

Insights in Liturgy



In Touch With God

By Sister Estelle Martin, RSM

Did you notice anything different at the top of this column? The hands and the cross signify the meaning of liturgy in our lives. They speak to us of ministry and service, of worship and a bondedness in Christ and of an openness to the Word of God. Hands reach out and bless; they heal and support; they are invitations of friendship and signs of reconciliation. In the center of those hands, the cross of Christ reminds us of the focus of our ministry and worship and life together. It reaffirms our commitment as an Easter people, living in the life, death, resurrection cycle of the paschal mystery.

As human beings we stretch to reach beyond the limits of our humanness toward an ever-enticing horizon of perfection. But we constantly fall short of our grasp. We find it difficult to catch the message of the mystery that is God. In an effort to "translate" the divine into a comprehensible vocabulary we use symbols. Symbolic actions and gestures express our relationship with our Creator. They help to bridge the gap between the finite and the infinite. Because they are concrete expressions of our beliefs, symbols need to be alive and vibrant. As a community of

Hospitals Purchase Blood Unit

Hornell — A hemoperfusion unit, which removes drugs from the blood stream in case of overdosage, has been purchased jointly by Bethesda Community and St. James Mercy hospitals.

The unit is easily transportable, and can be set up in a short time should it be needed at either hospital. Dr. Mavidi K. Hariprasad, specialist in internal medicine, explains that the treatment is only administered in life-threatening cases. Blood is pumped from a large vein of the patient into the hemoperfusion chamber which cleans and purifies the blood which is then returned to the body. He noted that the procedure takes approximately two hours.

Art Show

An Art Show and Sale will be presented by the Friends of Strong Memorial Hospital on Nov. 7-9. The event will benefit the Department of Psychiatry and Community Mental Health Center of Strong Hospital. The event will take place at the Eisenhart Auditorium, 657 East Ave.

believers the symbolic actions of our liturgical worship present us with a reflection on the deeper significance of the presence of God-with-us.

In our celebration of Eucharistic liturgy we confirm our special and beautiful relationship with God. The very act of the gathering of the faith community to pray together is a powerful symbol of the bondedness we have with each other in the wholeness of the body of Christ. The Incarnate Word has come to dwell within and among us. In hospitality and gratitude we join in communal praise of him. This dynamic symbol of a living church, a people of God, becomes the very context for the worship celebration.

When the lector proclaims the reading, the Word of God is released from the pages of scripture and boldly announced to the assembled congregation. As hearers of that Word, we in turn go forth to make the Word come alive in our daily lives. In the common human experience of speaking and listening, we open another facet of our deepening relationship with that Word.

At the greeting of peace it is important to look beyond the tangible handclasp to the intangible truths of reconciliation and unity in Christ. Our western society has accepted the handshake as an appropriate gesture of friendly goodwill, reconciliation after a misunderstanding, and a sign of agreement and contract. To place this familiar form of greeting within the context of the liturgy gives it a new dimension and helps us to integrate worship with life. The peace we offer each other is the extension of that peace we have received from the Father.

In the breaking of the bread, Christ's presence is made manifest to us here and now. Like the two disciples of Emmaus, we "recognize him in the breaking of the bread" (Luke 24:36).

And that same bread, when broken and shared renews again our belief in the faithful presence of Jesus among us. Each symbolic action of Eucharist brings us closer to that moment of truth when all will become as light, and symbol will become reality.

God is continuously revealing himself to us. We, in turn, respond in the only way we know — through human expressions. The lector proclaims the Word, the celebrant breaks the bread, the gathered community shares in the eating and drinking of the body and blood. All these human actions somehow transcend themselves to unfold some of the mystery of God-in-our-midst.

Show to Benefit St. James School

Waverly — The St. James Home School Association is the new sponsor of the third annual "Valley Christmas Show" to be Friday, Nov. 8 from 1 to 8 p.m., and Saturday, Nov. 9, from noon to 5 p.m. at the Ingersoll-Rand Club House in Athens, Pa.

