



Recent Visitors

Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan missions director, greets Sisters Pat Cain, center, and Pat Startup, both Maryknoll missionaries, during their recent visit to the missions office on East Avenue. Sister Cain has worked in Tanzania and Kenya, and Sister Startup returned last fall from her post in the Philippines. They are in the Rochester area as part of a missionary co-op plan to make an appeal in various parishes for the support of the Maryknoll Sisters congregation around the world.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Embrace Of Jesus

Sunday's Readings (R3) Jn. 6:51-58. (R1) Dt. 8:2-3. 14-16. (R2) 1 Cor. 10:16-17.

Next Sunday we celebrate Corpus Christi — the Body of Christ!

To teach His apostles that their role was to serve the poor and lowly, our Lord took a little child, put His arms around him and said to them, "Whoever welcomes a child such as this one for my sake, welcomes me."

This little child, tradition says, became the fiery St. Ignatius of Antioch martyred in 107 A.D. While still a boy, St. Ignatius often took his companions to the spot where Jesus put his arms around him and said, "Here is the place Jesus embraced me."

Often we think of Holy Communion as our receiving Jesus, as our embracing Him. But Holy Communion also means Jesus embracing us. Not only is Jesus in us but we are in Jesus. "The man who feeds on my flesh ... remains in me, and I in him."

St. Cyril of Alexandria compared this union in Holy Communion to two pieces of wax melted together. St. Therese of Lisieux described her first Holy Communion as a fusion with Christ, a melting together.

Picture, if you will, a child running to meet his father. He holds out his arms to embrace his father. But he cannot, till the father picks him up and hugs him. At Holy Communion we rush to meet Christ, we can do little more; but He picks us up, embraces us, loves us, pours His life into us! This union is a pledge to eternal life. "The man who feeds on this bread shall live forever." Here is the "posse non mori" (the cannot die) confirmed by the fruit of the tree of life.

Is this hard to believe?

The entire sixth chapter of John's Gospel is meant to confirm our faith in the Holy Eucharist. John's gospel style is to narrate signs first and then explain them. In the sixth chapter, he tells of the multiplication of loaves (1-15); of Jesus

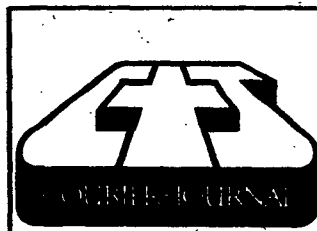
walking on water (16-24); then in the discourse on the bread of life, he explains the meaning of these signs. The discourse, like the Mass, has two parts: a liturgy of the words of Jesus (25-50) — to believe them is to live; then a liturgy of the Eucharist, the promise of Jesus (51-58) — to receive Him is to have eternal life.

The promise of Jesus stresses the reality of His presence in the Holy Eucharist. Whenever Jesus was taken literally — and did not mean to be so taken — He always clarified His words. For instance, when Nicodemus understood rebirth as purely physical or the woman at the well understood living water as drinking water or his disciples took His words "Lazarus sleeps" for real sleep, Jesus always corrected them. But here, when He is taken literally, He not only does not correct them, but instead reinforces His words.

Greek has two words for eating: "phagein" and "trogein." Trogein is by far the stronger word. Even though it cannot be translated by the crude words "munch" or "crunch," yet it really has some of their realistic strength. At first Jesus told the Jews they must eat (phagein) His flesh. When they took him literally, and protested, He did not correct them, as though they had misunderstood; rather He reemphasized His meaning by afterwards using four times the stronger word for eating, namely trogein. It is translated in the gospel by the word "feeds."

Our Lord probably spoke these words on a Friday evening, which means that the miracle of loaves took place on a Thursday, the day of the institution of the Holy Eucharist. He spoke them in the synagogue at Capernaum, built by the centurion who uttered the words used before Holy Communion, "Oh Lord, I am not worthy."

This is the tremendous truth we celebrate on Corpus Christi — "the bread we break is a sharing in the real and true body of Christ."



Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Plan Gets Approval

Farmington — The more than \$20 million expansion plan of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, received approval with one change at the Finger Lakes Health Systems Agency's Regional Review Council meeting June 9.

The council adopted a change which had been rejected by the Southern Tier Subarea Council, reducing the number of beds for the hospital's new alcoholism unit. The council recommended that the proposed 20-bed unit be reduced to 15 beds.

Action is still due at the state level.

Hospital Accredited

Hornell — St. James Mercy Hospital has been notified of accreditation by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

The accreditation is the result of an on-site survey made by field representatives of the JCAH Hospital Accreditation Program, conducted in February. The accreditation indicates that the hospital has chosen to operate according to JCAH standards and that they have been met.

The accreditation is for two years, or until a new survey is conducted. St. James has had full accreditation since its first request for survey in 1954.

