

# 'Caring and Sharing' Takes off in Fairport

By John Dash

What its directors call a "project of a subcommittee of a subcommittee of a committee of a Parish Council" is taking off in Fairport with some astonishing results.

That project, headed by Carole Furey and Lynda Horrocks of the Church of the Resurrection, is now so well advanced that the pair is offering the idea for consideration in other parishes.

She said last week that the notion came to her as a result of chairing a committee

looking into parish response to the problem of world hunger.

"Caring and Sharing" provides emergency assistance to those in need locally. Mrs. Furey broadly defined the hungers the group seeks to alleviate as the need for heat, for assistance with financial matters, for clothing, for toys, as well as for food.

The object of the project is "to help make people independent," she said. "It's just a holding-over type thing."

The idea appeals to Resurrection parishioners, she said, "because it's local."

She and Mrs. Horrocks agreed that the response of the Fairport community to poverty in its own midst was nothing short of phenomenal.

Since the project really got rolling, Mrs. Furey said, the group has disbursed nearly \$1,000 in aid.

And throughout it all, Mrs. Furey is convinced, is special direction from God.

"I really feel this is a way of living the Gospel," she said. "We've finally found a way to care for our brothers and sisters."

Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

# DFC to Perform Mozart's Vespers

The Diocesan Festival Choir will perform Mozart's "Solemn Vespers" in concert at 4 p.m., Sunday, March 28, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel, 4095 East Ave.

Sister Barbara Staropoli, faculty member at Nazareth College, will be the soprano soloist for the fifth movement of "Vespers," the Laudate Dominum. Sister Staropoli is a doctoral student at the Eastman School of Music and performs frequently with the Opera Theatre of Rochester.

Director and founder of the DFC is Sister Virginia Hogan. She also is the director of the Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra, director of the Perinton Chamber Singers, music director at the Church of the Resurrection in Fairport and chairman of

vocal adjudicators for the State School Music Festivals.

The "Solemn Vespers" was written by Mozart in 1780 for a soprano soloist, quartet, mixed chorus and orchestra. The work has six movements, based on the Latin texts of five psalms and the the Hymn of the Virgin Mary from the Gospel of Luke.

The March 28 concert marks the eighth annual performance of the DFC. The choir has 75 members, representing more than 25 area parish churches. Many members also sing with their parish choirs.

Tickets will be available at the door for \$3, or \$2 for senior citizens and students.



The Diocesan Festival Choir in rehearsal.

# The Luck of Kings

The Bishop Kearney Marching Kings Band, under the direction of Ray Shahin, did it again. The band took a clean sweep of trophies in the competitions held in Ireland March 12-17. The Marching Kings took top honors in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in

Dublin; they took best concert and best jazz band categories at a contest in Galway, and won the best school band prize in a competition held in Limerick. See next week's Courier-Journal issue for story and photos.

# O'Malley

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I am either out of my mind or crazy



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it doesn't. Your soul can still enjoy music, for instance. What it is is a blow to your relationship with God. It's not a single cut; it's when things are dead.

Other ways we're sloppy with language. We say pride is a sin. Yet the core problem I have encountered as a priest is the lack of pride. It's not pride that's a sin... it's arrogance that's a sin. I don't think I've ever had anyone come to me as confessor that this core wasn't reducible to self-hate. It's true with suicide, alcoholism, mental cases where we are confronted with our own inadequacies.

If only people would say, "I am a good person but I make mistakes."

Q. How about you?

A. I'm proud but I'm not arrogant. I know my faults. But I go to confession.

If you want to say I'm mouthy — you got it!

If you want to say I'm cocky — you got it!

But I'm not arrogant. I like myself. I'm the world's luckiest person, I'm me. I would rather be me.

If I'm arrogant, why didn't I stay on the silver screen? After the stars in that picture (Exorcist), my name headed the featured players. All I needed was an agent. Why did I come back to Rochester to grade Scripture tests for high school juniors? And to put on another play for 82 kids? William Friedkin (Exorcist director) once said to me, "Bill, how can you be happier than we are?"

The things by which they define happiness fulfillment are money, sex, fame, power. I not only did not have them but I didn't want them. And yet I was happier than they and they just couldn't understand it.

Here's something — in my English class, the kids had a bet that I couldn't get through one class without mentioning God. I can't because I am an apostle.

You can ask any kid who ever took a class with me — this is a standing joke. Give them the phrase "If the God doesn't scare you..." and ask them to complete it. They'll say, in mock tone, "you haven't really heard it yet."

In my class we also have O'Malley's law: "The less you know, the more certain you can be."

# Believe In God's Love

The statistics describing the worldwide buildup of nuclear armaments are alarming. The projection of the result of a nuclear exchange, utter devastation, is terrifying. We have all been exposed to data and the latest information about the nuclear scene around our world. And, all of us — whether we profess pro-nuclear, anti-nuclear or middle-of-the-road politics — all of us recognize the massive power and potential threat that is embodied in nuclear weapons.

The question to be raised is: Do we recognize nuclear weapons for what they are? We have been taught to believe that nuclear buildup is necessary insurance for the security of world peace. We have been asked to put our faith in nuclear stockpiles which are growing daily — some in our own diocese. We are being asked to trust our lives to those who have control over these weapons; they say they will not use this power.

Belief, security, faith, trust — these are words that I use with my God. These are words that I use to profess my belief in His power.

And so, we must ask again: Have we truly recognized nuclear armaments for what they are

or have we allowed an idol to be built in our midst? Our country, our world, is depending on nuclear weapons to maintain "peace," a peace characterized by intimidation and fear, a delicate balance of power and destruction. As a people allowing this kind of dependency to exist, can we truly say we place our security, faith and trust in God, or have we transferred these words to an idol? With the power of nuclear weapons looming in front of us, have we forgotten the power of our God which is at work continually for our sakes?

Recognizing idols, those things that keep us from God, is a task that Jesus set before us. We are very much like the rich young man who had his choices laid out very clearly before him by Jesus. Our choice is to lay down our weapons and trust in God or turn away and wait for the world's destruction by human hands.

God's gift is the grace to recognize our idols, and as any gift giver, He anxiously awaits our response. Will we ask for His forgiveness and believe again in His mercy and love, or will our allegiance to another god be confirmed?

Hopefully, our response will be security in His love, faith in His promise, trust in His mercy and belief in His peace alone.

Sister Christine Wagner, SSJ, is a staff member at St. Joseph's Villa.

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