The show offers a centralized showing of Christmas gift ideas from a variety of merchants in the form of a "mini-mall."

With the ever-growing popularity of the large malls, the theme of the show is "Shop in the valley towns and neighboring communities." The areas represented by merchants include Towanda, Owego, Wysox, East Smithfield, Waverly, Sayre and Athens.

Santa Claus will make his first appearance for the 1980 season at the show to talk to good little boys and girls. There will be a professional

photographer available both days.

Refreshments will be available including homemade soup, sandwiches, pizza, hot dogs, homemade pies and beverages. The booth will be staffed by the Home School Association.

Proceeds of the show will benefit St. James School.

Further information can be obtained by contacting either Joan Teeter, 565-4964 or Judy Jennings, 565-9266.

St. Pius X Hosts Parish Mission

A Parish Mission is now under way at St. Pius Tenth parish in Chili. The mission is designed to "provide an opportunity (for parishioners) to pause and reflect on our spiritual life as individuals and as a parish family, before God and before the world," according to Father "Gerald Connor, pastor.

Father Jeremiah McGinley, a Franciscan from New Jersey, will continue through Friday, Oct. 31.

Father McGinley's conferences will be given twice a day, for parishioners' convenience, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. St. Pius Tenth invites all those interested to attend. The church is located at 3000 Chili Ave.

The mission, conducted by

A Celebrating Week At St. Louis School

This week is Catholic Schools Week and the theme is "Choosing a Tradition: Catholic Education." St. Louis School, Pittsford, in keeping with this theme, has planned special family activities for the week. Last Saturday, students and parents took part in a six-mile diocesan marathon. Proceeds from the sponsors will be used for playground equipment and for the National Federation of Catholic Parents.

Elmira State Prison and former assistant pastor at St. Louis, will present a lecture and slide show of prison life to 6th-8th graders. The students will participate in a service project to collect unused greeting cards for the prisoners to send to their families and friends.

St. Louis will end their week of celebrations with students receiving "being open minded" pins, which is this year's school theme.

Later that day a family Mass was celebrated; followed by a reception in the gym. Decorations were made by the students and demonstrated their favorite family tradition.

New traditions help reinforce basic principles and this year, on Oct. 29, Father David Gramke, chaplain at



CONGRESSMAN FISH AOH Supper Set

Auburn — The John F. Kennedy division of the Auburn Ancient Order of Hibernians will hold its annual Communion Supper on Saturday, Nov. 22. The event will begin with Mass at 5 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church and dinner will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Crehan's Restaurant, Market Street.

Guest speaker for the dinner will be Congressman Hamilton Fish, an "outspoken member of the Congressional Ad Hoc Committee for Irish affairs," according to an AOH release.

Thomas D. McNabb and John J. Madden are co-chairmen for the event. Also working on the supper plans are Anna Mae Ferguson, Elizabeth Conboy, Helen Danahe, Edna McConnell, H. Gerard Cuff, John M. Brennan, Nelson Decker and John Donovan.

Return

Judge Morris

Jeffrey H. Morris
Irondequoit Town Justice

Paid for by Comm. to Re-elect Jeffrey Morris, John Littwitz, Treas.

ANDY VIRGILIO GIVES POLITICS A GOOD NAME

"It is good to know that at least one legislator in Albany is especially interested in improving "the quality of life for those least able to help themselves."

Times-Union
October 23, 1980

"His work as Chairman of the Task Force on the Handicapped has earned him the respect of his colleagues who view him as the conscience of the legislature."

Democrat and Chronicle
October 22, 1980

VOTE TO RE-ELECT ASSEMBLYMAN VIRGILIO

Southwest Rochester, Gates, Parma, Riga, Ogden, Sweden

paid for by citizens to re-elect Virgilio John Abbott, treasurer