

DeSales Trustees Elected

Geneva — Three new members of the DeSales High School Board of Trustees were elected here recently. They are Father Albert Shamon, pastor of St. Mary's, Waterloo; Sam Boncaro and Johanna Donahue. The newly elected representatives will serve three-year terms beginning with the July board meeting. Also serving on the DeSales board are Frank Caravita, president; Kalman Dolgos, vice-president; and Mary Salotti, secretary.



Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Insights In Liturgy

By Thomas Driscoll



Preparing For Liturgy By Fasting

"By His fasting He won a glorious victory over the devil." (Mozarabic liturgy, 5th century)

One of the great spiritual tools in the tradition of the Church is the art of fasting. Fasting is deliberately doing without food for a specific period. Today many Christians find it difficult to appreciate the value of the fast. Whether from motives of asceticism, purification, mourning or supplication, fasting occupies an important place in our religious tradition. Along with prayer and almsgiving it is one of the essential acts which express to God our humility, hope and love. Fasting establishes oneself with faith in an attitude of humility in order to receive the action of God and to place oneself in His presence.

We turn to the Lord (Daniel 9:3) with an attitude of dependence and total abandonment. This is the case before understanding a difficult task (Judges 20:26); when pardon is sought (1 Kings 21:27); a cure is sought (2 Samuel 12:16); to obtain the end of some calamity (Judith 4:9-13); to open one's mind to divine light (Daniel 10); to await the grace necessary to accomplish some mission (Acts 13:2); and when encountering the Lord (Exodus 34:28).

The most important fasts in the Bible are performed by Moses in the theophany on Mt. Sinai; by Elijah before he encountered the Lord on Mt. Horab; and by Jesus. Jesus modeled his 40-day fast on his predecessors. Fasting was part of the preparation for ministry.

In the early Church, the catechumens fasted with the entire community prior to

the celebration of the all-night Easter Vigil. This was called the Paschal Fast and was the immediate preparation for Easter. The early Christians also set aside two days of the week as fast-days, after the tradition of the Jews, but on different days: Wednesday and Friday instead of Monday and Thursday.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy attempts to restore the Paschal Fast. "But the paschal fast must be kept sacred. It should be celebrated everywhere on Good Friday, and where possible should be prolonged throughout Holy Saturday so that the faithful may attain the joys of the Sunday of the resurrection with uplifted and responsive minds."

Fasting has always been associated with repentance and conversion. In the early Church when a sinner approached the community for forgiveness, she/he was given a prayerful hearing and then told to fast, pray, and wear ashes. Fasting offered the penitents an opportunity to open themselves to the Lord and the Church's forgiveness.

Our recent history also shows fasting as a means of social protest.

Fasting is good for the willpower. It strengthens one to deal with temptation and fight off evil. St. Pachomius and St. St. Antony of Egypt, the first monks, fasted and prayed in order to have an opportunity to wage war on the devil.

Fasting is an excellent way to prepare oneself to encounter the Lord in the liturgy. To remain hungry from time to time and to deprive oneself of what is superfluous is a practice essential for that liberation, that stripping of oneself without which we cannot give our attention to God and the community of believers.



Steve Fesh, with the bat, successfully intimidated the umpire who is calling him safe during action at the Fundarama softball game. The first baseperson, Sister Maryilyn Reeves, is trying to keep the cup she was using to bribe the umpire.



'Comedy-ball'

A seemingly distraught Harriet Thatcher's base-stealing ended with a pair of handcuffs and being led off the field by a police officer during the action at the exhibition softball game that was part of the Fundarama sponsored by the Elmira Catholic schools. Father Richard O'Connell, right, the pitcher at the time, came over to see what was happening. Mrs. Thatcher got a light sentence, and was seen in the dugout almost immediately. In the game, more comedy than softball, the "Saints" beat the "Sinners," 5-4.

Scholarship Winner Announced

Elmira — Melissa Lynne Palinkas, an eighth grade pupil at St. Patrick's Junior High School, has been awarded a \$200 scholarship to Notre Dame High School by the Ladies of Charity.

Mary Smith, scholarship committee chairperson, announced the winner at the group's recent annual banquet. Candidates for the scholarship are judged on academic standing, school and community participation and their essay, "Why I Want to Attend Notre Dame High School." Melissa was selected from a field of more than 50 candidates.

Melissa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cleary of Elmira.

Scholarship Presented

Apalachin — Theresa Rangel has been awarded a college scholarship by the State Right to Life Committee.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rangel, Theresa was graduated from Vestal High School. She was awarded the Patrick Burke Memorial Scholarship in recognition of her activities promoting respect for life. The Rangels are members of St. Margaret Mary Parish.

The award, in the memory of the son of a state board member, is the only such scholarship awarded by the state Right to Life Committee's education fund.

In September, Theresa plans to attend LeMoyné College in Syracuse to study computer science.

St. James Hospital Board Approves Merger Request

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Hornell — At its meeting June 12, the St. James Mercy Hospital Board of Directors unanimously approved the application to merge with Bethesda Hospital.

The application for state approval of the merger, which includes several features negotiated and planned over a period of years, will now be evaluated by the Bethesda Board of Directors.

Sister Rene McNiff, St. James administrator, said that she expects the Bethesda board will act on the application at its July meeting, making it possible for the hospitals to submit it to the state in early August.

The application includes no date for merger. Sister Rene explained that when the application is submitted, the effect is that the hospitals are merged as soon as the state gives its approval.

The application which the board approved has four sections. The first is the establishment of the new corporation, which includes the certificate of consolidation, the plan for consolidation, and the by-laws of the new corporation. The other sections are: placement of clinical services; proposals for new services, chronic dialysis and long-term care; and an application for approval of the construction and renovation needed to accomplish the consolidation of services.

The application process has been delayed in part by pending action on the state level on an application by Bethesda Hospital to establish

a 20-bed alcoholism treatment unit. While that application was made solely by Bethesda, the result will affect the services offered by the merged hospital. The proposal now has received some of its approvals, Sister Rene said. The others are expected to be forthcoming.

Coalition Opposes Block Grants

Elmira — The Chemung County Coalition for Equity in the Federal Budget has adopted a resolution opposing immediate movement toward block grants as a means of funding human services.

A proposal at the federal level is to replace the many categories of federal funding for social, educational and other programs with "block grants" to states and local governments, which then will decide how to spend the money. The block grant is expected to be as much as 25 percent less than the current funding total.

The coalition calls block grants "a mechanism by which the Reagan administration and the Congress avoid being held accountable for the human and economic consequences of the unfair budget and tax cuts that have been proposed."

'Woman of Year'

Geneva — The St. Anthony Society of St. Francis De Sales Church here recently named Mary Balistreri as its "Woman of the Year." She has been a member of the society for the past 34 years and corresponding secretary for the last 20. Mrs. Balistreri was presented with a corsage and a wall plaque by the society.

Several timetables for submission of the merger application have been given, but delays have been frequent in the complex process. Sister Rene now foresees that the application will be submitted in August, and be reviewed by the health planning process in September and October.

"Local governments will be the object of ire when services formerly provided by our federal tax dollars disappear. Local governments will have the burden of determining whether the needs of the aged are more important than the needs of poor children or the handicapped or the sick. Local governments will be expected to explain to the voters why local taxes must rise just to maintain services now provided by our federal tax dollars."

The coalition is a group of local persons working to provide information on the impact of the federal budget cutting actions, and is affiliated with the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

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