

# Free Lunch? You Bet!

By John Dash

There's no such thing as a free lunch.

But don't bet on it. And don't tell Brother Richard Czerwien at St. Peter and Paul Church.

Brother Rich, as the 40-year-old candidate for priesthood in the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary is called, has been ladling out free soup lunches since last week in what he calls St. Peter's Kitchen.

And everyone is invited to the feast — rich and poor, black and white and brown, male and female, Jewish, Protestant, Catholic, and nothing: everyone.

The kitchen is in the basement of the old parish school at 720 West Main St.

The kitchen is open from noon to 2 p.m. everyday except Sunday.

Brother Czerwien said last week that the idea for opening

the kitchen came from the Gospel mandate to feed the hungry, and to reflect the meaning of the Eucharist and the Heavenly Banquet.

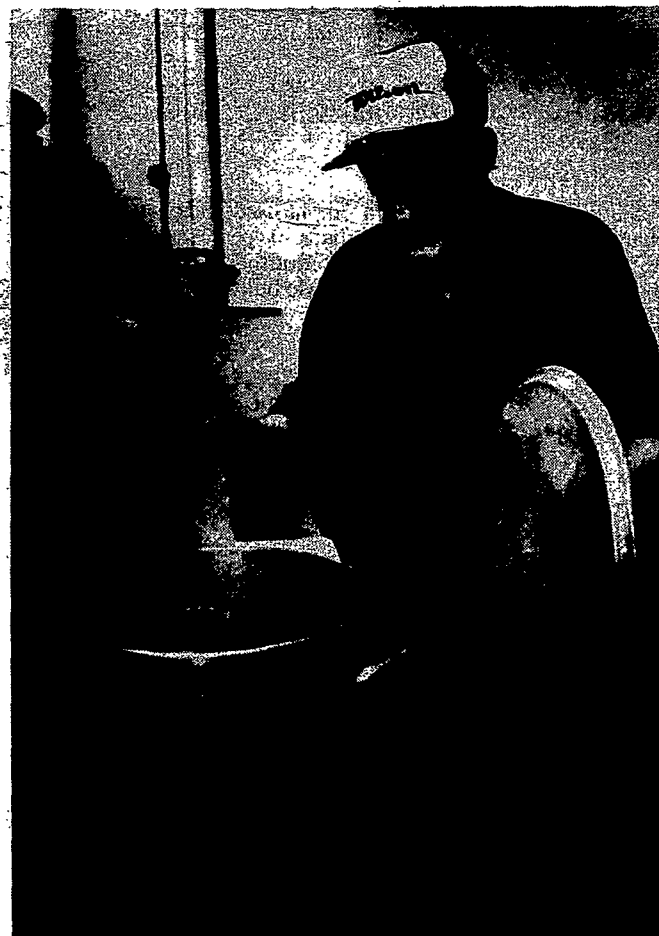
Brother Czerwien was assigned to the Rochester group of the Sacred Hearts only three weeks ago. Coordinating the kitchen project is part of his required ministerial training prior to ordination.

Before entering the seminary, he worked with the Boy Scouts and as an institutional cook.

In the three weeks that he's been here, Brother Czerwien has garnered a good deal of support for his kitchen both in terms of foodstuffs and help.

But he needs more volunteers, to cook and to serve, so that the core group of helpers "won't get burned out."

Any person interested in a stint as a helper in St. Peter's Kitchen has been asked to call 436-3110. Anyone hungry is invited to draw up a chair.



Brother Richard ladles out soup.



## He Cares

Bishop Matthew H. Clark visits Ralph Montemalo at Strong Memorial Hospital. Montemalo, paralyzed last Fall during a football game at St. John Fisher College, is a patient at Strong's Rehabilitation Unit. The college football club is raising funds to buy equipment to help Montemalo's independence.

## RIT Students Help CAP, Holy Childhood

Thanks to the work of Rochester Institute of Technology students in a recent Effective Selling Course, two local not-for-profit organizations were helped by an unusual fundraising project.

Under the guidance of Continuing Education instructor I.C. Shah, Executive Telephone Systems president, the students raised more than \$3,000 for the CAP Book and the School of the Holy Childhood.

The CAP Book provides the photo-listing service "A Child is Waiting" which appears in the Democrat and Chronicle. The service aids handicapped children in finding adoptive parents and was originally a series in the Courier-Journal.

The School of the Holy Childhood, a non-denominational school for the mentally retarded, offers students a wide range of educational, recreational and social enrichment programs.

## Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

## Can Disabled Become Priests?

Dear Father Hohman,

This past year being the International Year of the Disabled Person, I began wondering why no disabled people are priests. Are there physical handicaps that disqualify people from the priesthood?

DCM

Dear DCM,

The answer to your question is not as easy as it may sound. Historically there have been rather harsh regulations relative to the ordination to the priesthood of handicapped. These regulations stemmed from the fact that in the Middle Ages there was a gross practice on the part of wealthy and politically powerful people of sending their sons who were handicapped or not able to make it in the world, to monasteries or the priesthood where they would be taken care of. Obviously this was just as much a disfavor to the young man as it was to the monastery or the diocese, since his will in the matter was not even considered and his ability to meet the demands of the vocation not even questioned.


There are three points I would like to make. 1) In

### NO SMOKING

The American Cancer Society is sponsoring a "12-hour marathon" no smoking program from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday, March 13, at the unit office, 1400 N. Winton Road. For registration or information, the telephone number is 288-1950.

this era there is no need to disqualify any person for any handicap or disfigurement which would allow for him to carry out the duties of his calling. 2) If the priesthood were a superior state rather than simply a specific ministry, then there should be discrimination against those who are non-functional. But the fact is, the priesthood is basically a ministry, so the ability to function in the ministry is essential. 3) The presence of people who are surmounting handicaps and ordained would, I think, be a remarkable witness to the presence of the Suffering Servant in our time. But that is strictly a personal opinion. Specific decisions belong to the bishop.

It was less than 20 years ago that even a slight disfigurement could render a candidate at least doubtful in terms of ordination. Thank God we have gone beyond that. Besides, it will come as no great news to you that we priests, like the rest of humanity, are flawed many ways — notional, psychological, spiritually. And these, after all, are handicaps.



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