

Divorced/Separated Gather For Conference, June 12-14

The diocesan Office of Family Life Ministry to Divorced and Separated plans to charter a bus to a three-day conference for separated and divorced Catholics slated the weekend of June 12, 13 and 14 at Marymount College in Tarrytown.

Featured at the conference will be opening presentations by Father Thomas Lynch, National Family Life Director of the United States Catholic Conference; Father James Young, SCP, national chaplain to the North American Conference of Divorced and Separated Catholics; and Virginia Clemente, clinician, American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Workshops include: "Your Parish is Your Community," Father Euclid Marier, director Family Life, Ogdensburg; "Free Yourself to Living by Understanding Your

Children," Carolyn Larcy, director of a Montessori school, mother and grandmother; "Healing Process Through the Annulment," Msgr. Desmond Vella, Tribunal, Archdiocese of New York; "Men Hurting," Father James F. Hinchey, administrator, St. James Cathedral, Brooklyn; "Remarriage Does Work," Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dunn and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh O'Brien, former board members of the NACSDC; "All You Need to Know About Child Custody," Wesley Moore, founder of

Capital District Equal Rights for Fathers of New York State; and "Crisis: Invitation to Growth," Father John E. O'Brien, former spiritual director of Renew Program, Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

In addition, Bishop James P. Mahoney will celebrate a special Mass at the Transfiguration Church nearby on Saturday. Costs range from \$102 to \$137 for the weekend. Further information on the event is available by calling Angela Gallo at the Office of Family Life, 436-5450, or Paul Glogowski, 225-0382.

Teachers Honored By School System

Elmira — Teacher Recognition Day May 20 was a system-wide event in the Elmira Catholic schools this year, as the school board sponsored a dinner at the Hibernian Center in honor of the teachers in all four schools.

The Hibernian Center was selected to emphasize the system's inclusion of all of Elmira, and not just those parishes where the schools are located.

Sister Yvonne Blind, St. Casimir's principal, who headed the committee which planned the event, reported that nearly all those invited attended, making a group of about 100 persons.

Sister Yvonne noted that it was the "first time we've done anything like that as a whole system." The idea grew from the principals' discussion of what was going to take place in the various buildings to mark Teacher Appreciation

Day. The suggestion of a joint celebration was taken to the board, where the members surprised Sister Yvonne with their willingness to sponsor the event, and provide the dinner rather than ask the teachers to bring a dish to pass.

Father Daniel Holland, pastors' representative on the board, opened the evening with a prayer service acknowledging the ministry of the teachers. Martin Tracy, board president, thanked the teachers for their efforts. He also gave a present to Father John Leary, St. Mary's pastor, who is retiring, for his long affiliation with the schools. A similar presentation will be made to Father Valentine Jankowiak, retiring St. Cecelia's pastor.

Sister Yvonne said that the event gave the faculties the opportunity to "enjoy a purely social evening," and "everybody seemed to have a great time."



Old Friends

More than 30 retired diocesan priests met for dinner and small talk last Sunday, May 24, at St. John Fisher College's Murphy Hall. Above, Fathers Charles Reynolds, George Vogt and Alex Stec share a laugh before dinner. Below, left, Father Ray Epping, left, chats with Fathers Joseph Gefell, center, and James Schwartz. Below, right, Monsignor John Ball, oldest priest in the diocese, is greeted by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. Msgr. Ball celebrated his 92nd birthday at the affair.



Celebrates Anniversary

Father Eugene R. Scheg, a former student at Holy Family School and Aquinas Institute, will celebrate the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, in Rochester, with a Mass of Thanksgiving at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, June 21 at Holy Family Church. Father Scheg was ordained at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, June 9, 1956. Father Scheg holds a licentiate in Sacred Theology from Catholic University. He is presently associate pastor at St. Catherine's Church in Holmdel, N.J. Following the Rochester Mass, Father Scheg will be feted at a reception to which his school mates and friends have been invited.



Ordained

Father Robert Repicky, CSB, a Union Lake, Mich., native who spent last year working in Rochester's Christ the King Parish as a deacon, was ordained recently as a Basilian priest. Father Repicky entered St. Basil's Novitiate in Rochester after studies at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Innsbruck, Austria.

Fr. John Reedy

Looking for the Lord



Long-Range Prayers for Undergrads

The residence hall vibrates with the energy and the sounds of a hundred energetic young males — running footsteps, a slammed door, someone shouting up the stairwell, the ever-present music, an occasional obscenity.

As I sit in my room, greeting those who stop at the open door, I think of what these lives will be 25 years from now ... what I hope they might become.

I've now been around this campus long enough to welcome back alumni with whom I lived 25 years ago. They tell me something of their stories. Some of the things in their lives make me feel good for them; other experiences elicit compassion or regret.

From the lives of some of these men who have impressed me as good, successful Christians, I've formulated a kind of composite of the things I hope for in the lives of these young men with whom I live.

The man who is a good, mature Christian remains alive, interested. He sees himself, throughout his life, as still facing choices and decisions which make a difference. He sees himself as still having talents and capabilities which can be developed.

He has managed to avoid, in much of his life, the paralysis of routine, complacency, mediocrity.

His original, probably superficial goals for his marriage and family have matured into a realistic, enriching love and commitment. He has long been aware of all the personal limitations of his wife and children (as they know his) and he has learned to love them as they are, not as he would have them be.

He also has come to terms with himself, has learned to live with his limitations, with the restraints of his circumstances, and is able to appreciate and enjoy the good things in his life without going sour about the disappointments, the things that might have been.

I pray to God that these

noisy, energetic students will be able to retain and develop their own values and standards for life, without being swept up in the need to compete — in possessions, income and activities — with the achievers in their profession, their company, their country club.

I hope that the disappointments and failures which they will inevitably encounter will be occasions for growth in wisdom and maturity, not a cause for bitterness, frustration and self-pity.

I pray that their lives will be enriched by a deepening sense of God's presence in their personal histories, in their relationships with others, in the use of their energies and resources.

Of one thing I am sure. All of these undergraduates will be called to serve others, and, to a large extent, the success or failure of their lives will depend on how generously they will respond to those calls.

My prayer for these kids is that each of them, 25 years from now, will have something of the quality of Thomas More in their lives: a devoted, happy, realistic family man; a sophisticated, conscientious professional man; a man responsive to the needs he encountered. Above all, may they see their lives as acts of worship, as their opportunity to respond to the God who is a loving father.

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