

# Redemptorists Note 250 Years

The Redemptorists are celebrating a jubilee year this year as the congregation marks its 25th birthday. The congregation of the Most

Holy Redeemer, as it is officially called, is known for its missionary work, preaching the eternal truths, fostering close friendship with Jesus in

the Holy Eucharist, devotion to Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection, and a fervent love for Mary, Mother of God and our mother.

All those traits are part of the legacy left by St. Alphonsus Ligouri, founder of the Redemptorists.

In Rochester, the Redemptorists were associated with St. Joseph's Church on Franklin Street and now with Our Lady of Victory Church on Pleasant Street. In addition, the Redemptorists maintain and staff Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

Other parishes in the diocese helped by the congregation in their early days are St. Joseph, Penfield; Holy Ghost, Coldwater; St. Michael's, Rochester; St. Mary, Elmira; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; Most Holy Trinity, Webster; Most Holy Redeemer, Rochester; St. Boniface, Rochester; and St. Januarius, Naples.

The purpose of the Redemptorists has remained the same throughout the 250 years since the establishment of the congregation: personal holiness through close imitation of the Redeemer's virtues, and an apostolate of preaching the Gospel to the most abandoned, the while guided by the spirit and writing of St. Alphonsus.

The work of the congregation has been blessed with plentiful harvest (the motto of the congregations is "With Him there is plentiful Redemption").

The group has spread across the earth so that it may fairly be said there is no corner of it without Redemptorist missionary presence, and the influence of the Alphonsian school of Moral Theology.



In addition, the congregation numbers several of its group among the saints:

St. Clement Mary Hofbauer, who took the Redemptorists from Italy to eastern Europe and made Warsaw and Vienna famous for their Mission Churches;

St. Gerard Majella, a lay brother whose living of the Redemptorist rule was so perfect that he became a miracle worker and a saint for doing simple things with perfection;

St. John Neumann, whose missionary path criss-crossed most of the northeastern part of the United States and included stops in Rochester.

This year another Redemptorist will be honored by the Church. Peter Donders, who labored as a Redemptorist among the lepers, slaves and Indians in Paramaribo, Dutch Guiana, will be beatified May 23.

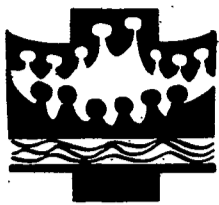
A congregation statement on the occasion of the jubilee year read: "The support and cooperation of God's people has marvelously aided God's grace to pour forth in Redemptorist apostolic labors. We invite you to share our joy and thanksgiving, and our prayer for God's continued blessing. May Our Mother of Perpetual Help watch over all of us."

## Deadline

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

## Insights In Liturgy

By Pam Schaeffer



## The Purpose Of the Scrutinies

The Scrutinies ... an ominous sounding term! Scrutiny — just saying the word can bring unpleasant connotations. One might immediately interpret this term for some kind of microscopic inspection, as it carries a clinical implication. Or, perhaps when we use the term combined with a public celebration, as parishes involved with the RCIA during Lent are doing, one might envision a public "airing of dirty linen." Even the dictionary defines scrutiny as a "close examination; minute inspection; critical observation."

The Scrutinies are probably the most misunderstood of the rites of initiation. The new rite clearly states the purpose of the Scrutinies: "The Scrutinies ... have a two-fold purpose — revealing anything that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect, so that it may be healed; and revealing what is upright, strong, and holy, so that it may be strengthened. The Scrutinies are intended to free them from sin and the devil and to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life for the chosen ones." (RCIA 25)

Their purpose, then, "is mainly spiritual ... The Scrutinies are intended to purify the catechumen's minds and hearts, to strengthen them against temptation, to purify their intentions, and to make firm their decision, so that they remain more closely united with Christ and make progress in their efforts to love God more deeply." (RCIA 154)

The Scrutinies, when seen in light of the text from the rite, require spade work on the part of the elect. The elect, ministers and all of us are called upon to participate. However, a common mistake is in the assumption that our attention should be focused on the action of God in these rites, forgetting about the importance of the action and participation of the people. So it is essential that we recognize that the work of scrutinizing is that of the people, the elect with the prayerful support of the ministers and the entire community that gathers.

Scrutinies are celebrated with the elect (those "chosen" or "elected" by their communities on the First Sunday of Lent) on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent during the regularly scheduled Sunday Masses. This is a public celebration of the rite, not a time for a "public"

examination of conscience or confession, but a concentrated time of introspection for the elect, a time for them to be healed, to be supported and strengthened by the rest of the community, a time to progress in readiness week by week, in preparation for initiation and/or reception into full communion at the celebration of the Easter Vigil. These weeks of sharing with the entire community in light of the Gospels from Cycle A, as called for by the RCIA, the Samaritan Woman, the Man Born Blind, and the Raising of Lazarus reveal to the elect the depth of God's love for them and the multi-faceted dimensions that life in Christ brings to them.

All who participate are touched. The elect teach us, or re-teach us, the meaning and need for Lent in our lives. Their efforts help us to recall our own baptismal commitment and our heartfelt need for reconciliation. The community and the elect are bound together through this journey of faith; the elect look to the community for support and healing and community members are inspired by their struggle to renew themselves in an effort to serve as a living example to the elect.

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## LENT AND LEPROSY

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If Lent so far has not been meaningful, if you haven't done enough, you still have time to make it worthwhile. How can you best keep Lent? The answer is we must make sacrifices on our own. In easing the Lenten regulations of fast and abstinence, the Holy Father recommended instead that we deny ourselves voluntarily and share our abundance with the poor and suffering. More than 10 million people still suffer from leprosy. Here's what your Lenten gift for them will do:

- \$5,000—Builds a pre-fab clinic in a far-flung village.
- \$3,000—train ten native Sisters in nursing.
- \$1,500—provide an operating table.
- \$575—buy a whirlpool bath.
- \$200—purchase a microscope.
- \$100—give the clinic a sterilizer.
- \$95—provide a wheelchair
- \$40—buy 1,000 vitamin tablets.
- \$30—give a hospital bed.
- \$15—give him (or her) a hand-walker.
- \$10—give the clinic a blood-pressure set.
- \$9—buy Dapson tablets for 9 victims for a year.
- \$8.00—buy 12 thermometers.
- \$5.00—100 vitamin tablets.
- \$3.00—a pair of gauze scissors.
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