

Resurrection Launches New Ministry Program

By John Dash

Fairport's Church of the Resurrection, at eight years old the youngest parish in the diocese, is about to launch a program which will make it one of the first locally to incorporate the new Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults as a standard ministry.

The catch-word for the program is "Come and See," a reference to the passage in the Gospel of John:

"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," answered Philip.

The program is being advertised in the Fairport area by buttons. Father Robert Kreckel, in an interview last week, said that 1,200 buttons had been ordered for distribution the weekend of April 4 and 5, and that the entire lot had been handed out even before the Sunday noon Mass.

Richard Pelino, a Sybron



Children take part in the parish Palm Sunday procession.

executive and parishioner at Resurrection, said that the program would have two dimensions, evangelization and reconciliation/Christian initiation.

Father Kreckel said that the ministry has been in the works for at least two years as parishioners have planned and been trained in its implementation.

The formal opening of Come and See will be in the middle of May. In its initial stage the atmosphere will be one of "hospitality" and invitation," the pastor said.

The evangelical phase will begin shortly thereafter and consist of a number of "sharing" sessions centered on doctrinal themes.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults provides an elaborate framework of catechesis, sacramental celebration and continuing education.

To start it off, however, "the alienated and unchurched are targets of the parish evangelization. We're looking for those looking for a loving and caring community," Pelino said.

The initial contact takes the form of invitation, he said; and Father Kreckel said the style of the invitation is that "We have found the Lord here."



Father Kreckel discusses the new program with some parishioners.

Both men asserted that Come and See planners are "not looking for numbers" as a measurement of program success; though they both acknowledged they would be

pleased should the effort draw great numbers of people to the parish community.

Pelino said, "The parish is extremely anxious to share a truly loving community."

Pontiff Encourages Disabled Persons

Following is excerpted from an address given by Pope John Paul II to delegates at a convention of persons with job-related disabilities.

I extend to all the members of this society my cordial greeting and an affectionate welcome. I cannot fail to express to you my deep feeling of satisfaction and esteem for the appreciated work that you carry out in protection and defense of the "moral and material interests" of all those tried in body and spirit by the consequences of tragic accidents at work in the various fields of human activities.



My appreciation goes particularly to the praiseworthy contribution you make to solve the problems of your members and for their reintegration into social life, saving them from loneliness and moral discouragement, starting them

along the way to a necessary human relationship. The network of specific assistance in this connection is a clear testimony of your valuable and effective activity.

All that cannot but meet with the encouragement of the Church, which is constantly undertaking initiatives in order that every person — but in particular those most exposed to exclusion because of their precarious health conditions — may be guaranteed his inalienable dignity, human, social and spiritual. In this connection, the Holy See has expressed in a document "deep gratitude to all communities and associations, to all men and women religious, to all lay volunteers who devote themselves to the service of disabled persons, bearing witness to the perennial vitality of that love which knows no barriers." At the same time it urged that every individual, suffering on account of any handicap, should be helped to "become aware of his dignity and his values and to realize that something is expected of him" and that he, too, can and must contribute to the progress and good of the family and its community."

The Catholic Church sees in you, therefore, valuable allies in her mission of human advancement and evangelization, and is ready to offer her support and her organizations in order to attain these ideals. You can imagine from this how fervently she hopes that your welfare activity will spread more and more and be increasingly effective for all those who have paid a personal price — and still bear its mark in their suffering flesh — to provide their own family with bread and contribute to the prosperity of society.

Always hold your activity in very high esteem, which will continually urge you to reach new goals in this vast and delicate field in which you are called to carry out your work of elevation and brotherly consolation. Never be satisfied with what you have done and never let the difficulties-tire you. Read in the

eyes and hearts of those who bear the cross of their mutilations and disability, having to sustain hard struggles often hidden from men but known to God, and strengthened by faith in him. Be close to those you assist and let them feel the warmth of your true friendship, which like a fragrant balm can comfort so many hearts and soothe so many sufferings.

In addition to the sense of justice, which is at the base of every human relationship, have also and above all loving understanding, because, as I recently wrote, "Society can become ever more human only if we introduce into the many-sided setting of interpersonal and social relationships, not merely justice, but also that "merciful love, which constitutes the messianic message of the Gospel."

Only in this way will you be able to perceive, beyond the man or woman in need of help, the face of the suffering Christ. May the Lord be your support and your reward, strengthening your efforts with reflections of eternal merit.

Excursions Planned

A Spring excursion, sponsored by the Women's Interfaith Coalition, will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Thursday, April 30 at St. Bridget's Church. Father Daniel O'Shea, pastor, and Cecelia Williams-Young, pastoral assistant, will discuss "the new and exciting ways the Church is serving its community," according to a

release. The excursions will continue on Thursday, May 7 at Church of God and Saints of Christ, 30 Leopold St., a church now listed in the National Register of Historical Places. The public is invited. For further information those interested may call 467-5476.

Musical to Aid Youth Group

"By Strouse," a musical by Eastman School of Music graduate Charles Strouse, will be staged at the Trilogy Middle Magnet School at 8 p.m. May 1 and 2, and will benefit the Upstairs Youth Agency of St. Monica's/St. Augustine's parishes.

The show is being performed by adults under the direction of area high school students.

Strouse is widely known for his work in musical theater. His music is familiar from the

shows "Annie," "Bye, Bye, Birdie," and "Applause." He and Carroll O'Connor wrote the theme from the television series "All in the Family."

Tickets are available at the door or at either parish office.

Mercy Sale May 2-3

The Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School will be holding a garage sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and May 3, in the school gym, 1437 Blossom Road.

The assortment of bargain priced items will include bikes, games, books, records, tools, lamps, dishes, and glassware.

The sale is being chaired by Ron Anderson, who is president of the association.

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