

# Vocations Day Focus Is Prayer

The diocese will observe World Day of Prayer for Vocations, May 2, Sister Kathy Weider, SSJ, spokesperson for the Diocesan Vocations Team, said last week.

The aim of the observance "is to provide for the entire Church a time of reflection and of prayer for vocations," she said.

As part of the local observance the diocesan team has prepared vocation prayer cards which will be distributed with parish bulletins on that day. She said the team hopes that the prayer cards "will increase specific awareness of the Christian vocation we all share, and the specific calls to religious life, priesthood, single life and married life — and our need to pray that we may all be faithful in responding as the Lord desires."

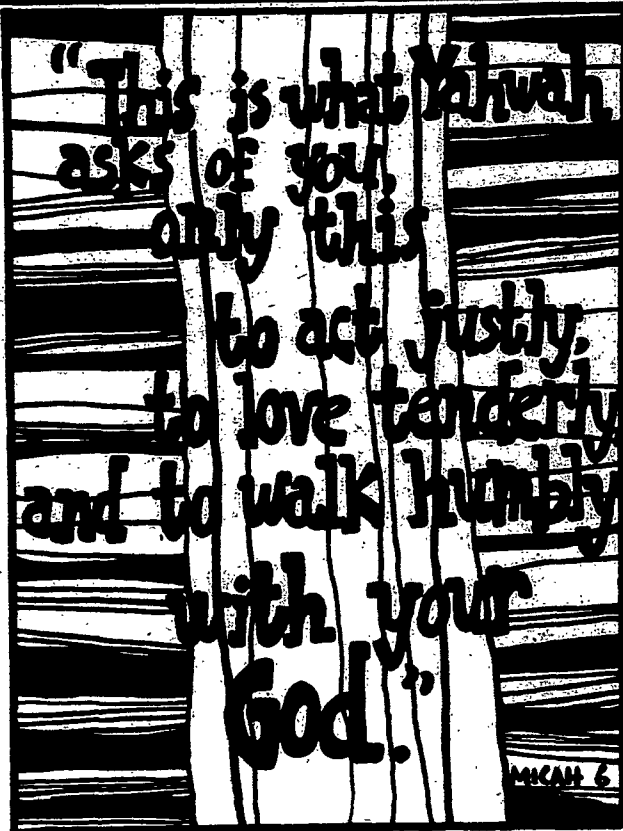
In his message for the vocations observance, Pope John Paul II has said:

"This vocation consists in being called to offer one's life so that others may have life and have it more abundantly. This is what was done by Jesus... This is what must be done by every man or woman who is called to follow Christ in total self-giving."

The pontiff also addressed families:

"With sincere confidence I invite all believing families to reflect upon the mission they have received from God for the education of their children in the faith and in Christian living. It is a mission that also involves responsibilities with regard to their children's vocations. The education of children should be such that when they grow up they will be able to follow their vocation, including a religious vocation, and choose their state of life with full consciousness of responsibility."

Acting on the pontiff's words, the diocesan team



The Vocations Day prayer card bears a verse from Micah.

asked that the prayer cards be used for family prayer, for prayer in schools and religious education classes, by parish committees, as a closing prayer at Mass and as a reminder to pray for vocations.

More copies of the prayer cards and additional vocation information are available by contacting Father Thomas Valenti, Diocesan Vocation Office, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624; (716) 328-3210.

## Irish Children Program Seeks Homes, Donations

The Irish Children's Program, an ecumenical, non-profit organization which seeks to bring 20 Catholic and Protestant children to Monroe County from Belfast, Ireland, for five weeks this summer, is seeking host homes and contributions for the air fare and insurance.

to and from Northern Ireland which is estimated at \$500 per child.

Further information is available by calling Pressimone, 223-8699; or Linda J. Miller, 223-8982.

The organization has been founded by Brian and Vera Pressimone of Fairport, and is modeled on a similar program in Westchester.

A news release stated, "The children will be given the opportunity to intermingle with others of various religious, political and ethnic backgrounds giving them a vacation from the bombings and tensions of Belfast."

"The hope of the program is that, after seeing how those of various backgrounds live peacefully among each other, the children will not join the various youth organizations responsible for a large percentage of violence in Ireland."

