

Sister Betty Rogers, RC

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect



Spiritual Directing, Counseling

The focus of spiritual direction is the life of the spirit. Rather than the term "direction," which connotes control, we might prefer to speak of guidance or facilitating. Like a pilot boarding a ship to share his familiarity with a harbor, a spiritual director draws upon his/her and the Church's knowledge and experience to assist a person sailing on the unfamiliar waters of a growing relationship with the Lord.

Spiritual counseling often overlaps spiritual direction and is more concerned with one's moral life of living of the Gospel.

We have normally considered seminary training important preparation for this ministry, but there is a long tradition of spiritual direction by unordained persons, religious and laity, including women religious: superiors to their members, saints like Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Siena to persons outside their communities, whole religious congregations dedicated to retreat ministry. In recent years many Sisters have joined these ranks and are sought out to provide spiritual directing/counseling to religious, priests and laity.

God leads us not only by outward events but also by His action within our hearts, moving us toward the freedom needed if we are to give ourselves in love. But we do not always pay attention to that inner activity. A spiritual director

NEW MEMBERS

New members of the board of the Parents' Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School are Annette and Francis Calvaruso, Mary Frances and Gene Delorm, Gail and Harry Housler, Margie and Peter Kress, Kathy and Ed Lynd, Joanne and Gerry Paradies, Nancy and Bob Pathe, Mary and Bill Seiffert and Judy and Tom Troidle.

Fr. Benzoni Celebrates First Mass

East Bloomfield — St. Bridget's Church here welcomed one of its own back home last Sunday as newly ordained Father Martin Benzoni, O.Praem, celebrated his first solemn Mass in the church.

Father Benzoni, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Benzoni of Boughton Road, East Bloomfield, completed six years of studies for the priesthood at the Pontifical Angelicum University in Rome.

He was ordained a priest on June 27 in the Priory of St. Michael in California, the Provincial Monastery of the Norbertine Fathers, the religious order of which he is a member.

Father Elmer McNamara, pastor of St. Bridget's, also reported that following Father Benzoni's Mass, a public reception was held in the parish hall.



Perpetual Profession

Brother Raymond James Vercruyse, a former member of St. Joseph's Parish in Penfield, has pronounced his perpetual vows of Chastity, Poverty and Obedience in the Congregation of Christian Brothers. He is attending Catholic University of America working for a Master's degree in Guidance and Counseling.

First Catholic Girl Scouts Celebrate 50

The 50th anniversary of the founding of Rochester's first Catholic Girl Scout Troop was commemorated last week at a party at the Spring House.

According to Mrs. Kenneth McHugh, one of the original 18 members of Troop 44 of St. Boniface Church, Sister Eva Marie Schreiner was the first leader of the group.

She said last week that

BOARD MEMBERS

The Alumnae Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School has announced new members on its Alumnae Board for 1981-82. The new members are Ann Carpenter, Carol Carson, Sue Lynch-Casement, Chris Kramer Doyle, Barbara Higgins, Peg Burke Murrellwright, Ruth Kirk Phelps and Marion Burns Strauss.

Cenacle Slates Guided Retreat

Father Eugene Tucker, SJ, will lead a five-day Guided Retreat August 14-19, at the Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal, 693 East Ave.

The program offers "five beautiful days to draw away from the world to experience a closeness to the Lord in a very special way." Cenacle spokesperson Carolyn Schulte said last week.

The retreat is open to clergy, religious and laity. Organizers are asking a donation of \$90 for the program. Further information is available by contacting the Cenacle ministry office (716) 271-8755.

The Jesuit retreat master is based at Holy Trinity Church in Washington, D.C.

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Help them get a Priest ...please!

Since there is no priest in this area of the Congo, the catechist gathers the community on Sundays for prayer and meditation on God's word.

Vocations in Mission areas are plentiful — but the cost of a seminary education, low as it is, is beyond the means of many young men aspiring to the priesthood.

Could you help one of them... so that he might bring the fullness of Christ's message to his people? Please?

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