

Fr. John Reedy

Looking for the Lord



Program Requires Action

People who watch Washington seem to think that the Reagan Administration will get most of its economic plan through Congress. If so, this is going to throw a responsibility on local churches.

The president assured us that people in real need would be protected. That is probably what he intends, but we would be incredibly naive if we thought that all these people, who are barely keeping their heads above water, can be protected from the waves he is making.

Without arguing the wisdom of his policies, we can safely predict that there are going to be a lot more people who will be genuinely hurting because of increased costs in basic goods and services, because of cut-backs in programs which provided for some of these needs.

For those people who are barely making it, even a small increase in costs can be devastating.

All of our religious communities profess a concern for those who are in real need. And that commitment is going to be tested if the president's program is implemented.

I can remember the years of the Great Depression. They were years of anxiety and suffering for most — of real tragedy for some.

But it was also a time of great concern, compassion and generosity. The needs of neighbors were very visible, and there was a lot of sharing by people who had very little to share.

In the decades since World War II, we have become accustomed to the governmental response to human needs. All those programs and agencies and services built a distance between those who lived in reasonable comfort and those who really needed help.

We tended to assume that anyone who was in desperate need could find some public agency to provide support.

Frankel To Speak

Lawrence Frankel, well known advocate of physical fitness for the elderly, will conduct a seminar for those who work with older people starting at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16 in the Otto Shults Center at Nazareth College.

Frankel will demonstrate his "preventicare" program, a series of low mobility exercises designed to be performed standing, sitting or lying down, according to a Nazareth release.

Registration for the seminar is \$20 and must be made by March 13. The afternoon workshop is open at no charge to members of the Rochester's over-60 community, the release said.

That assumption, if it was ever completely valid, seems to be fading in Mr. Reagan's approach to the nation's problems.

Most of the nation can get along with higher costs and fewer services. But those of us who profess a religious concern for hurting neighbors should be honest enough to recognize the change that is coming.

No local parish or combination of local religious communities will be able to fund all the programs which will disappear.

But the people of any parish can develop a greater sensitivity to the reality of need in their community. They can recognize that the pattern of social service is changing. They can identify and find some way of offering direct help to those whose needs are most urgent.

Direct, personal help differs from that of social agencies. It calls for attention, compassion, generosity rather than full-time staffs, long-range plans and large budgets.

Any parish which is reasonably well organized should begin thinking, right now, about how it can deepen the awareness of its members, how it can identify those of its neighbors who are in real need, how it can organize to respond to those needs.

Jesus told us that we would be judged, not on the beauty of our liturgy or on the creativity of our catechetics, but on our response to the hungry, the thirsty, those who are desperate.

If we don't keep that priority straight, we might find ourselves subject to the harsh judgment He directed at religious hypocrites.



Metric Madness

Holy Trinity students Nancy Tabor, Susan Lonien and Donald DeLapp, along with Mrs. Urban, teacher, study the Celsius system for measuring temperatures. It was all a part of a special "metric morning" held for the school's intermediate students. Mrs. Urban's students estimated the temperature of the room and of containers of water in degrees Celsius.

Camp Stella Maris Begins 55th Year

Camp Stella Maris begins its 55th camping season this June complete with needed renovations and added camping equipment and facilities.

Camp director Ray Tette said that the main building received "major renovations thanks to a grant from the Davenport Hatch Foundation." The improvements include a rebuilding of the front of the structure, new gutters, roof repairs, and new doors and windows.

This year's camping session will include a co-ed week.

Tette said. The co-ed session is "a trial session," he reported. "Many people responding to a camp poll taken each year said that a co-ed camping session would be desirable, he said, so we decided to try it."

The camp will also have a newly constructed tennis court and a new motorboat, donated to the camp this winter.

The camp's annual Open House, for parents interested in sending their children to Stella Maris, is scheduled for Sunday, June 7. Camp staff will be on hand to answer questions and the facilities will be open for inspection.

FATIMA PILGRIMAGE

A chartered bus pilgrimage to the headquarters of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima has been slated for May 12-14. Diocesan pilgrims will visit Washington, N.J., and shrines in Allentown and Hazelton, Pa. The pilgrimage coincides with the May 13 celebration of the apparitions at Fatima. Reservations are required by April 1, and are made by contacting Mrs. Mary Kelly, (716) 586-1664.

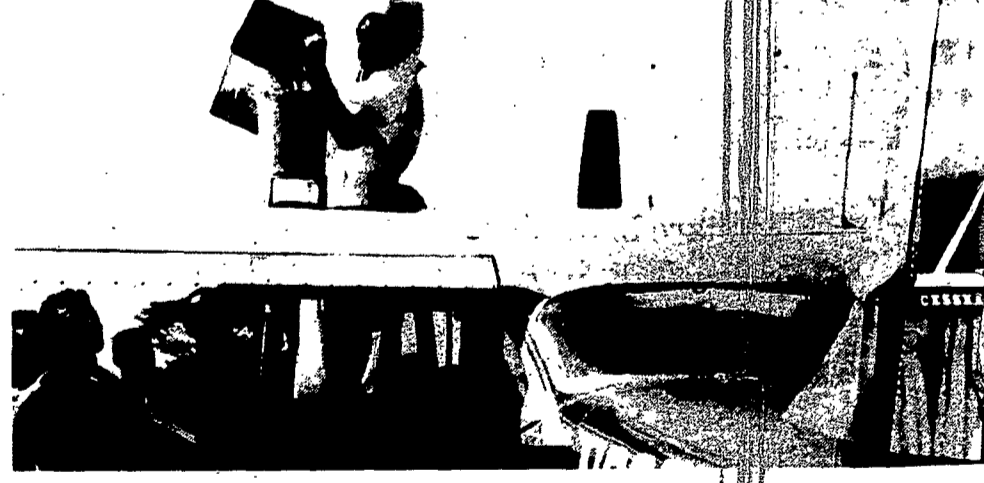
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