Award Presented

Elmira — Cheryl Ann Tenny, who was graduated from Nazareth College with a bachelors degree in business administration, received the Award of Merit of the National Business Education Association.

Miss Tenney was presented the NBEA certificate for "outstanding achievement in business education," in a President's Dinner ceremony for Nazareth seniors.

A 1977 graduate of Notre Dame High School, Miss Tenny is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Tenny of Maple Avenue.

Classes Begin

Elmira — The first class of a Lamaze Expectant Parent series will be at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 22, at St. Joseph's Hospital's Doctors Meeting Room.

The class is for parents in the early days of pregnancy. It provides information about nutrition, fetal development, emotional support and getting ready for the birth.



Bishop Clark receiving the gifts from members of the graduating class at St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing at the baccalaureate Mass in the Little Flower Chapel June 5.

Bishop Addresses Nursing Graduates

Elmira — Bishop Matthew H. Clark's promise to pray for the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing graduates in July — when they take their nursing boards — got an appreciative response from the 26 graduates at their Baccalaureate Mass Friday, June 5, in the Little Flower Chapel.

Their graduation occurred the next day.

Bishop Clark told the class that he was impressed by the readings they selected, as they emphasized attributes valuable in nursing, including affection and caring.

It is one thing to care for the body, which must be done, he said, another to treat each person with the respect due. In addition to

medical care, nurses must help patients deal with the fear, loneliness, bitterness and anger that can accompany sickness.

Addressing the class, sitting in the first few pews, he noted that "I don't know you ... but you tell me something about yourselves" through the Scripture selections, and their reactions, when he spoke of such things as compassion.

Referring to the boards, he said that he would be thinking of them, and said that if they don't pass on the first attempt, they should not consider themselves failures, but work for success on the second.

A banquet with family members followed the Mass.

\$25,000 Pledged For Cardiac Program

Elmira — The St. Joseph's Hospital Auxiliary has announced a \$25,000 pledge for the hospital's cardiac rehabilitation program. The pledge, accompanied by a \$15,000 down payment, was presented to Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, by Mrs. Juliana Calderone, auxiliary president, at the auxiliary's annual banquet June 2.

The funds will help further the attack on the area's top health problem — coronary disease — which is being coordinated by the Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center of the hospital.

The Twin Tiers Rehabilitation Center is a regional service to patients from the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. It is organizing its existing services for the rehabilitation of the cardiac patient in a further attempt to reduce the number of days recovering heart patients spend in the hospital.

Also during the banquet, 67 volunteers were honored for more than 40,000 hours of service to the hospital.

Top honors went to Sister Mary Wuest, who was cited for more than 5,000 hours of

service. Also recognized for more than 2,500 hours were Mrs. John Foy, Mrs. Carmella Sbedico, Mrs. Thomas Shea, Mrs. W.J. Worner, and Mrs. Edward Davis.

The keynote speaker for the evening was Leslie (Jake) Hover, Elmira director of Parks and Recreation. He presented a look at the June 12-14 state Special Olympics program which he headed.

Student Honored

Elmira — Julie Ann Evans, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Evans, has been named Southside High School's 1981 valedictorian. The Evanses are members of St. Mary's Parish.

Julie Ann has been a member of the Student Advisory Committee to the state commissioner of education, and has received the Elmira Key Award, the Elmira Lions Club Scholar of the Month award, and a Regents scholarship.

She is vice president of the National Honor Society and was elected Erie Bell queen this year. She plans to continue her education in pre-law at Cornell University, and to continue her music studies.

26 Receive Diplomas

Elmira — Academic honors were presented to 7 of the 26 graduates of the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing at ceremonies June 6 in the Little Flower Chapel.

The diplomas and awards were presented by Father Theodore Centala, hospital chaplain, who also celebrated the Mass. Homilist was Father Paul McCabe, Our Lady of Lourdes pastor.

Award recipients: Patricia Bowen of Newfield won the Rev. Francis J. Walker Memorial Award for the highest scholastic achievement. Carol Guthrie of Elmira received the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Faculty Recognition Award.

Kimberly Kenefick of Horseheads won two awards: the Alumni Award for excellence in nursing practice, and the district three, state Nurses Association award for outstanding qualities.

Patricia Norton of Elmira won the Rita Corcoran Stoddard Memorial Award, for outstanding clinical performance. Mary Ann Obuck of Elmira received the Dr. J. Lee Kinner Memorial Award for proficiency in operating room nursing.

Richard Dorrien of Eldred, Pa., won the Dr. J. Lee Kinner Memorial Award for excellence in medical-surgical nursing. And Kim Parsons of Binghamton received the Loretta Daly Hughes Memorial Award for excellence in intensive care nursing.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

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