



New Equipment

Bernard Barnett, RT, left, head of the St. James Mercy Hospital respiratory therapy department, demonstrates for Louis Buisch a new respirator which Buisch donated to the hospital. The \$10,000 Bennett ventilator is used to assist breathing. It is being used in the hospital's intensive and coronary care unit.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Passing The Buck

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 21:28-32. (R1) Ez. 18:25-28. (R2) Phil. 2:1-11.

The last two decades might well be labeled the age of "buck-passing" or in more sophisticated jargon, the age of "cop-out realism."

Way back when the world was paradise, Adam started buck-passing. He excused his fall by "the woman — gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it." The woman caught on quickly and she in turn blamed another: "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it." God punished all three.

The classic example of buck-passing, I think, was that of Aaron. Moses asked him why he made the golden calf. Aaron said to Moses, "The people gave me their golden jewelry, and I threw it into the fire, and this calf came out," just like that! "The Devil made me do it."

Over the centuries human beings have become quite adroit at blaming others and external factors for their behavior. We have had a giant assist from psychology in enforcing the impression that people are not accountable for what they do.

Social engineers today have fostered an image of human beings as victims. The looter — a victim of grinding poverty and social insensitivity. The corrupt politician — victim of the system. The problem teenager — victim of unhappy childhood. One sociologist labeled this "depersonalization of blame."

Ezekiel vehemently attacked this cop-out long ago. The Jews in the captivity of Babylon cried out that "the Lord's way is not fair!" "Our fathers sinned, we suffer," they charged. Ezekiel blasted the charge. "No one suffers for the sins of their parents," he said in effect. "Each suffers for his or her own sins. God is a just God, not a whimsical one." Of course outside factors influence our behavior; but, in the last analysis, we are accountable and no one else.

The great examples of Daniel, Susanna, and the three youths cast into the fiery furnace were living proof to them that one can rise above environment and outside forces.

Today, however, we witness too much "cop-out realism." Authorities legalize gambling instead of discouraging it. The cop-out: "People will gamble anyway."

Many high schools now have smoking rooms where students can smoke non-furtively. The cop-out: "They'll do it anyway."

Can you imagine the superlative cop-out: wanting to legalize marijuana! A former activist of the 60s wrote:

"We are great critics. We complained that our society didn't provide us with adequate spiritual nourishment. We rejected established religions. We criticized the nation's leaders. We expressed contempt for our teachers."

"We never thought of ourselves as responsible for anything. They were responsible — always the unidentified 'they,' the invisible ones who ran the society. Our only responsibility was to see through their hypocrisies and complain. It was a great excuse for doing nothing."

"I count the beginning of my maturity from the day I began to see the childishness of all that ... (and) to accept accountability for my world."

In these times of change and challenge, each individual is all-powerless and all-powerful. He is all-powerless if he knows that he is accountable. Who had so much going against them as the tax collectors and prostitutes of Jesus' day? Yet Jesus said, "Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God before those who had everything going for them religiously." (83)

Not who I am matters with God, but what I am! But what I am will depend on who I am — a buck-passer or an accountable one?



Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Hail and Farewell

Father Richard O'Connell, left, and Father Fidelis Fosselman, right, were feted Sept. 15 at a buffet dinner and reception honoring Father O'Connell as former pastor and Father Fidelis as his new replacement at St. Cecilia's in Elmira.

St. Joseph's Nursing Is a Sweeney Tradition

By Martin Toombs

Elmira — JoAnn Sweeney "always planned on going" to St. Joseph's School of Nursing.

When she started classes this month, she became the third in her family to attend the school, and the fifth to be associated with St. Joseph's Hospital currently.

Her sister Eileen graduated from St. Joseph's, and has worked for several years on Medical 1, Miss Sweeney said.

Her sister Laurie, also a St. Joseph's graduate, used to work in the intensive care unit, but now is an instructor in the nursing school. In fact, Miss Sweeney will have to take a class from her sister during her last year at St. Joseph's.

