

A Tribute to Our Lady of the Rosary

By Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione
First of a 4-Part Series

I am writing this story as a tribute to Our Lady of the Rosary in thanksgiving for all she has done to keep The Family Rosary For Peace on the air for more than 31 years.

It will also be an act of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For I have been strongly tempted not to write it, not to bother going to all the trouble of assembling the facts. For it will mean reliving some anxious moments that I would prefer to forget. But I've decided that the very sacrifices involved will make the effort a worthwhile act of reparation.

When I retired from pastoral work in 1977 to devote myself full-time to The Family Rosary For Peace, everything seemed to be going well and I envisioned pleasant days ahead, processing mail, answering letters, preparing for and conducting the program. Enough work to keep me busy but without pressure, and with whole evenings to spend in prayer in my own private chapel.

The early days back in 1950 when we first put the Rosary program on the air, had indeed been hectic and trying. But that was all behind me. And mercifully, time has covered over many of the more painful memories with a sort of gossamer blanket that allows them to come through only when I want.

But in 1977, The Family Rosary Hour had been on the air in Rochester for more than 27 years, in Auburn and Central New York for more than 20 years, in Elmira and the Southern Tier for 10 years and in Buffalo for about a year. I had been lulled, I suppose, into a false sense of security. Spoiled, perhaps, would be the better word. For we went into Auburn and Corning at the invitation of those stations. Devotion to Our Lady was strong in those days, the Rosary was a popular devotion and our ratings were impressive. If I didn't have the evidence of the Hooper Ratings in my files, I myself would find it hard to believe that in 1957, the two radio programs with the highest in Rochester were the early morning show of the late Eddie Meath on WHEC and The Family Rosary For Peace on WSAY.

Our excursion into the Buffalo area was equally a rather painless process. Gordon Brown, who owned



The Family Rosary for Peace

401 ORANGE STREET

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14611

WSAY, had another station in Buffalo that was having financial problems. He and I suggested sending our program to his Buffalo station without any set rate, just my word that we would do right by him; he agreed.

That was the situation then, when I retired from pastoral work four years ago. I was no longer a young man and it was good to think the worst was over. It seemed a very attractive prospect to spend my last years with something meaningful to do until the Lord beckoned me to still greener pastures.

At this point I must relate a story the late Bishop James E. Kearney loved to tell. As many of you will remember, Bishop Kearney participated in The Family Rosary Hour on all major feasts of Our Lady. Frank Wolfe, a member of the executive committee from the very beginning and its sole surviving member, would call for the bishop on the night he was slated to lead the Rosary, bring him to the rectory, and then, after the broadcast was over, the three of us would return to the rectory from the Rosary Chapel, where, in a relaxed atmosphere that Bishop Kearney seemed to enjoy very much, we would chat for an hour or so, munching on his favorite cookies and sipping a glass of ginger ale. (The bishop called them macaroons but they were really almond paste cookies, Italian style, a popular feature at Italian wedding receptions.) Among the reminiscences the bishop would slip into at times was this incident that took place during his last "ad limina" visit to Rome.

Rosary on the Air

The Family Rosary Network may be heard at 6:30 nightly over the following stations:
WWWG, Rochester (1500 AM); WXXX, Watkins Glen (104FM); WSWF, Seneca Falls (99FM and 1110AM); WOIV, Syracuse (105FM); WYRD, Syracuse (1540 AM), and WXRL, Buffalo (1300AM).

In the course of his visit he had a private audience with Pope John XXIII. The bishop was getting on in years and he thought the time had come to retire. He was younger than the Pope, of course. As he explained to Pope John what he was thinking, the Holy Father began to smile broadly and when Bishop Kearney had finished, he poked him good-naturedly and shaking with laughter, said: "You old? Wait till you're 77. That's when things begin to happen. That's when things begin to happen." He was referring, of course, to his own election as Pope at the age of 77. Bishop Kearney loved to tell that story and would keep repeating for minutes afterwards: "Wait till you're 77. That's when things begin to happen."

