



Alumnae Appeal

Our Lady of Mercy High School's Alumnae Association will launch its second annual Fund Drive on Friday, March 20. The theme is "Mercy Challenge — Gateway to the 80s." This year's goal is to beat last year's total of \$15,000. Last year's proceeds were used for general expenses. Pictured above are those coordinating the drive: Kathy Doyle Miller, Jeanne Dank Beahon, chairperson, Marcia Habecker, and Donna Fritz Meyrath.

Bishop to Address Legislators

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will brief state legislators from the Rochester diocese on three issues concerning the Church at a meeting Tuesday, March 17, in Albany.

Father James Hewes will speak to the legislators on human life issues and Father William Spilly will discuss farm worker concerns.

Development, will accompany Mulligan, director of Social Ministries, on the visit.

Bishop Clark and members of his Division of Social Ministries will outline diocesan views on public assistance, protection of life, including abortion and capital punishment, and farm worker problems.

Mary Heidkamp, diocesan Justice and Peace director; Maurice Tierney, Catholic Charities director, and Father Neil Miller of Human

In addition, he will inform the lawmakers of feedback he is receiving from public diocesan hearings on public assistance.

Carol Schwartz, who will present diocesan views on public assistance, reminds parishes that they should get their resolutions on the subject to her by March 10.

WOMEN'S WORKSHOP

"Women in the Middle Years," a one-day workshop sponsored by the Women's Center for Theological Education, will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, March 14 in the Helen Wood Hall of the U of R. Registration fee is \$8. For information contact the center, 325-4557, Monday to Thursday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Insights In Liturgy



Father Robert J. Kennedy

Praising The God Of Mercy

(Note: The Congregation for the Sacraments and Divine Worship, in a letter dated Dec. 15, 1980, has given permission for the use of the three eucharistic prayers for Masses with Children and the two eucharistic prayers for Masses of Reconciliation "until further notice." These had been in use on a temporary basis until now.)

The eucharistic prayer is the faithful community's acknowledgement, with praise and thanks, of the wonderful works of God. With wonder and awe — and with a single voice — we celebrate the ways in which the Lord has acted on our behalf, this "all-powerful and ever-living God."

The two eucharistic prayers for Masses of Reconciliation wonderfully acknowledge the mystery of God's work of continually reuniting his People to himself. Here is praised the "God of love and mercy," who is "always ready to forgive." This God is tireless in his encouragement of the sinners' journey home, never ceasing to call us to a new and more abundant life. He seeks an intimate relationship with us; he actively brings us to holiness; he is present and active in our world. Like a worried, loving parent, fretting while the children are out on their own, true until we take "our place in the new creation."

The first eucharistic prayer of reconciliation emphasizes the spiritual and interior aspects of this mystery: "You (God) bound yourself even more closely to the human family by a bond that can never be broken." God calls his People to a conversion and renewal that leads to open-hearted service of the human family. In Jesus we became God's sons and daughters, but we get lost and have trouble finding our way home. But since Jesus is "our lasting peace," we always have the possibility of being restored to friendship with God and "healed of all division."

leads to God's peace; he has gained reconciliation for us and enables us to take this gift again and again. When we have done so, God then enables the Church to continue the work of reconciliation, making it "a sign of unity and an instrument of (his) peace." This ministry of reconciliation is carried out in anticipation of "that new world where the fullness of (God's) peace will be revealed," where people of every race, language, and way of life will gather to share in the one eternal banquet.

Both these prayers celebrate powerfully the mystery of reconciliation that is ours with God in Christ. But wide-reaching as these are, there is still one more thing: that fact that there are two eucharistic prayers of reconciliation goes to the heart of the meaning of the Eucharist. It is a sacrament of unity and peace, "a sacrifice of reconciliation." This is a

teaching that has been lost sight of in recent times and needs to be recovered for us. These eucharistic prayers elaborate the dimensions of this teaching: we must be reconciled with God and one another, and, in so doing, fulfill our responsibilities as ambassadors of this reconciliation and peace. To share Communion with the Lord is to be filled with an understanding that puts an end to strife, a mercy that quenches hatred, and a forgiveness that replaces vengeance.

The use of these eucharistic prayers of reconciliation, especially in this Lenten season, will celebrate and renew Christ's peace within us, and give worthy praise to the God of mercy.

The second reconciliation eucharistic prayer emphasizes more the work of reconciliation, the ministry of making peace. The theme of this prayer centers on Jesus and may be summarized in Paul's words: "He is the peace between us, and has made the two into one and broken down the barrier which used to keep them apart..." (Eph. 2:14) In the words of the prayer itself, "enemies begin to speak to one another, those who were estranged join hands in friendship, and nations seek the way of peace together," all because Jesus has come in God's name. Jesus is the way that

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Father Eugene LaVerdiere, SSS
March 20-22

Praying the Beatitudes Today
Father Michael Crosby, OFM Cap.
April 3-5

Holy Weekdays of Reflection
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April 15-19

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Father David Denny, OCD, Prior of Nova Nada, Nova Scotia.
May 15-17

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March 15-20
April 20-26
May 22-29

Father John Mergenhagen; Sister Mary Michael Hill, OSF; and Sister Nancy Fortkort, OSF, directors.

In addition to these scheduled retreats, the Center staff offers the opportunity for individuals to make directed retreats at other times as well, or for shorter periods of time.

Stella Niagara is situated along the Niagara River approximately ten miles north of Niagara Falls.

For a descriptive brochure, further information, or registration, contact:

Center of Renewal
4421 Lower River Road
Stella Niagara, New York 14144
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