

At Your Parish...

St. George, Lithuanian

Members of the class of '31, the first class to graduate from St. George's Lithuanian Grammar School, will gather at Barry's Restaurant for their 50th anniversary celebration this Sunday.

A Mass for deceased members of the class will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. at St. George's Church, 545 Hudson Ave. At 1 p.m. the reunion will begin at Barry's on Dewey Avenue.



Annunciation

The Human Development Committee of the Church of the Annunciation is sponsoring the Red Cross Bloodmobile from 2 to 7 p.m., Friday, June 26, in the upper church hall, 1760 Norton St.

The 1931 graduating class from St. George's School include (first row from left) Albert Letkauskas, Peter Derso, Edward Palsunas (Powell), Charles (now Father Charles) Mockevicius, Frank Kazakevicius (Kazak); Father John Baksys, former pastor; Anthony Vaitonis, John Zelnis, Felix Bartulis and Bronis Kovas. Second row from left are Estelle Urbonas Farrell, Josephine Samolis Mura, Helen Ambrose Doran, Monica Urbon Kommeth, Catherine Neward, Genevieve Dominas Masulis, Susanne Dominas Chiafery, Amelia Urbonas Morcan, Anna Zukauskas and Alice Jankewicz Wissman.

Saint Catherine's Sets Festivities

Mendon — Parishioners at St. Catherine's here are celebrating just about everything next Sunday.

Not only will there be the blessing, dedication and inspection of the new Msgr. Schnacky Community Center, there will also be a blessing, dedication and inspection of the new "English Manor House" of Mendon Manor, Inc., a home for retired priests who do not need medical care. Those two events coincide

with the 80th anniversary of the founding of the parish and the 25th anniversary of the pastorate of Msgr. Albert Schnacky.

And if that weren't enough, the day also will mark Msgr. Schnacky's 15th anniversary of being named a monsignor.

The festivities begin at 3 p.m., June 28, at 30 Mendonlonia Road (Route 64) in Mendon. The public is invited.

Insights In Liturgy

By Thomas Driscoll



'The Hand Of the Lord ...'

A few weeks ago, I had the privilege of participating with my fellow parishioners in a Sunday Eucharist at which the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick was celebrated. After a powerful homily, many people came forward to be anointed. Those who were sick physically, mentally, and those "of broken spirit" stood before us. Warmly and filled with a sense of the Spirit the presider prayed, "May the Lord who frees you from sin save you and raise you up."

All those present were caught up in this intense ritual action. The administration of this sacrament in the sacred presence of the assembled community, at Sunday Eucharist, was a vehicle of transformation. People sensed that this sacramental action was the action of the Lord and the action of the gathered community. In addition, the repetition of the phrase, "May the Lord ... save you and raise you up" helped everyone to realize the essence of Christian spirituality, that is, participation in the Paschal Mystery. By bringing the sick before us, praying over them, laying hands on them, we reminded ourselves of who we are as Christians and deepened our conscious union with our sick brothers and sisters and with the Lord.

Our ancient Christian forebears understood the laying on of hands as the fundamental sacramental

symbol. As Godfrey Diekmann, OSB, says, "in a word the most natural, widespread and easily intelligible sign of communication of love, of power and strength, of spiritual, mental and psychological healing, has been given a new and deeper, a divine dimension by Christ." The Second Vatican Council facilitated the beginning of the restoration of the sacramental sign of the laying on of hands. Hopefully, this will begin to bring about in the Western Church the long-neglected emphasis on the role of the Spirit in the Christian life.

It is a powerful, Spirit-filled action to bring people before the assembly and pray over them. We do this in the scrutinies and exorcisms of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. We do this when a person is baptized, confirmed or eucharistized in our midst. By witnessing the initiation of another Christian, we can recount our own conversion and deepen our union in the Paschal Mystery. We should also visibly pray with those to be married, ordained, commissioned as catechists, and those who mourn. This action takes seriously the Prayer of the Faithful, as we embrace those very members for whom we pray.

It is the laying on of hands, present in one form or another in all of the sacraments, which communicates the presence of the Holy Spirit and touches us in faith. Ezekiel says it well: "The hand of the Lord was upon me and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord." (Ez. 37:1).



St. Rita's, Webster

The altar servers at St. Rita's in Webster awarded members of their own ranks for their outstanding participation and dedication. Winners are, front row, from left, Michael Dertinger, Andrew Kowalszyk; back row, Steve Dertinger, Gregg Miller, Tom Stahl, Ted Stahl, Steve Bareis, Darren Gutberlet, Chuck Manzella. Awards were presented by Father James C. Burke, co-pastor.

St. Augustine's

About 30 former and present St. Augustine's parishioners met June 9 for lunch to commemorate the birthday and anniversary of ordination of the late Msgr.

John M. Duffy. Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Jane Messe, plans are being made for a brunch in November to honor Msgr. Duffy.

Rose Sale Benefits Fund

Elmira — Earlier this year, the Knights of Columbus Council 229 announced the establishment of a Vocations Fund to receive donations which would then be used to support candidates to the priesthood and religious life from the Elmira area.

The fund raising effort will be visible in the area this summer, as council members will be selling cloth roses at many festivals and bazaars to benefit the fund.

MDC Honors Area Priests

Father Joseph Trovato, chaplain at St. John Fisher College, and Father Lawrence Wroblewski of McQuaid Jesuit High School, will be presented special awards tomorrow night, June 25, by Monroe Developmental Center's MDC Network.

The awards are in recognition of the men as coordinating outstanding student volunteer programs at the center.

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All the children in St. Antony's Bala Bhavan in Ashtamichira, India, are orphans or from families too poor to keep them. The home is small and cramped. The children sleep uncomfortably crowded together, even by Indian standards. Only \$3,000 will provide a new dormitory. Build it yourself as a Memorial for someone you love or at least share what you can (\$100, \$50, \$5).

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