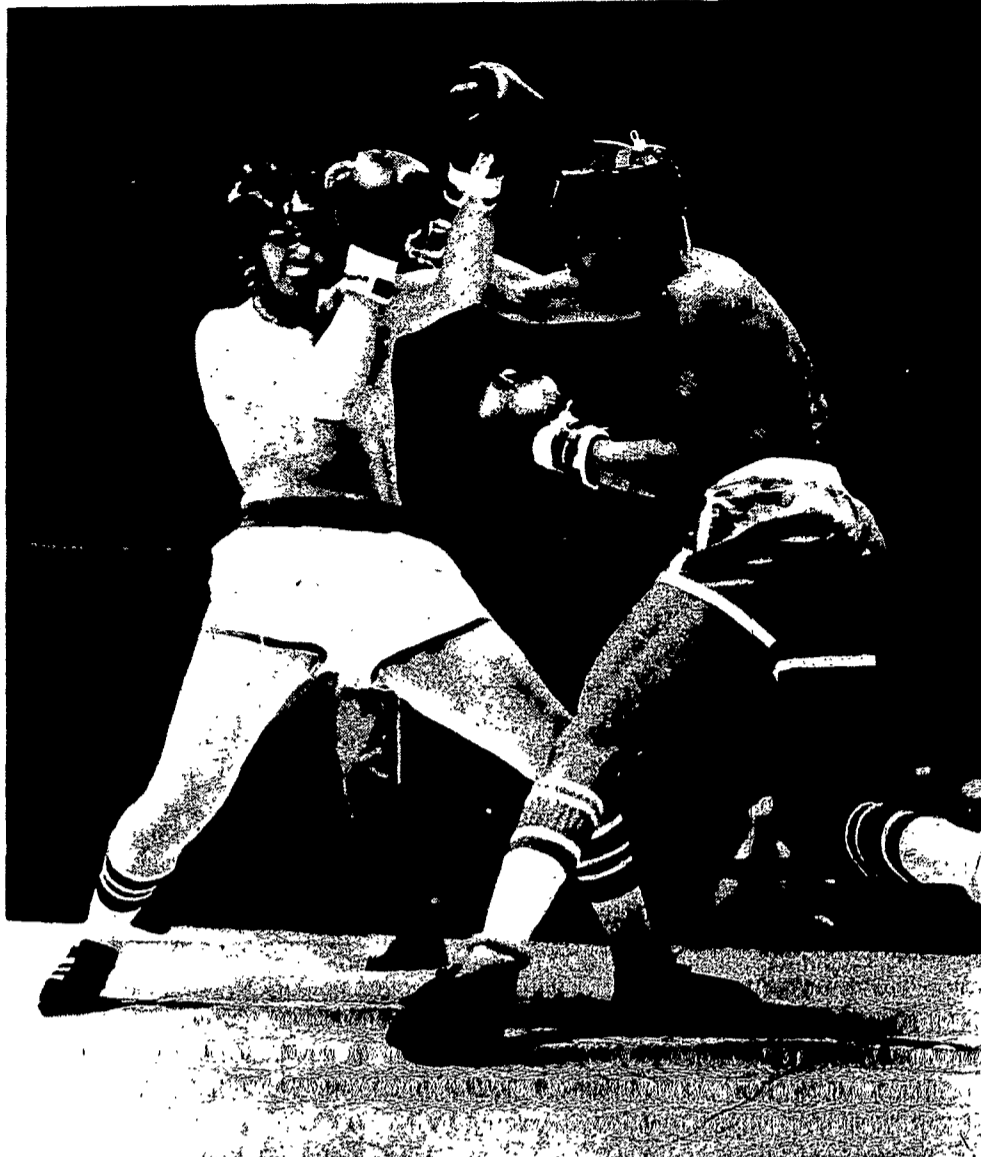




Mission Bouts

Nearly 1,000 fight fans squeezed into the Aquinas gymnasium last week for the 49th edition of the Mission Bouts. Above, freshman welterweight Mark Colombo scowls at opponent as trainers Anthony Ricci and Mark Kolmer assist in between rounds. Right, Bernie Martinez, light trunks, falls victim to Randy Wormly's right cross in a freshman heavyweight battle. Wormly was rewarded for his efforts, being selected as Freshman Fighter of the Night.



Photos by Terrance J. Brennan

BASH Kicks Off

The McQuaid Gallery Night will be held 6-9 p.m., Friday, March 27 at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. The event is held in conjunction with the school's annual fund raiser, BASH. Guests will have the opportunity to purchase art works. Refreshments will also be served.

Mrs. John Horvath, chairman, has obtained contributions from local artists for the sale. A few of the contributing artists are: Robert Beal, Sharon Buzzard, Bob Conge, Janis Dorgan, Swanda Reddington, Pat Rohrer, and William J. O'Malley, SJ.

Deaths

C.J. Kromer

Elmira — Charles J. Kromer, long-time director of the Elmira Neighborhood House and an active social work volunteer in the area, died March 2 at the age of 74. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated March 5 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

Mr. Kromer directed the Neighborhood House from 1944 until 1969. He then joined the New York State Division of Employment as a counselor; he retired from that position in 1976.

