

Workers Share in Dignity of Creation

Following are excerpts from an address given by Pope John Paul II to an assembly of tunnel workers, miners, peasants and shepherds at the opening of the Gran Sasso Tunnel connecting Aquila and Teramo.

Beloved friends, the very name of the Gran Sasso once — but no longer — described a chain that "divided" your noble region. Thanks to human work, which has been going on right here for a good many years and has "triumphed" over the most arduous difficulties of a geological and technical nature, the old division can now be considered overcome; and not only in the sense of soon being able to have road connections that are increasingly easy and quick, but from the ethnic and ethical point of view, in the very important and far more significant sense of a further growth in knowledge, in trade, in the mutual relations of collaboration between the populations of this and the neighboring regions.



Friends and brothers who are listening to me! I have come to this place to honor and to celebrate work, and not according to the model of a vague and rhetorical exaltation, but in its actual value, that is, in its capacity and its "virtue" of being changed into a positive contribution to better understanding and to true fellowship among men. A source of material and moral life, work finds precisely here a convincing and eloquent proof of its nature and irreplaceable function, which God the creator assigned to it "from the beginning" and which the Apostle reaffirms forcefully. Here it presents itself, moreover, not as an element of struggle and conflict, but of union and concord within society.

In order that the subject may be clarified even better, I wish to refer now to the two forms of work, or rather to the two categories of workers, whom I see represented here: miners and farmers and shepherds.

How could I forget your professions, with the sacrifices and the difficulties, the uncertainties and the dangers they entail? Certainly there are evident differences in the type of work you carry out: you miners have worked, and work in, the bowels of the earth,

digging, and penetrating it with a lasting and intense effort, which unfortunately is not exempt from risks to health itself; you farmers and shepherds, on the contrary, usually work in the open air, following the normal succession of the seasons. Yet, to both of you, here is an element in common, it is always nature that appears in its reality as God's creature. Working on the earth, outside or inside, you have always before you a work that can, and certainly does, offer you a whole series of reasons to reflect, to meditate, to worship. It has rightly been written that man is a religious being; but it seems to me that those who, like you, live in daily contact with nature and discover it as an admirably ordered totality in its threefold mineral, vegetable and animal kingdom, feel not so much the opportunity, but the facility, I would say, and as it were the invitation, to consider and contemplate in it the almighty and providential work of God, our Creator and our Father. You specifically, because of what you are and what you do, engaged either in the hard toil of digging in the mine or in the tasks of farming and sheep-raising by day and by night, always remember that you must be "ideally" religious spirits, open and attentive to recognize those vestiges that divine Wisdom has left, as numerous as they are evident, in the created world.

Here, in the grandeur of the Apennine Heights, everything speaks to us of the work of God; but here too — I added in the presence of you workers —

everything speaks to us of the work of man. Is there, therefore, a connection between these two works? Certainly there is: God creates in the originality of an operation from nothingness, which makes things exist that did not previously exist; man, on the other hand, transforms, intervenes in — by divine mandate — created things, rising in this way to the rank and to the honor of a collaborator of the Creator himself. Look at your work from this standpoint, too: alongside the above-mentioned motive of contemplation, give it this further dimension, thinking that its dignity is a humble and modest, but actual and real, participation in the transcendent dignity of divine work.

2 Physicians Join Staff at County Jail

Two physicians have joined the staff at the Monroe County Jail, it has been announced by Sheriff Andrew P. Meloni.

Dr. Boris M. Schmigel, medical director of the emergency department Rochester General Hospital, and Dr. Joseph A. DiPaola, a private internist, were selected after consultation with the Jail Health Advisory Committee, according to Meloni.

Jail physicians hold sick call for male and female jail residents five days a week and also are on 24-hour call and work with the advisory committee.

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St. Felix Has Busy Agenda

Clifton Springs — September was a busy month for parishioners at St. Felix Church here.

The Rosary and Altar Society began its fall program with a pot-luck supper on Sept. 16. President Jo Dannahe presided at the business meeting, following which Marty Record of The Village Green Florist Shop gave a demonstration of flower arranging using dried flowers.

A bake sale was also sponsored by the society, Sept. 20 at Patrick's Furniture Store. The sale, under the chairmanship of Loretta Steyaert and Margaret Main, netted \$311.

Last Saturday, a Garage, Attic, Plant and Produce Sale was held at the rectory garage. Ten percent of the proceeds are slated for the parish Human Development Committee. The remainder will go to the Rosary and Altar Society's treasury.

In the planning stage is a Father/Son Breakfast slated for Oct. 26 in the church hall. Betty Parker is chairperson for the event to be catered by Carolyn DeSchepper and Robin Hilburn with the assistance of society members.

Mindszenty Unit Sets Special Day

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation will present a daylong program, "The Present Danger to Faith — Family and Country," at the Genesee Plaza Inn, Saturday, Oct. 11.

Featured speakers include Father William Smith, STD, a nationally known columnist; Eleanor Schlafly; Sister Mary

Eucharist

Father Donald Curtiss will lead the Peoples Eucharistic League in Holy Hour devotions at Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse on Monday, Oct. 13 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Elise, SND; Julia Mitchell and Father James X. O'Reilly. The main speaker of the day will be General Daniel O. Graham (Ret.) of the American Security Council.

Further information on the program is available by calling 473-7475, 244-4308, or 924-7316.

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Forum
"Towards Food Security," a program of film and discussion will be featured at the Catholic Worker Forum, 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 2, at St. Joseph's House, 402 South Ave. Panelists for the evening will be Church Women United.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



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If you are a close friend, you may want to visit at the home of the family. Expressing your own feelings of loss — and your sorrow — lets the family know that others feel their grief. In addition to your visit at the time of the death, your continued contact with the family over the months that follow can be a great help.

In our many years of helping others work through their feelings of grief, we know that the friends of the bereaved were the ones who, ultimately, accepted the responsibility for seeing to the special needs of their sorrowing friends. Their love and concern were the strength that helped the family through the weeks and months of sadness. Please call us for other suggestions on expressions of sympathy.

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