

Diocesan Claims U.S. Biased against Haitians

Maurice Tierney, executive director of diocesan Catholic Charities, was one of a number of Catholics giving testimony last week in Miami, Fla., in a class action suit which aims to demonstrate that the federal government discriminates against Haitian immigrants.

Tierney asserted that "among all the groups that have come to the United States, the Haitians are the only ones who have been detained."

He said that he understands that in recent years 22,000 Nicaraguans have settled in the Miami area alone "and there has been no problem (with Immigration and Naturalization Services), not one has been detained."

He said that the suit is being argued before Judge Eugene Spellman and that the lawyer for the Haitians is Ira Kurzban.

Tierney's own testimony centered on the treatment of Haitians detained in New York State, most notably at Ray Brook Federal Penitentiary, and on the efforts of a consortium of Catholic Family Center, United Church Ministries, Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and the Cuban/Haitian Refugee Committee to have those Haitians released to homes in the Rochester area.

Tierney testified that Stanley McKinley, the area's INS chief in Burlington, Vt., has not responded to offers to release the Haitians at Ray Brook to individual homes in the diocese.

Tierney also said that the National Emergency Committee for Haitians is now fully active. That group is chaired by Bishop Anthony Bevilacqua for the United States Catholic Conference, and includes the Randolph

Institute, the Urban League, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He described the group as an information gathering and advocacy agency.



CONCERT — By The Casella Quartet at 3 p.m., Sunday, March 28, St. Basil Hall, St. John Fisher College. Free.

BOOK SALE — 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 27, Pittsford Community Library.

MAGIC SHOW — For children, 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 27, Charlotte Branch Library.

STORYHOUR — "Foolish Folk," 2 p.m., ages 6-8; and 2:45 p.m., ages 9-12; Saturday, March 27, 2nd floor Children's Room Central Library.

FILM PROGRAMS — "Northern Lights," 1 p.m., Saturday, March 27, 3rd floor auditorium Central Library.

CHILDREN'S FILMS — "Letter to Amy," 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 26, Janes Library, 200 Fairport Road; "Little Train," 2 p.m., Saturday, March 27, Chili Public Library; "Up the Creek," 1 p.m., Saturday, March 27, Greece Public Library; "Wild Geese Calling," 2 p.m., Saturday, March 27, Gates Public Library; "Abbott and Costello Meet Captain Kidd," 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 27, Lowden Point Branch Library.

MUSIC — Casa Italiana Chamber Players with guest artists, 8 p.m. Saturday, March 24, Nazareth College Arts Center. Tickets for series, \$10. The Carnatic Music Ensemble presents a workshop, 2-3:30 p.m., and a performance at 8 p.m., Sunday, March 28, Nazareth College Arts Center, free. Faculty recital in celebration of Hayden's 250th birthday, 8 p.m., A-13, Nazareth College Arts Center, free.

SEMINAR — Goethe House New York and the Rochester Chapter of the American Association of German Teachers will conduct a seminar, "Samstagsgespraech," 10 a.m., Saturday, March 27, A-14, Nazareth College Arts Center.

KILBOURNE HALL — Eastman Musica Nova Concert, 8 p.m., Friday, March 26; Eastman-Ranlet Concert, 3 p.m., Sunday, March 28; Eastman Wind Orchestra, 8 p.m., Monday, March 29; Eastman Chamber Jazz, 8 p.m., Wednesday, March 31. Free.

SENIOR MATINEE — "Till the Clouds Roll By," starring Judy Garland and Robert Walker, 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 25, George Eastman House.



Nellie Helmer and Father Robert Kress with some of the dolls she has made recently.

A Special Interest Creates Many Friendships

Nellie Helmer has found a way to beat the system. In the course of her 92 years, Nellie, whose life has spanned the Victorian and Space Ages, and who has seen two world wars, depression, prohibition and the social upheavals of the 60s, makes Raggedy Ann dolls — and with them, also makes friends.

"I have a lot of good friends," she recently told the Courier-Journal, not the least of whom is Father Robert Kress, pastor of St. Joseph's in Rush.

"Father is a very kind person," she said, and chided him when he told the Courier-

Journal photographer that "she still is a good cook."

Nellie considers home to be St. Joseph's where she has been housekeeper for the last seven years. Previously she was housekeeper for Father Kress during his service at St. Michael's in Montezuma. "I'm very grateful to God that Nellie has been with us all these years," said Father Kress.

