



Southern Tier Auburn-Geneva

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Ithaca Parishioners Have Spiritual Renewal Day

Ithaca — About 100 Immaculate Conception parishioners spent Feb. 27 in a day of spiritual renewal.

Included among those participating in the workshops, discussions and Mass were the members of the parish Confirmation class, their parents and sponsors.

During the Mass which ended the day's events, the members of that class formally enrolled themselves in the program. They are preparing for Confirmation on April 21.

The program began with an opening prayer service, and then segments were run, in turn, by Father Louis

Hohman, St. Vincent DePaul, Churchville, pastor; Father Anthony Mugavero, Immaculate Conception, associate pastor; Father Lewis Brown, Immaculate Conception, associate; and Father Bernard Carges, pastor.

Father Carges celebrated the Mass which ended the program.

Divided into discussion groups, a list of principles of Pastoral Ministry prepared by Father Carges kept the participants engrossed in discussion. Each group seemed to have its own perspective, as debates about the Latin Mass and the role of women in the Church broke

out at one table, while another discussion featured ideas on how best to approach someone to share the faith.

The principles of ministry were drawn from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's "You Are Living Stones" pastoral of November 1975, Father Carges said.

Included were brief statements noting the importance of balance between action and reflection, personal witness, cultivating gifts, stewardship, spirituality, dialogue, readiness, and planning.

In his advice to the participants Father Carges commended the interest shown in the attendance at the program, while warning, "Be careful lest attendance at meetings become the principal service that you give to the Church."

He urged parishioners to avoid pessimism, and to use their talents and skills wisely.

"I know it is painful," he concluded, "but please continue to broaden your vision of what is Church. None of us can build our parish as an island fortress while neglecting completely any concern for other parishes of the region, or the diocese, or the needs of the entire Church. Isolation is no path to the future."



Father Bernard Carges, pastor, with candidates for Confirmation.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Building Of the New Covenant

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Ja. 2/13-25. (R1) Ex. 20/1-17. (R2) 1 Cor. 1/22-25.

During this Lent, the first readings focus on covenant: the one with Noah, then with Abraham, and now this Sunday with Israel through Moses.

Covenant theology is so important, because faith is so important for salvation. Man lost paradise through a lack of faith; he did not believe God, but rather an extra-terrestrial being, whom the Book of Wisdom called "the devil" and the author of Genesis likened to "a dirty snake."

God had promised the first man an earthly paradise and deathless life on the one condition that man would not step beyond the limits of creaturehood.

Like a loving Father, not like a threatening avenger, God told man that disobedience would lead to death. The devil said it would not. Man believed the

devil. And Chapters 4-11 of Genesis showed that God was not lying, but that the devil was! Dramatically, Chapter Five of Genesis — a genealogy — underscores this fact by repeating eight times the phrase "then he died." It was the author's way of saying the wages of sin is indeed death, and God was telling the truth.

To get out of the trouble into which man had fallen, two things were needed: outside help, from God; and inside help, from people of faith.

Each covenant was the outside help. For covenant was simply God saying, "I will do this for you if..." The response of faith, "I believe in you...", was the inside help needed.

Sunday's first reading gives the third covenant God made; not with a single man, like Noah or Abraham, but with an entire people, a nation — Israel. God promised to give Israel the land He had long before promised to give them through Abraham. And what was the condition? The obedience of faith: "If you hearken to my voice..." (Ex. 19/5).

And His voice was the ten words or commandments — "words of everlasting life." The subsequent history of Israel was determined by its response to God's words: When Israel kept the commandments, she prospered; when she did not, she was enslaved.

The desecration of the Temple at the time of our Lord, shows that once again God's people had failed to keep their part of the covenant. That was why God's Son came to earth — to make a new covenant — to give His people one more last chance.

In this new covenant, God promised, not a new land on earth, but a heavenland. Again He seeks the obedience of faith: that we believe in Him and keep His commandments of love. And this time, to make sure this covenant would not fail, Jesus decided to help us from the inside as well as from the outside.

Jesus knew that the trouble with man is heart trouble. "He was well aware of what was in man's heart" (R3). People love wrongly. Therefore to change the hearts of people and to fill them with love, the first gift Jesus gave was the Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of love; and the second gift was the Holy Spirit, the God of love. This is the new covenant. It cannot fail unless we fail God and refuse His gifts.

Volunteerism Topic at Palmyra Church

Palmyra — A second in a series of volunteerism workshops will take place from 10 a.m. to noon, Friday, March 19, at St. Anne's Church here.

Dr. Angela Palmieri of Rochester, a professional volunteer herself, will present the workshop, her fourth at St. Ann's during the past year.

The March 19 program will center on developing training programs for volunteers while emphasizing techniques and skills in planning, preparing and presenting.

Dr. Palmieri is a graduate of the University of Rochester and has a doctorate in counseling psychology from Michigan State University. She works with the Girl Scouts on various levels and has served the Diocese of Rochester in teacher training.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Sister Kate McCarthy at St. Anne's.

Retreat Scheduled At Cenacle

The Cenacle Center for Spiritual Renewal will host a retreat for women of the from Friday, April 23 through Sunday, April 25.

Father Charles Mulligan, Sister Barbara Moore and the Cenacle staff will direct the retreat, the theme of which will focus on the Beatitudes.

Offering for the retreat is \$45. For further information, contact the Cenacle Ministry Office at 271-8755.

Church Home Plans Chapel

The Episcopal Church Home's board of directors last week unveiled plans to add a Faith and Activity Center to the facility at 505 Mt. Hope Ave. The addition will consist of a chapel, offices for pastoral counseling and an expanded greenhouse.

The cost of the center will be approximately \$500,000. To date, \$300,000 in unsolicited contributions have been earmarked for the addition.

The home, founded in 1868, consists of an 80-bed skilled nursing facility and a 60-bed health related facility.

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Decision Making Advice Offered

Hornell — Nursing instructors interested in developing their decision making abilities will have an opportunity to do so Friday, April 2.

School-of-Nursing.

According to Ms. del Bueno, the workshop will assist educators in both academic and service settings in improving assessing nurses' clinical decision making ability.

Ms. del Bueno has bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing, and a doctorate in nursing education.

Dorothy Jean del Bueno, assistant dean for continuing education and consultant in service education at the University of Pennsylvania and its hospital, will lecture on "Clinical Decision Making."

The one-day workshop will be 8:30 a.m. at the Ponce DeLeon Restaurant, Hornell. The event is sponsored by the St. James Mercy Hospital

Nursing instructors interested in participating should register before March 19 with the St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing.

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