If she should want to see her mother during the year, she will only have to go up to the pediatric unit at night, where her mother, Bea, works, although she is not a graduate of St. Joseph's.

And just to make sure things go alright, Miss Sweeney's aunt, Mrs. Firmina Wilkins, is an instructor in St. Joseph's Hospital School of X-ray Technology.

Fall Festival Set in Owego

Owego — The St. Patrick's Fall Festival, which will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, "promises to be bigger and better than ever before," according to Maureen Foos, publicity chairperson.

For the first time, the festival will take place in tents on the parish grounds. There will be games, food and live entertainment, and many other booths in the church hall.

While parents shop and visit, there will be movies and creative classes for the children. A dinner will be served under the tent following the 5:15 p.m. Family Mass.

A pancake breakfast also will be conducted the next morning, from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The St. Joseph's tradition had a "lot of influence" on the Southside High School graduate, on both her choice of nursing and of a school. She said her relatives "never forced" her. The choice "seemed kind of natural."

As for the nursing school's future planning, there is one more Sweeney still in school, although Miss Sweeney said she doesn't know what her younger sister will do after high school.

Her choice of a hospital-based nursing program rather than one in a college was due to her feeling that "nursing is a lot more than books. You have to learn to work with people, and that's what you learn here."

After her first few days of class, she "really likes it so far," although she knows it's "going to be tough."

"Everybody is helping everybody to get through," she said. They started classes at Elmira College in the sciences and are taking an introductory nursing class at St. Joseph's.

As for her classmates, she already feels that "the friendships are going to last."

The "one drawback in nursing," she said, is working weekends, nights and holidays. But an advantage is that a qualified nurse never has to worry about finding work.

The arrival of the 1984 class at St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing has brought an 18 percent increase in enrollment over last year.

Fifty-seven students began their academic training Wednesday, Sept. 9.

Sister Remegia McHenry, School of Nursing director, cited the reputation of the school and the quality of its program as factors in the increased enrollment. Sister McHenry said, "Our graduates function well in a hospital with minimum

orientation because of the amount of clinical experience our students receive."

Other factors attributed to increased enrollment were faculty recruiting efforts and the lower cost of the St. Joseph's program as compared to collegiate programs.

The new students include 54 women and three men from throughout New York and Pennsylvania.

K of C Elects Officers

Elmira — New officers recently were installed by the Elmira Council 229 Knights of Columbus.

Several awards also were presented to knights for service to the organization. Locally, the council is preparing for the 100th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus, and the 85th anniversary of the local council.

The sale of roses to benefit the Vocation Fund also is continuing.

The officers are: Donald C. Blandford, grand knight; James J. Brady, deputy grand knight; Dr. James A. Mark, chancellor; Frank Beligotti, financial secretary; Joseph McCluskey, treasurer; William Johnson, recorder; Eldred Pannell, warden; and Father Henry Adamski, chaplain.



JoANN SWEENEY



A Big Smile

Patty Cloke paints a clown face on Greg Jusick at the recent St. Anthony's Festival in Elmira.

Disarmament Group Donates Books

Elmira — The Interfaith Peace and Disarmament Group has provided the Steele Memorial Library with a grant to secure books emphasizing non-violence, peaceful conflict resolution, disarmament and peacemaking.

The books, which include a selection for children, were on display in the main library beginning Monday, Sept. 14.

selected to coincide with the opening of the Air Force Association's "arms bazaar" in Washington, DC, according to the group. The intention, it said, is to "call attention to the horror of this arms bazaar and its idolatrous display of the latest products that have been developed, often with our tax dollars."

The week of Sept. 14 was

A. W. BEILBY & SON
Funeral Home
James Rotsell
Darrell O'Brien
139 Walnut St.
Dial 936-9121
Corning, N.Y.

Gerould's Pharmacies
S. Main St. and Church & Hoffman
Elmira
Delivery Service
733-6696

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