

Bishops Ask Navy Change Sub Name

Washington (RNS) — Archbishop John P. Roach, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, has written Secretary of the Navy John Lehman asking that the name of the nuclear submarine Corpus Christi be changed.

Archbishop Roach pointed out that the American bishops "recognized that (while) the choice of the name Corpus Christi is intended to honor the city of the same name in Texas, this Latin phrase also expresses one of the most sacred mysteries in the faith of millions of Americans."

Corpus Christi means Body of Christ in Latin. There were protests and demonstrations in connection with the recent christening of the submarine at its New London, Conn., launching.

Archbishop Roach added that for the bishops "the naming of a war vessel in this manner is not merely inappropriate but very nearly sacrilegious."

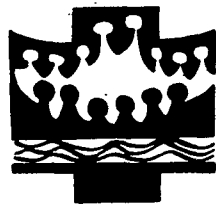
"I fully support the actions of the bishops," said Father James B. Callan, pastor of Corpus Christi Church here in Rochester.

"I feel we should even question the existence of the submarine at all," Father Callan continued. "But it's scandalous to name this submarine — that has the potential for destroying men, women and children in a holocaust — after the Prince of Peace. It's just outrageous."

The bishops at their annual meeting had voted to have the letter sent at the request of Bishop Thomas J. Drury, who has headed the Corpus Christi diocese since 1965.

Insights In Liturgy

By Pam Schaeffer



Moving From Darkness To Light

Life is a journey that again and again leads from darkness to light. The persistent pattern follows from the very moment of birth, to death and rebirth into eternal life. From the darkness of the womb into the light of His creation, from the darkness of sin to new life in Christ, over and over again we grope in darkness, stumble in shadows, always seeking light.

As Church, we gather each year to reflect upon this

pattern. We need this time to stand together and face the darkness. Here we find unity, commonality. The liturgical season that presents us this opportunity is Advent with its communal pilgrimage in which one's individual journey is shared and seen anew. Individual fears, sufferings and pain, each person's hate, prejudice and lack — all that represents darkness — can be reconciled; all that brings darkness into our lives can be dispelled as we make this journey together.

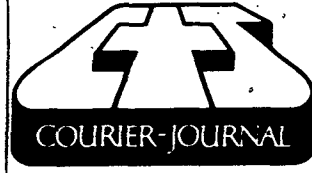
How comforting it is to share our common fears; how reassuring to learn that others also sense times of hopelessness. Each life in

some way has experienced moments of doubt, despair and gloom. Some are grieving over the loss of a loved one: parent, spouse, child; others are living in the depths of chronic or terminal illness; families are torn apart by the loss of employment, troubled adolescents, separation and divorce. All, at one time or another, have experienced spiritual blindness, and have felt the bleakness of questions left unanswered.

Darkness enters our lives in subtle ways: jealousy, the shallowness of greed, the narrowness of prejudice. We become prisoners frozen in self-righteousness, and not unlike our brothers and sisters who know the trauma of physical incarceration, we long for the light that dimly beckons at the far end of our darkened path. This light represents liberation from gloom, release from the

darkness that confines. This sought-after light speaks to us of healing and reconciliation, comfort and peace. Together, we will be healed by its warmth and joy; we will be reconciled by its truth and justice.

Our shared wandering sparks confidence, barriers we have built that diminish His gift of light are broken; the resulting blended light becomes a giant searchlight in the darkness. The pathway clears, the road becomes smooth, and once again we are able to walk out of the darkness to bathe in His wondrous light. Warmed, reconciled, healed and at peace with ourselves and one another, we are able to raise our hearts and voices in praise and thanksgiving: "The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light. Upon those who dwell in the land of gloom a light has shone. You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing." (Isaiah 9)



Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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AOH Meets

Auburn's John F. Kennedy Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians recently celebrated its annual Communion supper and heard a talk by Denis Dillon, district attorney of Nassau County who has travelled to Ireland a number of times. Photographed are (left to right): seated, Dillon; Michael P. Hession, state vice president; Father Robert Casey, chaplain of the Ladies Auxiliary, Auburn; Mrs. Marian Cuff, state president of the Ladies Auxiliary; Father Ralph Fraats, chaplain of Auburn division; Edward J. Wallace, past state president; standing, Richard Hennessy, district attorney of Onondaga County; William H. McKeon, state election commissioner; Michael Glenn, state organizer; Miss Mary Anne Shaw, county president of the auxiliary.

Diocesan Officials Meet with CCGEB

Elmira — Sister Roberta Tierney, diocesan Education Division director, and Sister Edwardine Weaver, diocesan superintendent of schools, met Nov. 11 with the Chemung County General Education Board (CCGEB).

Sister Roberta spoke on police and administration, and Sister Edwardine on the need

St. Bridget/ St. Joseph

East Bloomfield — The Altar Rosary Society of St. Bridget and St. Joseph in West Bloomfield will hold a wine tasting and cheese party 7:30-10 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 10, in St. Bridget's Church hall here. A \$1 donation will be accepted.

for long-range planning. In other action, the board approved the last of the constitutional amendments which were proposed, these dealing mainly with the position of the board president. The new provisions call for a nominating committee to prepare a slate of officers. The nomination for president would first go to a board member, under the new rules, and only to a non-board member if no member accepted nomination. The non-member candidate would then have to be presented at the October meeting. The new provisions also restrict the president to two consecutive one-year terms. The previous restriction had been three terms.

Merger Talks Continuing

Hornell — Discussions between the St. James Mercy Hospital and Bethesda Hospital board of directors concerning the merger of the two institutions are continuing.

Following the rejection of a merger agreement by the Bethesda board in August, several meetings have been conducted, Sister Rene McNiff, St. James administrator, said, and some wording changes have been made in the agreement.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

Heart Club Issues Brochure

Elmira — The Open Heart Club has issued a new "Take Your Heart for a Walk" brochure. The original brochure was issued last April. It described a three-quarter-mile route inside Arnot Mall for people who wanted to walk there for exercise.

The opening of the corridor to the Sears store has added another eighth of a mile to the course. The distance around the inside of the mall is now seven-eighths of a mile. The route is divided into eighth-mile segments, marked by white bricks on the floor of the mall.

The club developed the walking course because doctors often prescribe walking as good exercise, especially for heart patients.

The course was designed by Open Heart Club members Frank Stamilio and Karl Healey. The new brochures are available from the Arnot-Ogden Memorial Hospital Community Relations Office, and at the Arnot Mall manager's office.

Young Alcoholics Discussion Set

Elmira — A panel discussion on "Youth and Alcoholics Anonymous," moderated by Martha R. Smith, executive director of the Chemung County Alcoholism Council, has been scheduled for 12:15 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 17, in meeting room number one, the lower level of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Further information on the monthly program is available from the STARS office at St. Joseph's, 733-5519.

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