I've had reason to recall that story more than once since I retired. Only I have changed it to fit my own situation, thus: "So you thought the worst was over. Wait till you retire. That's when things begin to happen. That's when things begin to happen."

(Continued next week.)

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Gift Ideas: From Welk To Sponges

Some people wait with bated breath for a chance to browse through the Neiman-Marcus Christmas catalogue fantasizing over such possible gifts as his and her airplanes, gold-plated bathtubs or a brandy snifter filled with real pearls.

I get much the same kind of kick perusing the Miles Kimball holiday book which arrived this past week and is filled with a plethora of items almost as functional as those found in the pages of the prestigious Texas firm mentioned above.

For example, this year MK features bent pencils — that's right, No. 2 lead pencils bent into crazy shapes. The advertising accompaniment reads, "fascinating treasures for kids of all ages as well as for friends with a literary bent. Bent. Get it?"

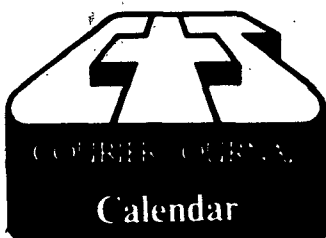
Those same friends with a literary bent would no doubt also appreciate a gift chosen from MK's art and culture section. Maybe a jigsaw puzzle of the Last Supper (replete with some kind of liquid adhesive to preserve the completed work for posterity) or a Lawrence Welk calendar.

Have a friend who needs to lose some weight? Fat is big with Miles Kimball. A voluminous apron modeled by a corpulent female is emblazoned with the message, "Skinny cooks can't be trusted." An even more rotund male models a tee shirt with the motto "Born to Diet." And, the perfect "fat gift" for a friend of either sex is the dieter's spoon, a large utensil with its rounded bowl scrupulously carved out.

For Suzy Homemaker who likes everything just so there is a cover for her liquid detergent bottle. A lettuce dryer-spinner that can be purchased locally for \$8 or less sells for twice that in the MK wish book.

For those friends plagued with cold tootsies, an electric toe toaster might be just the thing. Quilted and cheerful, it appears to resemble a wired tea-pot cozy and when not in use in the bedroom could, no doubt, be utilized nicely in the kitchen, making it an especially good value.

With a couple of thousand items to choose from I had a hard time picking my favorite. I finally narrowed it down to two: a flashlight shaped like a beer bottle and 13 sponges designed to simulate a loaf of bread. Sliced, of course.



CLOTHING SALE — A Pittsford PTSA clothing sale, 9-5 and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 2; 9-noon and 1-2:30 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, in the Pittsford Mendon High School.

SEMINAR — Brockport Conference on Child Maltreatment, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2-3, at the college. Registration \$45. Contact Brockport continuing education office, 395-2755.

PLANETARIUM — Encounter the Universe show, 8 p.m., Monday to Friday; 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 and 8 p.m., on Saturdays; 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30 and 8 p.m., Sundays, through Oct. 18.

SALE — Allendale Columbia School's next-to-new sale, 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., Thursday Oct. 1; 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3, school gym.

AUDITIONS — Rochester Community Players casting for "Anything Goes" by Cole Porter, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 3 and 7-9 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4 at the Playhouse, corner of Clinton and Meigs.

THEATER — Swiss mime troupe, Mummenschänz, main auditorium, Nazareth College Arts Center, Saturday, Oct. 3. Tickets available at Arts Center box office, 586-2420.



Catechetical Sunday

Father Thomas M. Reddington, center, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Church, commissions a group of catechetical ministers during Mass last weekend marking Catechetical Sunday. Father David P. Simon, right, looks on. The annual service was celebrated across the diocese.



McQuaid Dinner-Dance

Committee members planning for the 15th annual McQuaid Jesuit High School Dinner-Dance, slated for Friday, Oct. 2, at Monroe Golf Club, are Thomas and Alice Hartzell, Annette Aquila, John Tobin, and former McQuaid rector, Father John Boland, SJ. The Bourbon Street Parade will be featured at the affair for parents, alumni and friends of the school. Ticket information is obtained by calling McQuaid at 473-1130.

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