

At Your Parish. . .

St. Mary

Canandaigua — Following a meeting between Father Thomas Corbett and past presidents of the Rosary Society of St. Mary's Parish here, it was decided to renew the organization.

The meeting, March 20, was attended by Ann Cross, Margaret Matthews, Anne Schutz, Mary Ellen Vecchi, Madelaine MacCumber, Gloria Palumbo, Joyce D'Agostino, Anna Marie Anderson, Mary Como, Barbara Murphy, Maureen Maslin, Diane Moroz, Sylvia Nichols, Eleanor Reddick, Joanne Veronica and Elaine Gotham.

Holy Ghost

The Sacred Heart Society of Holy Ghost Church has slated its annual card party for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, in the hall. Tickets are available by calling Jean Campanelle, 594-8845; Mary Bruno, 247-3004.

The group decided to gather for benediction, recitation of the Rosary and the Miraculous Medal Novena, 7 p.m., Monday, April 19, and every second Monday of the month thereafter. Parishioners are asked to consecrate themselves and their families to Mary and to thank God, through Mary, for all of their blessings.

St. Salome

The human development committee of St. Salome's Parish is sponsoring an informational meeting on IRAs, Keough plans, and savings certificates, 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 21, at St. the school, 4250 Culver Road.

The speaker for the evening will be Ann Bump of Community Savings Bank. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.



Displaying the featured quilt and painting for St. Mary's Antique Show and Sale are Alice Wadhams, Fran Wadhams and Frank McDonald.

St. Mary

Waterloo — Antique collectors and dealers from a 250-mile radius will converge on St. Mary's Church here for the parish's fourth annual Antique Show and Sale, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, April 17.

The show will feature the goods of 34 tradesmen. A highlight of the show will be the presence of H.W. Kopp, a Skaneateles antique dealer who restores chipped or nicked glass vases, tumblers and bowls. Kopp will bring his abrasive wheels and stand to refinish glass and crystal.

Other features of the show include a bake sale, delicacies from the Country Kitchen, a handmade quilt by Mrs. Fran Wadhams and a painting by Mrs. Hilda Smith.

The show is chaired by Mrs. Alice Wadhams. Other principals are Lorraine Holmes, Gertrude Trainor, Linda Wadhams, Frank McDonald, Frank Salvaggio, Nancy Smith, Cathy Lansing, Beryl McDonald, Emily Pagano, Sue Gallagher, Barbara Andrews, and Dorothy Salvaggio.

St. John (City)

A discussion of single parenting will be led by Doreen Snethurst of the family division in the department of psychiatry at Strong Memorial Hospital, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, in the center at St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street. The event is sponsored by the parish family life committee.

Holy Cross

The weekend of August 21-22, parishioners at Holy Cross Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of completing building the church. A cornerstone ceremony, barbeque and dance will follow a 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate Mass at noon, Sunday. The Mass will be followed by a family picnic on the church grounds.

St. Pius Tenth

The subject of Religion and Ethics in Business will be discussed by experts in the field this Spring at St. Pius Tenth Church.

Roger D'Aprix, a management and communications consultant, and author of several books, will discuss "Being Your Own Person on the Job," 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 20, in the school.

David F. Kelly, professor of Theology and Ethics at Duquesne University will speak on "Moral Reasoning in the Marketplace," 7:30 p.m., April 27.

Frank and Sue Staropoli, directors of the diocesan Office of Family Life, will wind up the series with a talk on "Issues Between Work and Family," 7:30 p.m., May 4.

Annunciation

The Holy Name Society of the Church of the Annunciation will hold election of officers following the 8 a.m. Mass, Sunday, April 18. The event coincides with a ham and eggs breakfast. The nominating committee of Ted Goljuch and Bob Bruce has published the slate of candidates: Bob Fisher and Anthony Mazza, president; Anthony Caccamise and Tom Rizzo, vice president; Frank DiPrimo Jr. and Bob Clerk, secretary; Fred Migliore, treasurer. In addition, nominations may be made from the floor.

Sister Anne Maloy, RSM

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

Elderly Care Poses Problem

Mrs. A is an 80-year-old widow who was admitted to a local hospital in March 1980 and is still a patient. She is very confused and disoriented. Her only daughter has not had a good relationship with her and has no desire to improve relations. Mrs. A has practically no support persons available to her other than the nursing staff, the doctor and the social worker, who for nearly two years have acted as her family.

This is just one case out of many. Elderly patients are remaining in hospitals for periods extending beyond the medical necessity for their receiving acute care. For various reasons, they are not being discharged home or to an appropriate alternative setting for rehabilitation or long-term care. The phenomena of these prolonged hospital stays of geriatric patients has become labeled as "back-up."

Today, reports indicate that in the Rochester area as many as 250 persons are now awaiting discharge. Although additional long-term care beds have been approved for construction, these will not be immediately available, nor is there any evidence that increasing the supply of long-term care beds will solve the back-up problem.

Part of the solution to back-up is to reduce this community's demands on the institutional care. One means of doing this is to increase the responsibility for care provided by informal support systems (family, friends, church congregations and community groups). Moreover, federal, state and local policy is placing increased emphasis on the role of the family and informal support systems in providing long-term care.

One such way is through an Alternative Home Care Program. Church congregations and community groups' past record of providing institutional and social services to the elderly is one indication of their commitment to this population. Moreover, they have the unique resources and talents that could be utilized in developing an Alternative Home Care Program. These resources include organizational expertise, direct outreach services to the elderly, pastoral counseling skills and necessary motivating factors to influence the community support system on behalf of the elderly. Additionally, in church congregations it might be possible to identify some families, widows and single persons who might be encouraged to provide Alternative Home Care.

I have touched on a serious problem affecting some of the most vulnerable and frail members of the Christian community, indeed of the human family. It seems to me that Scripture carries a strong call for us to care for those who are powerless, not understood and often marginalized and who have suffered profound losses. All one needs to do is to open the Old and the New Testament to hear God call us to care for widows and to respect parents and the aged members of the community.

The Christian church needs to be in the public sector, offering its care, concern and creativity, not only in solving the case of the 80-year-old woman but in working for basic systemic change, thus enabling those who have built our society and given us a legacy of faith to spend their final years in dignity and respect, hopefully surrounded by a caring community.

Sister Anne Maloy, RSM, is director of social services at Lakeside Memorial Hospital in Brockport.

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