

COURIER-JOURNAL

Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

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Tioga Parishes Launching Renewal Weekends

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Owego — Four parishes in Tioga County are conducting an ambitious program this fall, which could be a pilot project for the diocese.

The Parish Renewal Weekend was given at St. Patrick's, Owego, last weekend, and will be repeated during the next two weekends. St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, will conduct the program the first and third weekends in October, and it also will be offered at St. John the Evangelist, Newark Valley, and St. Francis, Catonk, in November.

The program requires a commitment of Friday evening and all day Saturday and Sunday by those parishioners participating. The program, open to all parishioners over the age of 18, is conducted by parish priests and parishioners.

Three priests from the parishes attended a training session for leaders last May in Syracuse. Father Thomas Watts, St. Patrick's co-pastor, said. They are: Father Albert Cason, St. Patrick's co-pastor; Father Eugene Weis of St. John's, Newark Valley / St. Francis, Catonk; and Father Elmer Schmidt of St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin.

They returned to Tioga County enthused enough about the program to get parishioners from each parish and Father Watts to attend a "seed" weekend last June given at St. James Church, Johnson City, by Msgr. Peter Owens, a pastor experienced with the program.

The parishioners attending returned with a conviction to make the program available in their own parishes, Father Watts related, and the three parishes began planning over the summer.

The renewal program was developed by Jesuit Father Charles Gallagher, also known for his work in Marriage Encounter. It has several goals, Father Watts said, including establishment of a sense of importance to the individual person as a Catholic, and a sense of mission as a Catholic and a parish member.

He also cited as important the reconciliation aspect of the weekend, which involves a reconciliation of priests with the people, and of the participants with their Church.

The program consists of 11 "growth experiences," each of which includes prayer, a Scripture reading and reflection, a talk by a priest, and further reflection by team members, in small and large groups.

Reaction has been favorable to the program across the country, as participants are quoted as saying they have gained a commitment to their faith and their Church, which

previously they had thought impossible.

Father Watts pointed to the enthusiastic response of those who attended the "seed" weekend as evidence of the program's potential.

The weekend runs for three hours on Friday evening, and then from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, ending with Mass.

The priests' enthusiasm for the project can be seen in their willingness to commit themselves to such a schedule. Father Watts noted that he and Father Cason will have to take turns leaving the program to say Mass, making for three consecutive hectic weekends. Father Weis pointed out that with the five Masses he says each weekend in two churches, his finding a replacement will be an important factor in scheduling the weekends.

The information and training the parishes have received all comes from the Syracuse diocese, where the program is sponsored by the diocese. Heading up the program in Syracuse is Father Joseph Champlin, a Courier-Journal columnist whose columns have included favorable comments on the program during the past several months.

Parishioners of St. Patrick's, Owego, were asked to register during the summer for the program, which will be repeated Sept. 12-14 and Sept. 19-21. Father Watts said that another weekend might be scheduled in October if others

wish to participate. As of early September, more than 100 persons had signed up, he said.

Included in the mailing to St. Patrick's parishioners was a letter from Bishop Clark supporting participation in the program, and adding: "I shall look forward to hearing from you about the effectiveness of the program. Your own experience shared with other parish communities could be a source of spiritual renewal in many parts of our diocese."

St. Margaret Mary parishioners are receiving information this week, Father Schmidt said, with an option

of attending either Oct. 3-5 or Oct. 17-19.

Father Weis stated that dates should be announced soon for what he plans to be three weekends, two in Newark Valley and one in Catonk. He noted that he hopes to have every parishioner participate.

Father Weis also noted that he is keeping the Priests Council informed on the program, and Father Cason, as Tompkins-Tioga regional coordinator, is keeping the diocese up to date on the program's progress.

Hospital to Benefit From Art Auction

Elmira — The Development Council of St. Joseph's Hospital, in conjunction with the hospital auxiliary, is sponsoring its second annual Art Auction Sunday, Sept. 14, at the downtown Holiday Inn in Elmira. This year's event will once again offer a wide variety of selections which can be used as a hedge against inflation.

Purchasing art objects as an investment, as well as a beautiful addition to any home, is becoming increasingly popular. Last year's offering of two 18-karat gold Dali sculptures, when compared with today's gold prices, drives home the point of investing in art.

Jeanne G. Meacham has been named chairwoman of the event; she is being assisted by John Gough.

Mrs. Meacham was an art teacher in the Elmira school system and an Elmira College faculty associate in art.

A preview of items to be offered will begin at 7:30 p.m.; wine and cheese will be served. Bidding will start promptly at 8:30 p.m.

The Howard Mann Art Center, Lambertsville, N.J., will conduct the auction. Tickets may be obtained through the hospital Development Office or in the hospital Gift Shop.



Mrs. Jean Milazzo, immediate past president of the Ladies of Charity of Elmira, holds the organization's new banner.