He had attended Elmira Free Academy, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester before beginning his social work career. He also served on the board of directors of Camp Star, a camping program for handicapped children; as a guest lecturer at Elmira College, Corning Community College, and as a sociology instructor at the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing.

Before taking the Neighborhood House post, he had worked for Catholic Charities of Elmira.

A communicant of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, he also was a past president of the parish's Holy Name Society, a fourth degree member of the Knights of Columbus, and a member of the John J. Lee Division of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Dimon Kromer; a son, Michael of Indianapolis, Ind.; a daughter, Anne E. Kromer of Syracuse; two granddaughters and several nieces and nephews.

Concelebrants of his Mass of Christian Burial were Msgr. Leo Schwab, and Fathers Paul McCabe, William Burns, John Morgan, Irwin Sullivan, Francis Feeney and Gerald O'Connor.

Alexandria Barbach

A memorial Mass for Alexandria (Czeladzinski) Barbach will be celebrated at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 28, at Holy Redeemer Church, 634 Hudson Ave. Mrs. Barbach, who served as housekeeper and cook at the parish for 25 years, died March 17 in Buffalo.

She began her housekeeper duties at the state School for Boys in Industry New York

She served as housekeeper for the late Msgr. Joseph Vogt. She came to Holy Redeemer when Msgr. Vogt was appointed pastor.

Mrs. Barbach is survived by sisters Stella Sully of Florida, and Charlotte Peterson and brothers Walter and Matthew. She also leaves two step sisters, Carrie Ablewski and several nieces and nephews.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

God's Ways Are Not Man's Ways

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 9:1-41. (R1) 1 Sm. 16:1, 6-7, 10-13. (R2) Eph. 5:8-14.

The Hebrew People never did understand their God. His ways were never theirs. Once they thought they understood Him, the very opposite would happen. Their God was more elusive than the Scarlet Pimpernel, more a mystery than Maria in "The Sound of Music." "How do you solve a problem like Maria," the Mother Abbess sang. "How do you catch a cloud and pin it down? How do you hold a moonbeam in your hand?" Israel might have asked itself the same thing regarding her God.

The ancient Hebrews experienced many a frightening day. None was more terrifying than when the Philistines attacked them and almost completely overpowered them. Samson tried to fend them off and failed. So did Israel's first King, Saul! Then God told the prophet Samuel to go to Bethlehem and there to anoint a new king. Next Sunday's first reading tells us what happened. God just upset all the odds-makers: He chose the most unlikely person to be king. Here was David, a mere boy, chosen king while the whole nation was on the verge of extinction. Who would have believed it — sending a boy to do a man's job. God's ways are not always ours.

In the gospel Jesus marked out yet another way of God which differed from the ways of the people of His day. Jesus broke the Sabbath law, but to cure a man born

there God, the transcendental, distant God — to the God among His people — the imminent, close-at-hand God. The purpose of the liturgy is to communicate to us that God, Who is so mysterious, so far off, so absolutely other, is intimately present, at our side, is God-with-us — with us to help us walk in the light.

blind. Not everyone understood. He broke one law to fulfill a higher one — the law of love and concern. No one ever fully understood Jesus — His wisdom, His love for us, His incredible strength and power! St. Paul tells us we have begun to understand something of the greatness of God because we are no longer in the dark. "You were darkness once," he wrote, "but now you are light in the Lord... walk in goodness and in what pleases the Lord." And what pleases the Lord? There is no better way to find out than by reading the gospels. Even children can learn from them. Though some parts might be abstract, there are the parables — short stories from everyday life with a lesson. Stevenson said, "A good story can keep children from play." Read some of the parables together as a family and talk about what they mean.

Then there are the miracles. How children love Superman, Wonder Woman, and others like them. But who can fire their imagination like the Wonder-Worker of Galilee! Read some of the miracles. Talk them over as a family. Ask the children to imagine they are the persons seeking Jesus' help. Suppose they were born blind, like the man in the Gospel. Ask how they would feel. How would you feel? Jesus always asked faith for His miracles. Would your faith be strong enough?

Perhaps the most significant liturgical change since Vatican II is the new position of the priest facing the people. This change of position has focused attention away from the God in heaven — the way-out-

Drive to Aid Atlanta Begun

Elmira — The Chemung County Probation Officers Association is encouraging area residents to help provide funds for the investigation by the Atlanta, Ga., police department of the murder of 21 of the city's children.

The association has contributed \$100 to the fund drive, which has drawn national support to help pay for the expensive investigation. The Probation Officers Association intends to solicit contributions and forward the proceeds to Atlanta on behalf of the community.

Those wishing to make donations may do so by making checks payable to the Atlanta Police Bureau Investigative Fund, and sending them to the Chemung County Probation Officers Association, PO Box 382, Elmira, NY 14902. The checks will then be forwarded to the Atlanta Police Department.

Further information may be obtained by contacting Bessie Berry, association president, or Stephen Fesh, special treasurer for the drive.


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