

Knights of Equity Red Mass Sept. 12 To Convene Here

Rochester will be the site of the 85th annual national convention of the Knights of Equity (Friendly Sons of St. Patrick), an Irish fraternal society, on Oct. 23-25. Jointly convening will be the 20th annual convocation of the Daughters of Erin.

More than 200 delegates are expected from cities in five states — New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and Illinois.

Incorporated in 1895 in Cleveland, the Knights of Equity originally was

organized to combat discrimination against Catholics and Irish immigrants. Currently its efforts are directed toward promoting love of God and country and preserving Irish culture in America. Membership includes Catholics of Irish birth or extraction.

Hosts will be members of Rochester Court 10, KE and DE. Heading arrangements, with sessions at the downtown Holiday Inn, are George Fay, James Scahill and John Kirk of 'KE, and Mrs. Isabelle O'Connell and Mrs. Mildred Coyle of DE.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be the principal celebrant and homilist at the 34th Red Mass at St. Mary's Church, 15 South St., Rochester, at 12:15 p.m., Friday, Sept. 12.

Bishop Clark will address local judges, lawyers and law enforcement officials at the Red Mass which originated in the Fourth Century to mark the opening of the courts after the summer recess and is an invocation for God's blessing and guidance.

Co-chairmen of the Red Mass, sponsored by the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild, are John F. Burke and Gerald R. Barrett. Readers will be members of the guild.

The honor guard and ushers will consist of judges, local attorneys, heads of the sheriff's department, city police department, city fire



BISHOP CLARK

department, state troopers and representatives of the Monroe County and other bar associations.

The Red Mass was first celebrated in this area in 1945 by Bishop James E. Kearney. According to John L.

Greisburger, president of the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild, homilies generally aim at stimulating moral perspectives of the legal profession. Last year, Bishop Clark challenged the lawyers to share talents with the less fortunate. As a result, the guild provided volunteer attorneys to work with the elderly and the retarded.

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Ministry Enrichment

An Evening of Recollection for Liturgical Ministers, set for Wednesday, Sept. 17 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at St. Mary's, Auburn, is the first in a series of programs planned for the enrichment of parish ministry and celebration in the diocese this year. The programs are for lecturers, musicians, special ministers of Communion, ushers, presiders and Liturgy planners.

The program will be repeated on Tuesday, Sept. 23 at St. Cecilia's, Rochester, from 7:45-9:45 p.m.; and at St. Patrick's, Corning on Monday, Sept. 29, from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Registration fee is \$5 per person. Those interested in attending may write or call the Office of Liturgy, 1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, 14624 (716) 328-3210.

Fr. John Reedy



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Keeping The Facts Straight

The National Catholic Register published (Aug. 17) a scary report on the conditions existing in Catholic seminaries in the United States.

It reported a "softening up" with psychology replacing theology, little community discipline, problems of sexual misconduct on the rise, illicit liturgical experimentation being commonplace.

Now I don't pretend to know the conditions existing in the 350 seminaries listed in the Official Catholic Directory. I would suspect that somewhere among them you could find instances of all these faults — and probably others not mentioned.

I would also suspect you would find many examples of excellent training in faith, theology and ministry. Most seminaries, I would expect, would fall somewhere in between with a lot of good, dedicated people doing their best to prepare young men from today's world for priestly service in today's church.

But this column is not about seminaries; it's about journalism.

When I read this story, I recalled a report I published in our magazine many years ago. A relatively unknown man had just been appointed to a position of major influence in the church in the United States. We wanted to find out something about the quality of leadership he would offer; we wanted to report that finding honestly.

So, we set out to find people who had known him in different situations, who had worked with him under different conditions. We prepared an inquiry, trying hard to word the questions fairly so they would not tilt toward any particular response.

Since most of the respondents knew the man

well, we realized they could be embarrassed by any responses which were less than laudatory. We therefore assured them that no names would be published, that the report would represent a cumulative response to each question.

The results (about 15 replies) were surprisingly negative. There was nothing scandalous, just an overwhelming judgment that the man was good and sincere, but poorly qualified for the leadership position he had been given.

I re-read all the replies to make sure that our report was not exaggerating this negative judgment. It turned out to be an accurate summary of the opinions we had received.

We published it. Some time later, a friendly critic, who knew the subject of the report, came up to me and said, "John, you blew it on that analysis of _____'s character."

I offered my defense, explaining how we tried to be fair, how I was surprised by the results, why we thought the circumstances justified the withholding of names.

He replied: "Where did you get the list people you contacted?" And I immediately recognized the flaw which undercut the value of the whole procedure.

I had called one man — a fair and honest man — who was familiar with many of the people who could offer such an evaluation. We accepted his list because I respected him and his objectivity.

At the same time, I knew perfectly well that I could have started with someone else who would have given me a completely different set of names, and the final summary might have been strikingly different.

All of this is offered as a caution against taking too seriously a report such as the one in the National Catholic Register. Good journalists try to present reality. But, as one who has been trying to do it for a long time, I'm very wary of accepting such reports as accurate descriptions of what really exists.

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"A Lot Depends on You"

You may have recently suffered the death of your wife or husband and, if most of your friends were other couples, you may find yourself socially isolated now that you are a widow or widower. This is another adjustment you must make to death — and a lot depends on you. You can continue to have just as many friends and social contacts as you had before — and your relationships can be just as meaningful. You may well find, in fact, that your new friends fill more of your own personal needs than those you shared as a couple.

It is difficult, at first, to seek out new friends — or even to accept friendship when it is offered. But you will be well-rewarded for the effort you make — and as you form new relationships, will soon find your life taking on greater meaning and purpose.

We can furnish suggested reading, and information that can help you in adjustment. Please call.

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