

Guadalupe Feast Centers on Mary

Friday, Dec. 12, the Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, and patroness of the papacy of Pope John Paul II.

The date also observes the 450th year of devotion surrounding the extraordinary image of the Virgin which appears on a cactus fiber cloth in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

The image was first seen by a bishop on the cloak of a peasant, Juan Diego, and is considered by many to be a celestial sign that our Blessed Mother intended that a place of devotion be raised in her honor in Mexico.

According to a release distributed by the Queen of the Americas Guild, a Washington, D.C.-based organization which promotes

devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe, a research biophysicist has studied the image and has concluded that it "could only be of miraculous origin."

The guild states that Dr. Philip Callahan, a research biophysicist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and a professor of Entomology at the University of Florida, has concluded from research this year that "Even though the image is four and a half centuries old, the colors are as fresh and as vibrant as newly painted; the rough cactus cloth cloak is in perfect condition, even though it should have rotted 20 years after it was made; there are no traces of pigments between the fibers which all paintings have, and there are no traces of any preservative or protective coatings."

In addition, Dr. Callahan noted that while photographing the cloak, "When you look at it inches away, there appears to be no color. It looks white. But as you move back, the colors jump out of the image vividly. I have never seen anything like it."

A local promoter of devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe last week said that pilgrimages from the diocese are conducted each month. A pilgrimage has been slated for late January and further information is available by calling Mrs. Mary Kelly, 586-1664.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Images Of the Father

Dear Father,

How do you picture in your mind God the Father?

Sincerely, J.W.

Dear J.W.,

The only answer I can give is how I picture God the Father, and therefore it will be somewhat subjective. What I'm trying to tell you is that the image we have of God the Father is quite personal to each of us. That however does have limitations.

The tendency throughout

the centuries is for human beings to be anthropomorphical about God. That means they try to picture God in human form. The problem is that our mind knows that God is an infinite spirit who does not have human or bodily characteristics. Therefore the idea of a picture is somewhat out of the question, if one is referring to a physical picture. Making God the Father look like an old man with a beard is one way of portraying benignity, wisdom, and a kind of providential care.

In a way we are better off having simply a mental image as opposed to a photographic one of God our Father. That mental image for me is summed up in what St. Paul says — that

we can call God Abba, Father. Abba is a diminutive and is the equivalent of Daddy. While we probably wouldn't call God "Daddy," it is important, I think, for us to have that tender and loving image as the basis for our relationship. While we were in Israel one day we were swimming in the Mediterranean Sea and a young father and his very small little boy came walking into the rather heavy surf. The child, seeing the height of the waves, cried out to his father who was walking ahead, "Abba, Abba." It was a very beautiful experience in that the child speaking the Hebrew language conveyed so beautifully the loving confidence that he had in that man who was with him. It was a very tender moment and conveyed the concept of the fatherhood of God as Abba better than anything I had ever experienced.

It is therefore such a mental image as this which conveys to me best the idea of God as Father. The physical image becomes then, quite secondary.

Handmade Gifts A Nazareth Special

A stroll down the basement hall at Nazareth Academy brings you to a display of handmade items — baby clothes, quilts, crocheted handkerchiefs. The display case is Nazareth's gift shop, and the artist and salesperson behind it is Sister Marie Lawrence Mayer. For 20 years Sister Marie has been collecting scraps of yarn and other materials and turning them into beautiful and clever gift items which have been purchased by two generations of students and other visitors to the school.



SISTER MARIE

An artist and businesswoman, Sister Marie has been at Nazareth Academy for 37 years. She taught home economics and business. She retired from teaching three years ago, and now helps to run the school's main office. But she's ready to open her gift shop to a customer at a moment's notice, and never misses a chance to make something beautiful out of something ordinary.

According to school sources, Christmas time is her busiest, but Sister Marie takes orders for handmade goods all year long. She estimates that she spends 10 hours a week knitting, sewing or crocheting, and that's outside her regular job as secretary in the school's main office. Her proceeds total more than \$18,000 and she donates everything to the school.

Inflation Hits Lay Mission

Spiraling inflation has resulted in an "alarming" situation for a Rochester-supported lay mission in Mexico, according to Margaret Byrne, local promoter for the St. Martin De Porres dispensary at Santa Ana Tepetitlan.

Miss Byrne last week described the mission,

founded and staffed by Dan and Margaret Whalen of East Avon, thusly:

"Inflation in Mexico has been a mounting problem for the Whalens; but when they returned in October they were totally discouraged about the alarming rise in prices of medicine and food since April. At Santa Ana and Toluquilla,

the people lack education and skills so their earnings are meager, and soaring food prices increase malnutrition with all its evils."

The Whalens' operations includes a food program especially for the elderly and the blind, medical dispensing, and fabric supply for making clothing.

In addition, the Whalens pay a native doctor and nurse to operate clinics five days a week.

The Whalens support their work out of their own pockets, through help from the Diocesan Missions Office, and from the donations of friends and acquaintances in the diocese.

The pair may be contacted through their local address: 1549 Rochester Road, East Avon, N.Y. 14414. All mail sent there is forwarded to the Mexican mission.

Workshop Will Highlight Family

Planning for the 11th annual Winter Workshop, Jan. 18-20, by the Association of Religious Educators (ARE), and the Office of Religious Education is well underway. The workshop, traditionally designed as enrichment for religious educators this year is also being co-sponsored by the Office of Family Life. Because of the theme of the workshop, Parish Religious Education: Focus on Family, the planners hope for involvement from all those who minister to and with families in the parish setting.

The workshop leaders will be Joseph and Mercedes

Iannone from the Center for Family Learning Teams, Inc. The Iannones are internationally known for their expertise in ministering to families and for the successful model of family education that they originated, called Family Learning Teams. They will direct two workshops: a general session at St. Agnes High School, Jan. 18, 3-5 p.m. for principals, teachers, parents, parish councils and committees; family-focused renewal groups and all interested in family enrichment; a workshop session at the Notre Dame Retreat House, Jan. 18, 8 p.m. to Tuesday noon for religious educators and family ministers.

Co-planners of the workshop are Denise Mack, Claude Lester, Lola deJohn, Liz Maurer, Rosemary Mandery, core members of ARE; Sister Jane Geiger, MHS, Office of Religious Education, and Frank Staropoli, Office of Family Life. Registration forms and additional information may be obtained from the Office of Religious Education 328-3210.

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Villa Grant

Sister Judith McKay, SSJ, executive director of St. Joseph's Villa, accepts a check for \$500 from Anthony Carbone, district sales manager for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. The money is a grant awarded the residential child care agency by the company foundation.

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