'Joseph' at Kearney

Bill Graff of Webster, left, plays Reuben and Dave Haller of Irondequoit plays Joseph in the Bishop Kearney High School production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," in the Andrew Lloyd Webber-Tim Rice musical hit, 8 p.m. April 29-May 2; and 2 p.m., May 2, in the school auditorium.

Sister Beth McGlynn, SSND

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

The Spirit Of Jesus Is Dynamic

A change is taking place. It's Spring again. The sun shines brighter and longer. The robin energetically flits from branch to earth in search of food. The coverings of white are replaced by carpets of green. All of these signs sing to us of hope, of new life.

Even Scripture speaks of weather. Remember the narrative of how Jesus chided the Jewish leaders for being able to read the weather signs and not able to read the signs of the times, the signs that give hope. We, too, are experts at reading weather. Our weather maps, instruments and meteorologists can determine just where the jet stream is and where it will go next (sometimes). And weather does affect us. Vivid in our memories is the cabin fever of last January and the many times we geared our schedules to road conditions.

But we, too, could be like the Pharisees and Sadducees — unable to recognize that Jesus is with us and that the power of His Spirit affects us even more than the weather. His "jet stream" is often hard to discern because it blows when and where it wills with no instruments to gauge it. But it is truly His Spirit that can and will bring change. His Spirit brings life and hope even in this day of Reaganomics and nuclear threat. One sign of His Spirit is that many people are protesting the lack of justice in our society. They are writing, talking, walking and praying because they believe that in and through His Spirit a change can take place. An evil force which diminishes hope in the human heart often does give the heart a chance to look at alternative ways of thinking and acting. It also moves us to bond with others who are searching.

My experience of hope is found in the Christian community, in the hearts and voices of those who sing out their faith and witness courageously to it. My response, as a religious woman, is to keep this hope alive and help others come to grips with the fact that we do not need to be dominated by some of the fear tactics of society. We do not have to give in to what supports the greed of the few, but must help each other search for what is good for all. We can bring new life to the world and give hope by supporting those groups, those causes that do the same. At the beginning of Vatican II, Pope John XXIII warned against "prophets of doom." He knew how uncreative and debilitating fear could be. That is not any less true today.

Jesus was the sign of hope which the Pharisees and Sadducees could not or would not recognize. We would be like them if we also refused to recognize His Spirit in each other and in the events that give us reasons to believe and hope. "The future of humanity is in the hands of those who are capable of providing the generations to come with reasons for life and optimism." (Church in the Modern World, 31)

The Spirit of Jesus is so dynamic that it can dramatically empower us to spread the earth with the fire of His love — to be the "jet stream" that warms the earth. This can be concretely expressed in our willingness to join with others to bring about justice and peace.

Sister Beth McGlynn, SSND, is director of religious education at Good Shepherd Church.

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