



### St. Bernard's Forms Boys Choir

The new St. Bernard's Seminary Boys Choir will make its debut at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, at the Seminary Chapel, 2260 Lake Ave.

The 22-member choir has been drawn from several local parishes and the boys range from 8 to 11 in age.

Father Frank E. Lioi, St. Bernard's rector, and Vincent A. Lenti, administrative director of the Community

Education Division of the Eastman School of Music, originated the idea for the choir. Planning and recruitment began last spring.

The choir will be part of the seminary's music program and will perform once a month at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass and on special occasions.

The choir's first appearance outside the seminary will be in a Christmas program sponsored by the Rochester

Theater Organ Society at 8:15 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Auditorium Theater. The seminary's two other musical groups, the Schola and the St. Bernard's Chorale, also will be on that program.

Virginia Miller, director of music at St. Bernard's, will direct the boys choir. Assisting her are seminarians Thomas Garlock and Charles Galligan. Joseph Clemente, a fourth year theology student, will accompany on the organ.

## Helping Couples: Innovative Program Launched

By John Dash

Two years ago, the nation's bishops looked with favor on what they called "like to like ministry" in helping resolve family disharmonies. That ministry, the bishops said in their Plan of Pastoral Action for Family Ministry, would involve couples with similar experiences counselling other couples in times of discord.

Last week, Frank Staropoli of the Office of Family Life, and Steven Webster of the Chili Counselling Center, announced the formation of Helping Couples, a service similar to the one envisioned by the bishops, which is now available to couples with minor marital difficulties.

The new service, Webster said, is a "shared birth" between the Family Life office and the Catholic Family Center, of which the Chili office is an outgrowth.

Staropoli explained that the pilot program, which has been completed, involved "couples solid in their relationships" in the Southwest Region.

Those couples, he said, underwent an initial training program and are now involved in further training. These couples, he said, are available for counselling in marital disputes.

Staropoli said that the program is "geared toward couples having trouble communicating and need that

extra party" to help resolve their disputes.

The program, which he calls an example of "peer ministry," has been developed over the course of the past year. Last February, as an example, both he and his wife included their ideas on developing such a service in their statements before the state planners of the White House Conference on Families.

Webster described the concept as "a major key to social service: multiply service by training 'lay' people to do it."

Any couples interested in the program, either as recipients of the services or as trainees in the delivery of them, have been asked to call Roseanne Wesley at the Chili Counselling Center, (716) 594-9454.

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Word for Sunday

The rabbi was not impressed, the story goes. He simply got up and went to the window and looked out upon the city. Then he responded, "I see no difference."

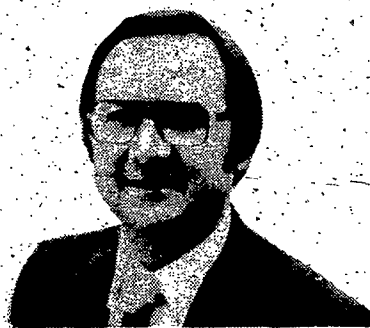
If the Messiah has come, there should be a difference.

But making a difference depends on us. Advent is a call to change our way of life for the better. John flagellated Pharisees and Sadducees because of their smugness. They thought being "children of Abraham" was enough. John demanded more of them — and of us — "Open up to God's revelation and activity. Start living the gospel!"

### Pass The Goodies

There was real bounty for those with a hearty appetite recently at Nazareth Academy's Pot Luck Supper. Sponsored by the PATON organization, the feast attracted more than 300 students and their families. The price — just a dish to pass. And pass they did! The evening was filled with a spirit of sharing dishes, recipes, and conversation.

### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

"We Gather Together . . ."

Turkey . . . dressing and pumpkin pie! All the festivities and fun that we associate with the Thanksgiving Day celebration are symbols of the real meaning of the day.

The first national Thanksgiving Proclamation was issued by President Lincoln on October 3rd, 1863. Since that date, the entire nation has celebrated the holiday on the last Thursday in November — and enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving dinner, religious services and get-togethers with friends and relatives.

We wish you a happy Thanksgiving holiday — and join with you in giving thanks for the many blessings we enjoy as a nation.

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### People Of Hope

Sunday Readings: (R3) Mt. 3:1-12; (R1) Is. 11:1-10; (R2) Rom. 15:4-9.

Always we are hoping — thank God. Every four years we hope things will be better with a new president or a new vote of confidence in a re-elected one. Yet so many do not live up to expectation. Poor Israel, too, put hope in her kings. But again and again, her kings badly let her down.

When ten of the tribes had been destroyed by cruel Assyria and Juda alone remained an island in a sea of paganism, the prophet Isaiah held out hope to her by telling her that God would keep His promise made to David by the prophet Nathan. In sum Nathan said David's kingdom would endure forever.

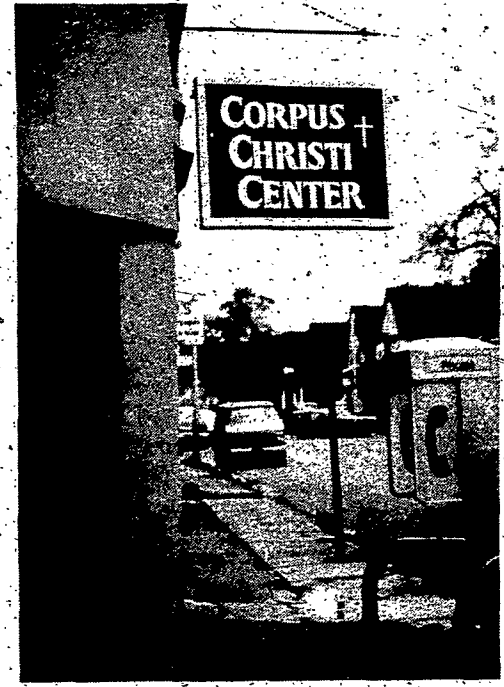
Three hundred years later, Isaiah reaffirmed Nathan's prophecy. "A shoot shall sprout from the stump of Jesse." Jesse was David's father. When the kingly house of David was cut down in ruins and was only a stump, then Isaiah foretold, a shoot, a Son, shall appear. He will have the very power of God. "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him." To judge and guide God's people, he will have the intellectual powers of wisdom and understanding, to rescue them, the gifts of counsel to make decisions and of strength to carry them out; and finally, to bring them God's

blessings, he will be no self-opinated dictator, but one who knows the will of God ("knowledge") and who obeys it ("fear of the Lord"). Justice and faithfulness will cling to him closer than his undergarments and the belt around his waist. The result will be a paradise regained: wolf and lamb, calf and lion shall browse together, and there will be joy and peace unconfined (R1).

Of course no king of Israel realized this dream — only the Messiah, Jesus, Christ. And yet where is the promised paradise here on earth? Jordanians and Jews face each other daily behind machine gun nests. Northern Ireland is torn by civil war. Terrorists roam the earth with impunity. Paul spoke of disunity even in the Christian community, "Accept one another," he beseeched Christians. In Rome, Jewish Christians continued to live like Jews, while Gentile Christians felt free not to keep Jewish dietary laws and prescribed times for prayers. The result was friction and factions; dietary laws, judgments, scandals. Like John the Baptizer, Paul called for reform, a change of minds and hearts. Paul called for patience and tolerance, for God is patient with us all (R2). This call applies today more than ever in our pluralistic society.

There is an old Jewish story of a learned rabbi. One day a member of his congregation ran into the rabbi's house to shout the exciting news: "The Messiah has come! He's in our city now."

### HOPE



Man can live about 40 days without food, 8 days without water, 3 minutes without air . . . but only 1 second without hope.

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