The program is asking churches, fraternal, patriotic and civic organizations and local businesses, to underwrite the cost of air transportation

## Rosary Vigil Slated May 2

More than 200 persons are anticipated to participate in the Rochester staging of the International Rosary March, 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 2, starting at the Liberty Pole.

According to Mrs. Mary Kelly, organizer of the local event, the march is a project of the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, and the prayer is dedicated for persons being persecuted for the Faith around the globe.

At the Liberty Pole, participants will observe a prayer vigil, and the march will begin at 3 p.m.

The march will work its way to Old St. Mary's where Fathers Patrick Magnier, CSSR; and Salem Faddoul will lead a holy hour.

## Picnic Planned For Villa's 40th

St. Joseph's Villa will celebrate its 40th anniversary of service to children in the Rochester area by hosting a picnic for alumni, their families and friends, on Saturday, June 26.

The villa provides a home-like atmosphere for children who are in need of a structured group living situation, and must live away from their families for a period of time.

The site was formally dedicated on June 25, 1942, by the late Bishop James E. Kearney, and intended to be the new home for boys and girls who were residents of St. Mary's Boys Home and St. Patrick's Girls Home on West Main Street near St. Mary's Hospital.

The alumni committee in charge of the celebration are in need of names and current addresses of alumni of St. Joseph's Villa, St. Mary's Boys Home, St. Patrick's Girls Home, and St. Joseph's Orphanage. Former residents

are asked to contact the villa at 865-1550 so they will receive invitations to the reunion.

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On the Right Side

## Our Deacons

Though the people may be somewhat mystified about the four-year diaconate program, they would have been pleased with the ordination of the first class, Saturday, April 17, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Ordinations, like good weddings, are full of beauty and joy and holiness. Our three bishops, Clark, Hickey and Hogan, enthroned in episcopal garb; nearly 100 priests in sacerdotal vesture; and the 24 deacons in uniform albs, dalmatics and stoles, gave an aura of sacred ceremonialism.

Twenty-two wives, faithfully at the side of twenty-two husbands, reminded me of the "valiant woman" of Proverbs XXXI. The two celibate deacons took the vow of continued celibacy.

The music was glorious. The ritual was inspiring, though it lasted a rather long two hours and twenty minutes. The "cheering sections" were limited by space to relatives, friends, associates, and men still in training and their wives. I am always disappointed that religious Sisters, who could add so much to visual beauty and spiritual edification if they retained the religious habit, are so completely incognito in secular clothes. Msgr. George Cocuzzi and Sister Hilaire Gaelens were like proud spiritual parents. I was especially happy that four deacons are Hispanic, so needed for our Spanish-speaking Catholics; and the fluent Deacon Patrick O'Connor, preparing for priesthood will be in the Hispanic Apostolate.

What will these deacons do? The Acts of the Apostles records: "There was a quarrel between the Greek-speaking Jews and the native Jews. The Greek-speaking Jews said their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of funds. So the 12 Apostles called the whole group of disciples together and said: 'It is not right for

us to neglect the preaching of God's word in order to handle finances. So choose seven men among you who are known to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom and we will put them in charge of this matter." (Acts: 6) Actually our new deacons, who come from many works and professions, will have varied and many works, according to need. They can assist with the Eucharist, baptize, witness marriages, preach, have funerals. They can instruct, counsel, solace. The can use their talents in evangelization in sundry ways.

A friend of Deacon Stanley Douglas who is in public relations at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, asked me: "What would be a good gift for a deacon?" meaning S.D. "How much do you have so spend?" We settled on a fine set of Abp. Sheen conferences, which will edify Deacon Douglas, be shared by his family and others, and give material for his preaching.

Some months ago I subscribed to the Homiletic and Pastoral Review for a friend in the deacon training class. Later he said: "The Homiletic is certainly a valuable adjunct to our academic courses." I chuckled: "After doses of the theology of Karl Rahner and the Scripture of Raymond Brown and the philosophy of Bernard Lonergan, I suspect it might be more intelligible."

The two most popular clerical magazines which would make a good gift for any deacon or Sister or lay person who loves the Church are: Homiletic and Pastoral Review, 86 Riverside Dr., New York, N.Y. 10024, \$18.00 a year. And The Priest, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, Ind. 46750, \$16.50. The Priest features excellent book reviews and interesting Church tidbits.

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