Ladies of Charity Marking 40 Years

Elmira — The Ladies of Charity of Elmira and Chemung County are celebrating their 40th anniversary this year. The organization was formed in June 1940 by the late Miss Mary Fitzgerald, who also headed Catholic Charities in Elmira.

Currently, more than 200 women belong to the group, which involves daily practice of the spiritual and corporal

works of mercy.

At a recent banquet marking the anniversary, a new banner was presented to the group.

New officers also were installed. Serving in the coming year will be Mrs. Margaret Bellizia, president; Mrs. Dorothea Watts, vice president; Theresa Hourihan, treasurer; and Mrs. Joanne Douglas, secretary.

Lourdes Festival Set this Weekend

Elmira — From a small ice cream social, attended by a couple of hundred people, the Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival has emerged as a two-day, outdoor event offering a variety of music, ethnic dancing and other attractions

Peace Run

Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace will sponsor a Run for Peace on Saturday, Sept. 27 in Lechworth State Park, Cabin Area D. There will be a 5 Km Fun Run at 11 a.m. and a 10 Km race at 12:30 p.m.

Applications for the race are available by writing to Genesee Valley Citizens for Peace, Box 363, Genesee, N.Y. 14454, or call 243-4000 during the day. Pre-entry fee is \$4 and \$5 on the day of the race.

ME Program Scheduled

Ithaca — There will be a Marriage Encounter information night Sunday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora St., Ithaca. Any couples interested in learning more about the program are welcome.

in a two-acre "tent city."

That's the evolution of the "first" Fall Festival at Our Lady of Lourdes next Saturday, Sept. 13, and Sunday, Sept. 14.

A parade at 1 p.m. Saturday, co-sponsored by the West Elmira Fire Department, will open the festivities. The parade will include more than a dozen pieces of modern and antique fire trucks, a bagpipe band, and decorated automobiles and bicycles.

Attractions will include crafts, baked goods, plants and flowers. The festival hours will be from 1 to 9 p.m. Saturday, and from noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

There will be a spaghetti supper in the church hall from 4 to 7 p.m. on Saturday. There will be continuous music on Saturday from 4 p.m. until closing, and additional performances by musicians and dancers on Sunday afternoon.

Garage Sale

St. Bridget's Church will host a Garage Sale to benefit the St. Bridget's Guild Renovation Fund on Saturday, Sept. 13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The sale features furniture, clothes and utensils. The Church is located on 175 St. Bridget's Dr. behind School No. 9.

Memorial Mass Scheduled

Elmira — A Mass in memory of those persons who have died at St. Joseph's Hospital during the past two months will be celebrated tonight, Wednesday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. in the Little Flower Chapel of the Dunn Memorial at the hospital.

The Masses, a program of

New Staff At St. Michael's

Change is the theme at St. Michael's School, Newark, for the 1980-81 school year. Besides a new principal, Miss Charlotte Pitrella, new teachers will join the school's staff. They are: Mrs. Gail Davi, who received her BA in elementary education from Potsdam, will teach 5th and 6th grades; Thomas Wunder, a graduate of Genesee and Nazareth Colleges, will teach 7th and 8th grades; Dennis

the hospital Pastoral Care Department, give grieving families and relatives an opportunity to pray for the deceased, and for them to speak with Pastoral Care Department staff.

All friends and relatives of the deceased are welcome. Refreshments will be served following the Mass.

Greco, an alumnus of St. Michael's and a graduate of Oswego, will be teaching 9th grade mathematics.

An anticipated change, according to Miss Pitrella, is the reopening of two primary classrooms that closed when enrollment dropped. She sees the reopening as a possibility because there is a waiting list for grades prekindergarten through fourth grade.

Mrs. Franz Dies

Apalachin — Mass of Christian Burial was offered for Mrs. Elsie (Cortright) Franz of St. Margaret Mary's Church Thursday, Aug. 28.

Mrs. Franz, formerly of Corning, had been rectory cook at St. Margaret Mary's for six years. In the Corning area, she had been a school teacher for many years, and a secretary to the Board of Education.

She died Aug. 25 at Our

Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Binghamton, following a long illness. She is survived by a sister, Mrs. Ella Bong of Farmington, Conn., and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Corning. Expressions of sympathy, in her memory, may be made to the Bethany House for Women in Rochester, or to St. Margaret Mary's Church, Apalachin.

Couple Noting 60th

Elmira — Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Cirulli, lifetime members of St. Anthony's Parish, will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary with a Mass at 5:15 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, followed by a dinner for family and friends.

Adolph Cirulli and the former Theresa D'Annunzio were married in St. Anthony's Church Sept. 19, 1920. A 30-year employee of Remington Rand, Cirulli retired last year, at the age of 81, from a part-time position at the Mark Twain golf course. A life member of the Knights of Columbus, Cirulli also has been active in The Elks, the Nocturnal Adoration, and Holy Name and Sacred Heart Societies.

More than 100 people are expected to attend the dinner to be given by their children, Armand of Elmira, Harriet of Trumansburg, and Mrs. Rosemarie Considine of Syracuse.

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