

Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Chairmen Named

Leadership positions in the capital fund-raising effort, Quest '82, for Elmira's St. Joseph's Hospital were announced last week. John H. Fassett, director of the Hilliard Corporation, was named honorary chairman. Helen R. McInerney, president-elect of St. Joseph's Hospital Auxillary, was named chairman of the campaign.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Jesus Forgives Our Sins

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 2:1-12. (R1) Is. 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25. (R2) 2 Cor. 1:18-22.

"See, I am doing something new!" (R1)

Sounds like Madison Avenue, promoting a product — "brand new!"

Franklin D. Roosevelt promised a "New Deal."

John F. Kennedy offered a "New Frontier."

Anything "new" involves a promise of something "better."

The something new Second Isaiah was promising Israel was deliverance from the terrible Babylonian captivity despite their sins. He foretold that God's saving deeds would create a new people who would tell others about Him — "announce my praise."

The something new was the forgiveness of sins — a nation's sins.

But Jesus brought something newer still — something "brand new": the forgiveness of personal sins. That's the meaning behind the Sunday gospel story.

In Mark's gospel we have sets of Conflict Stories. Conflict Stories were used by the Church to explain why Jesus, though innocent, was crucified by His own people, and to provide the Church with fuel in her debates with unbelievers regarding certain teachings of Christ. To unbelievers, especially the Jewish opponents of Jesus, one thing was unthinkable — the claim of Jesus and His Church to forgive sins.

With great skill Mark weaves together five Conflict Stories (2:1-3:6) each with a "new teaching" that went counter to what the Pharisees held.

A paralytic is brought to Jesus. Jesus says to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Immediately, that focused the problem: "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Jesus retorts, "I can, as man." Then to prove that He could do what they could not see (forgive sins), He did something they all could see (cured the paralytic). Illness was seen as the effect of sin. If Jesus could remove the effect (paralysis), He has the power over the cause (sin). By working the miracle they all could see, He demonstrated He could work the miracle they could not see — the forgiveness of sins. By healing, He restored health; by forgiving sin, wholeness!

Dr. Paul Tournier, the distinguished Swiss physician and psychiatrist, turned from medicine to religion, because his practice led him to conclude that most modern-ills are due to sickness of the soul — inner conflicts. Dr. C.G. Jung, who broke with Freud because of the latter's over-emphasis on sex, wrote:

"Among all my patients there has not been one whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life. It is safe to say that everyone of them fell ill because he had lost that which the living religions of every age have given to their followers, and none of them has been really healed who did not regain his religious outlook."

The gospel hints that there was a connection between the paralysis of the paralytic and his sins. Only after restoring his spiritual health was Jesus able to restore his bodily health.

Jesus knew how psychosomatic many ills are — that was why He instituted the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Very often in our ills, like Lady Macbeth's, "more hath we need of the divine than of the physician."

Cut-A-Thon To Benefit Burn Unit

Elmira — St. Joseph's Hospital Burn Care Unit will benefit from the proceeds of a Cut-A-Thon to be conducted in both Elmira and Corning Saturday, Feb. 13.

Hair dressers at Reflections Unlimited at 466 Riverside Ave. in Elmira and The Hair Company at the Holiday Inn in Painted Post will join forces at both locations for the one-day event. The Cut-A-Thon begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 7 p.m., with all proceeds being donated to the purchase of equipment for the Burn Care Unit at St. Joseph's Hospital which serves the Southern Tier of New York and the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania.

Chairing the event are Kathy Hunt from Reflections Unlimited and Marty Knolton from The Hair Company. Customers may call for an appointment or visit the Cut-A-Thon locations anytime during the event.

Alcoholism Seminar Scheduled

Elmira — The monthly alcoholism seminar will be at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18, in the Doctors Meeting Room of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Martha Boland, executive director of the alcoholism council of Chemung County, will be speaking on the future directions of the council.

Further information is available from the STARS office at the hospital, 733-5519.

Father Farrell To Speak

South Waverly, Pa. — Father Edward J. Farrell will speak at St. John's the Evangelist Church, 85 Division St., South Waverly, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 3.

Father Farrell's topic will be "Eucharist: Heart of the Parish and Family Spirituality."

Father Farrell is one of America's most respected authors on spirituality. He is in demand as a retreat master and lecturer. Presently pastor of St. Agnes Church, Detroit, he has published several books, including "Prayer is a Hunger" and "Disciples and Other Strangers." He also has published several tapes on prayer, the sacraments and social justice.

The lecture is being sponsored by Father Vincent Langan, St. John the Evangelist pastor, and Rev. Mr. Joseph Sica. The lecture is free, and all are invited. Refreshments and a time for questions will follow. Further information is available by calling (717) 888-9641 or 888-2123.

Northeast Region Sets Day of 'Family Fun'

A "Family Fun Day" has been slated by the Family Life Committee of the Northeast Regional Conference for 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 21, at St. James Church, 109 Brockley Road. The day will consist of an afternoon of family recreation, liturgy and a potluck supper.

the noted singing group from the Southern Tier, will sing; Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate Mass.

Further information is available by calling Carolyn Shulte, 271-8755 or 266-0656.

Father Matthew Kawiak will present a "Theology of Recreation;" Celebrate Life,

St. Stephen's Slates Teen Workshop

Geneva — A leadership training program, "Just for Teens," will be hosted by St. Stephen's Church under the egis of the religious education coordinators of the Yates, Ontario, Wayne Region and the diocesan Catholic Youth Organization, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 27. A \$2 donation is asked and participants are asked to bring their own lunches. Persons wishing to attend have been asked to contact their parish religious education coordinators to register and ensure transportation.

ARE Lists Meetings

Stress and "burnout" among directors of religious education will be discussed at the March 26 meeting of the Association of Religious Educators at St. John of Rochester Catechetical Center.

The meeting will open at 10 a.m. and close at noon.

Three other meeting dates have also been published. On April 30 the association will meet with Lay Associates from St. Gertrude's in Toronto at St. John's Parish in Clyde. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will meet with the group and with the Office of Religious Education at Notre Dame Retreat House on June 2. On Sept. 30 the association will discuss the bishop's forthcoming pastoral letter on women in the Church at High Acres near Geneva.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The February meeting of the Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild will begin with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. followed by a catered dinner at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 22, at the school. Following dinner the women will hear a speaker from RAPE CRISIS. Reservations are made by calling 621-5505 before Feb. 18.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI
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How do I help my older friend after the funeral?

A man we know visited several elderly persons about six weeks following the death of their spouses. He was told that he was the first person that had come to visit. This is not an unusual happening. It is easy to forget those who have fewer contacts or resources to reach out for help. Older people often need help dealing with their emotions. Good company cuts down on lonely hours and it also offers a chance for the elderly to express their grief and other important feelings. Special attention should also be given to helping an older bereaved person with practical matters. Help them continue to be independent and encourage them to do as much for themselves as possible. Do not make them feel helpless by taking away their decision making ability.

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