liturgies, and enjoying the wine, cheese and songfest on the last evening.

His words at the homily of the concluding Eucharist, "It is a joy for me to be your bishop," clearly came from the heart. The relationship of this man to his clergy very much reflects the ideal sketched by Vatican II's decree on the "Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church."

Article 16 reads: "His priests, who assume a part of his duties and concerns, should be the objects of his particular affection. He should regard them as sons and friends. He should always be ready to listen to them and cultivate an atmosphere of easy familiarity with them; thus facilitating the pastoral work of the entire diocese."

The Orange diocese has some splendid young priests and seminarians — talented and dedicated; a sign that other intention for an increase in vocations is already being realized. Moreover, their affection for Bishop Johnson is not concealed.

On the way to the airport, a husky, handsome soon-to-be-ordained seminarian commented: "I really love that man, am happy he is our bishop and am proud to be a part of the Orange diocese."

To Kiss the Earth

Following are excerpts from statements made recently by Pope John Paul II while at Castel Gandolfo:

On Pope Paul VI:

Among the many images that characterized the figure of this great Bishop of Rome and Successor of St. Peter, there is one that is particularly striking. During his pilgrimage in the Holy Land, Paul VI, immersed in prayer, deeply bent, is kneeling in the naked earth, in the place where the feet of the Son of God once passed.



Visiting the various other places of the earth, Pope Paul was accustomed, after alighting from the plane, to begin his visit by kissing the ground on which he had arrived. I have adopted this habit from him and I observe it faithfully.

I think that this gesture expresses precisely what the Psalm proclaims: "O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"

There are moments in which man feels the need of particular prostration before God, present in the world and in veneration of the Majesty of the Creator, for

Pope Wishes Poland Its 'Daily Bread'

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope John Paul II, in his strongest statement to date on the labor unrest in Poland, has written a letter praying for his homeland to win "its daily bread, social justice, and the safeguarding of its inviolable rights to its life and development."

The letter, addressed to Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski of Warsaw, the Catholic primate of Poland, was made public in Warsaw on Aug. 22 and released at the Vatican on Aug. 23.

It was delivered in person to

Cardinal Wyszynski by Father Stanislaw Dziwisz, the pope's personal secretary.

In the letter, the pope said, "With all my heart I pray that the Polish church, led by its primate, may, by turning to her who was given us to defend our nation, once again help its people in the difficult struggle it faces for its daily bread, social justice and the safeguarding of its inviolable rights..."

The reference was to the Virgin Mary, under her title of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the patron of Catholic Poland.

Family Center Joins Program for Elderly

Catholic Family Center recently announced its sponsorship of the STAR (Sharing, Touching, Acting, Reaching) Program, jointly funded by the Monroe County Office for the Aging and the United Community Chest.

STAR is a non-medical home support program for homebound elderly in Monroe County which provides "friendly visiting, telephone reassurance, and chore work," according to a Catholic Family Center release.

The goal of the program is to prevent or delay elderly from entering health care institutions unnecessarily and to enable them to remain independent in their homes, the release said.

STAR is currently looking for "sensitive individuals throughout the county to volunteer some time to their elderly neighbors." Those interested in services available or those interested in becoming a STAR volunteer may contact STAR, 546-7220 any weekday.

Richard Course Scheduled

Evening sessions of the non-denominational Gabriel Richard Course will be offered at Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., beginning at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 16.

Consisting of 10 weekly sessions, the course helps persons from all walks of life to speak more effectively, unlock hidden talents, gain confidence, and skills and turn good ideas into action.

The course is Christian-motivated and trains individuals to be more effective in every area — business, family life, church and community.

A free demonstration preview of the program will be offered at Nazareth, at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 9. Classes are limited to 30 and advance registration is available by contacting Mrs. Bernardine Begley, 663-8722 or Pauline Scullin, 663-7146.

him who is the "rock of our salvation": only Love and only Holiness.

All Paul VI's life was full of such worship and veneration of the infinite Mystery of God. This is precisely how we see his figure in the light of everything he did and taught; and the further his earthly life and his ministry recede from us in time, the more clearly we see it.

To a group of farmers celebrating their annual Peach Festival:

My cordial welcome to you all and my sincere thanks for the kind gesture which, following a now-traditional custom, you have desired to repeat this year also on the occasion of the Peach Festival: you have had the kind thoughtfulness to bring me personally a basket of these precious fruits of your land.

The peach, a tasty and fragrant fruit, the boast of the fertile hills, is not just a source of income for those who cultivate it; it can be the intermediary of a message of freshness and joy. Its taste and its perfume are an invitation to discover again the genuine riches of nature and at the same time to recognize in them the generosity of the Creator, the loving giver of "every perfect gift."

My wish is that every believer, in the presence of this as also of the other fruits of the land, will be able to adopt the point of view of St. Paul, who saw in them "foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth."

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3 tier whipped cream, custard filling
serves up to 100, \$60 We Deliver

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