

# At Your Parish . . .



Doug Kirst shows the uses of a business computer to students (from left) Aaron Blaakman, Beth Heneghan and Tina Donahue.

## St. Thomas More

Junior high students at St. Thomas More School enjoyed the use of a computer for two weeks, giving them an opportunity to learn modern business machine operations.

Richard Morency, a systems planning manager at Blue Cross-Blue Shield, and

Joseph Marchese of IBM, conducted basic computer classes. Both men are fathers of students at St. Thomas.

The students became familiar with computer terms and symbols by using the computer (an IBM 5120), under the instruction of their teacher Doug Kirst.

## St. Patrick, Cato

Construction of a new \$55,000 parish hall in Cato is under way. Parishioners of St. Patrick's, through donations and various fundraising projects, have raised more than half of the needed money and ground was broken for the new building on April 26.

The new hall will be used as a parish gathering place, a

religious instruction center and the site for "various civic groups," according to a parish release.

The new facility will replace a 122-year-old converted blacksmith shop which the parish has been using. The building will be connected to the church; the old one was a quarter mile from church grounds.



## Helping the Missions

The Confirmation class at the Father Kelly School of Religion at Assumption Parish, Fairport, presented \$575 to the Propagation of the Faith office recently. Money was collected from class projects and the students' mite boxes. Shown here are Father Joseph Reinhart, director of the diocesan Missions Office, Cathy Tocci and Sister Felicitas, MHSB, who worked on the project.

## Sacred Heart Cathedral

The annual Sacred Heart parish picnic takes place this year from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 31 at lower Maplewood Park. John and Jean Zarembo, who are

handling the details for this year's event, are looking for volunteers to work at the picnic. Those interested may call the rectory, 254-3221 or the Zarembo's, 458-6731.

## St. Francis, Geneva

Mary Pierleoni was named Rosarian of the Year by the St. Francis De Sales Rosary Society at its annual banquet. Dolores McGoff, president of the society, presented Miss Pierleoni with an engraved plaque and a gift of flowers in recognition of her service and readiness to help parishioners.

Miss Pierleoni is an

Eucharistic Minister, an officer of the liturgy committee, a member of the inter-parish choir and a past treasurer of Finger Lakes Women's Bowling Association.

She was named Woman of the Year by the Geneva Council of the Knights of Columbus in 1979, the first woman to receive the award.

## Our Mother of Sorrows

Three men were honored recently at Our Mother of Sorrows parish for services provided to the community and their church. Oscar Pero was named Man of the Year, Father Joseph Dailey received the Father Wood Special Service award, and Thomas Begley received the Msgr. Duffy Pioneer award.

## St. Michael, Newark

St. Michael's parish, Newark, began a parish census last week. Parish volunteers are now visiting residents in the parish area to determine how many Catholics there are and what needs they may have, according to a parish release. The census will "be helpful to the parish administration on a day to day basis" regarding parish services, the release said. Census data deadline is May 26.



PALMESANO

## St. John of Rochester

Father Bernard F. Dollen, pastor of St. John of Rochester parish, Fairport, recently announced that Joseph H. Palmesano will chair the Parish Church Building Campaign.

Palmesano, a graduate of the University of Rochester, has been involved in the parish church community for more than nine years as a CCD teacher, member of the parish council and finance committee, and as a Eucharistic Minister.

To date more than \$210,000 has been pledged towards the construction of a new church. The goal is \$750,000.

## Insights In Liturgy

Father Robert J. Kennedy



## Silence

Let me be blunt! Our liturgies are too noisy, too chatty, too wordy!

Now don't get me wrong. I am not suggesting that we get rid of music to cut down on the noise, for "among the many signs and symbols used by the Church to celebrate its faith, music is of pre-eminent importance. As sacred song united to the words it forms an integral part of solemn liturgy." (Music in Catholic Worship, 23) Certainly the way music is done can be more than prayerful at times, but music is necessary for the liturgy.