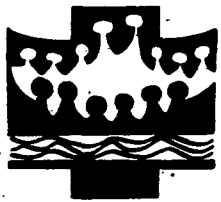
Nellie, who will celebrate her 92nd birthday this June, was born in Montezuma and lived in Port Byron where she still has family. "We have a happy family," she said when proudly talking about her

daughter in East Syracuse, her son from Port Byron, and her two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Nellie used to be a soap opera bug but she isn't fond of TV, and although she keeps abreast of the world happenings via the morning paper she said, "I'm disgusted with what I read. People can't seem to agree."

Aside from her duties as housekeeper, Nellie keeps busy making Raggedy Ann dolls. Back in Montezuma she used to sell them to the teachers, but now she makes them primarily for her friends.

Insights In Liturgy



By Sister Marie Brown, SSJ

The Elect And Lent

If the Lenten period is proclaimed only by a new banner in the sanctuary, or greater attendance at daily Mass, we need not only ask "where does that leave us?" but "where are we?" Our Lenten preparations must be based on the conviction that our baptismal call is an entering into a process of continual conversion within a community of believers who receive Lent as a gift to raise their consciousness and intensify their response to this call. Without this attitude, the implementation of a few rites for the elect, or the insertion of additional liturgical celebrations and/or educational programs will only leave people wondering "why all the fuss?"

Lent evolves around neither the elect nor the fully initiated, but around all those who are on their journey of faith. Rather than making us observers of the process in the lives of the elect, the RCIA challenges the community to create a reflective atmosphere that supports all members at every stage of conversion.

The reception of the elect at the beginning of Lent points to the need for all of us to identify with our call and our choice of remaining a Catholic Christian. As we journey through Lent the rites of Scrutinies and Presentations emphasize that true conversion demands the naming and confrontation of evil. We are challenged to trust the rites we celebrate and to scrutinize, face honestly, our lives in light of the gospels.

Use of Sunday readings as the basis for existing educational and Bible study programs, as well as providing reflective questions for family study guides highlighting the importance of these readings, aids the entire community in seeking direction and motivation from the Word.

The suspension of sacraments of initiation for infants and children during this period helps emphasize the preparation experience Lent should be. Like the elect, all candidates (or parents) for Baptism, Eucharist or Confirmation should be prayed for by the community and provided with opportunities of preparation. Retreat opportunities must be an integral part of the Lenten period. While budget planning or other immediate needs may demand some business meetings, it is most appropriate that social gatherings be replaced by retreat opportunities, and committee meetings should include longer periods of prayer and reflection. Each group of the parish should be challenged to reflect by its agendas the Lenten period of conversion. As the Word serves to scrutinize each member, so too the community and its components should use this time to examine the purpose and programs they provide. In what ways do they fail to reflect faith or give evidence of being half alive? Does the welcoming, healing, nourishing presence of the Christ of the Gospels shine forth in their deliberations and service?

Lent is a microcosm of our lifelong Christian call to ongoing conversion. As a welcoming community for the elect, they should find in us an intense desire to live that call, and discover on their journey that Lent is already that for us. For the fully initiated, each Lent presents a new opportunity for enrichment and participation in the life of a community convinced of its call. They are challenged each Lent to be willing to risk everything to enter into the glorious mystery of Christ's death and resurrection. It is then that Easter becomes a celebration of new life in both Father, and in the Body of Christ who shares through faith and hope in that life.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

Good News: Marriages Stabilizing

Some news stories I loved reading:

• The Census Bureau predicts that age, morality and economy will combine to produce more stable marriages, fewer divorces.

• A University of Pennsylvania researcher says that the best moisturizer for your face is also the cheapest — petroleum jelly. Other high priced moisturizers are merely cosmetic, but petrolatum has a pharmacological effect.

• Peanut growers had a bumper crop last year. The price of peanut butter should be coming down.

• Studies show that there are fewer teenage smokers than there were 10 years ago.

• Oil refineries are overstocked. Gasoline may be a dollar a gallon by summer.

• Caffeine does not, contrary to last year's report, cause birth defects or cancer. (It is the source, however, of anxiety attacks, heart palpitations,

stomach acid, heartburn, insomnia, and more.)

• Pasta is less fattening, and thus better for you and your pocketbook, than steak and every other kind of meat.

• Researchers have concluded that there is no substantial difference between girls and boys when it comes to learning. Take that, you Male Chauvinists.

• Julia Child is on a fat free diet, doctor's orders. (If she can learn to cook without butter or

margarine, so can the rest of us.)

• The folks at Cornell have developed a low-cal, more nutritious pizza crust made with egg whites. It also tastes good.

• Retail prices may drop next month for the first time in 16 years.

• Craig Claiborne is on a salt free diet. (If he can learn to cook without salt ...)

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