Nor am I suggesting that the scriptures be modified or shortened to cut down on the chatter. It is the Word of God that calls us together as Church, and it continues to fashion us into a holy People. Therefore "the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's Word." (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy 51)

(Of course, commentaries that envelop and cloud the treasures of scripture, and unprepared, rambling homilies can make the liturgy too chatty or wordy without a doubt!)

Nor am I suggesting that parishes forget that they are meant to be communities of hospitality, reaching out to one another and the world in welcome, caring, and service. The warm, personal words to one another as parishioners assemble for worship and go forth to love and serve the Lord are

## Blessed Sacrament

A Star Market Dinner is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m., Tuesday, June 9 at Blessed Sacrament School Hall, 546 Oxford St. Tickets are \$3 and may be obtained at the rectory. Reservation deadline is May 30. For information those interested may call the rectory, 271-7240 or Grace Murray, 473-7406.



## New Officers

The St. Louis Guild's annual Queenship Banquet took place recently at Locust Hill Country Club and new officers were formally installed for the coming year. Shown here are, standing from left, Elaine Hahn, Mary Jane Decker and Linda Dzakowic, outgoing officers. Seated from left are Ann Kirchoff, Linda McConville and Carol Sheehan, newly installed officers.

essential to the vitality of the worshipping community.

Then what is it that makes our liturgies so wordy and noisy? The answer is simple: there is no silence. Our liturgies are breathless, non-stop events that leave one dizzy. Where is there time "to allow the voice of the Holy Spirit to be heard more fully in our hearts, and to unite our personal prayer more closely with the word of God and the public voice of the Church?" (General Instruction on the Liturgy of the Hours, 202)

Silence is as integral to the celebration of liturgy as music, God's Word, and hospitality are. For without silence there is no unified prayer, no unified worship in spirit and in truth.

The rubrics for the Eucharist and all the other liturgical rites indicate many places where a reverent silence is to be observed. The character of each silence will depend upon the time it occurs in the particular celebration.

For example, at the Penitential Rite or when there is an invitation to prayer, the silence should allow all to join their prayers together; it is a period of recollection. The simple "let us pray" invites the collection of each worshipper's individual prayers, thoughts, and concerns within this communal act of silence. Such moments cannot be passed by nor should they be too quick, or

else there will be no room for everyone's prayer and the prayer that the presider will pray will not be, as it should be, the prayer of all.

After the readings and the homily, the silent pauses are meant to offer a brief meditation time on the Word of God that has been proclaimed by the lector and opened up by the homilist. This silence provides the opportunity for God's Word to be planted in the hearts of the hearers and to take root, so that it will bring life to them and all they meet.

After Communion, the silence allows the communicants time to praise God for this union with him and with one another, and for all his wonderful works. Far from being a private time, this silence reflects the solidarity that has been created by communion with Christ.

Finally, there is another kind of silence of one's own heart. Each member of the congregation and every liturgical minister brings a prayerful habit of silence before the Lord from their own private prayer, and the effect on the liturgy is dynamite. It is the wholehearted response of a people who have heard the Word of God and live lives of praise for his wonderful works. Thus the liturgy is authentic, true, well-paced, fully participative. It is no longer noisy but full of praise, not wordy but a loving response to the Lord who speaks in silence.

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**THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER**

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"Those Who Died in Battle"

Memorial Day — often referred to as "Decoration Day" — is a day set aside for adorning the graves of those men who died in battle for our country. It is a day that a grateful nation acknowledges those who fought for the freedoms that make our country the free land it is today. For many, it is a day that is deep with meaning — and perhaps filled with sadness. The day is one that is reserved to honor not individuals, but all the people, together, who paid the dearest price of all for our human freedoms — our right to think, worship, assemble, and express our views as we wish. Although we may enjoy the day with picnicking, boating, swimming and having a good time, we should also take a moment to acknowledge the true meaning of this day and the priceless heritage that has been left for us. Use our lending library, audio visual aids, and audio cassettes on dying, death, bereavement, and related subjects. We are available for group discussions.

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