

# Msgr. Shannon to Speak at Baccalaureate

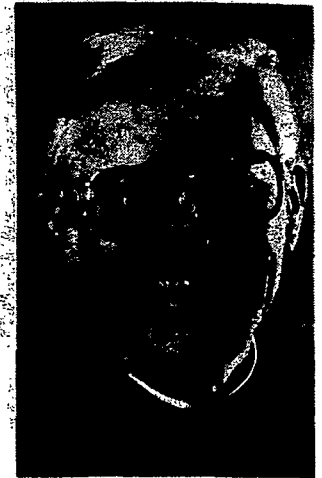
Msgr. William Shannon, the central figure in religious education at Nazareth College

the past 37 years, will deliver the main address at a multi-faith baccalaureate service at

4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at the college. The college's 55th annual

commencement exercises will be at noon, Sunday, May 16. Msgr. Shannon, former

Nazareth chaplain, will step down as chairman of the religious studies department next month. In December, he will retire as a full-time faculty member but will continue to teach on a part-time basis.



MSGR. SHANNON

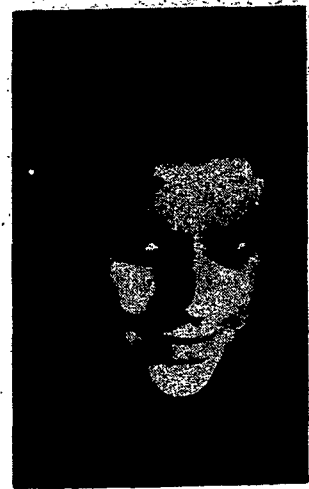
# Villella Speaker For Nazareth Grads

Edward Villella, the most celebrated male dancer in the history of American ballet,

will deliver the main address at Nazareth College's 55th annual commencement at

noon, Sunday, May 16.

Villella, one of the country's leading spokesman for the arts, will address a record number of graduates on the east lawn of the campus. His appearance is one of the highlights of the college's year-long "Celebration of the Arts" commemorating the 15th anniversary of the Nazareth Arts Center.



EDWARD VILLELLA

A total of 705 graduates — 26 more than the previous high recorded in 1977 — are expected to receive degrees during the ceremony which will feature the awarding of honorary Doctor of Laws degrees to Villella; Dr. Allan A. Kuuisto, president of

Hobart and William Smith Colleges, and Eileen Malone, professor of harp at Eastman School of Music.

A prolific author, Msgr. Shannon published "Thomas Merton's Dark Path" in 1981. He is the director of the Thomas Merton Society of Rochester.

The theme of his May 15 talk will be "Aspirations." Participants in the ceremony will include Father Norman Tanck, chaplain; Father Paul Nochelski, associate chaplain; Rev. Gloria Fish, associate chaplain, and Robert A. Kidera, Nazareth president.

Student representatives will be James Stefaniak, Margaret Danaher, Laura Sullivan and Patricia Decker.

# St. Andrew's School Sets Public Programs

St. Andrew's School, 901 Portland Ave., has slated a number of adult programs for May of interest to the general public.

perience of separation, divorce or death of a spouse," a school release stated.

The May 18 meeting will consist of an evening of prayer and liturgy. Babysitting is provided.

Pat Mikols, the parish human services coordinator, and Father Robert Gaudio will convene a meeting for single parents, 7 p. m., Tuesday, May 18, in the school.

Father Joseph Hart, theologian at St. Bernard's Institute, will speak on "Conscience and Church Authority," 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., Wednesday, May 12. His talk is sponsored by the parish Wednesday Morning Discussion Group.

The single parent program "is designed to help single parents address their own needs in light of their ex-

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

# Choose Not To Love Just Those We Like

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 15:9-17, (R1) Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48. (R2) 1 Jn. 4:7-10.

The theme of Sunday's readings ("Love one another as I have loved you") presents a certain difficulty. I am sure anyone reading this column can say, "I've heard this all before." Yes, but do we understand it? I think it takes a lifetime to understand Christian love.

Contrast, if you will, the way God loves and the way we love.

God's love is creative. A modern song asks the question: "Do I love you because you are beautiful; or are you beautiful because I love you?"

God loves and makes a person beautiful and good. Addressing God, St. Augustine said, "You have loved me and made me lovable." God did not stumble across us, find us attractive, and then fall in love with us. Not on your life! St. Irenaeus said, "God created man in order to have someone on whom to lavish His love."

Our love, on the contrary, is generally possessive. We love what is good and seek to possess it. Hence our love is partial. We tend to love only those who love us. We draw a circle around ourselves and leave some out.

But "God shows no partiality." His love is expansive; it encircles all men. "The circumcised believers... were surprised that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles." (R1)

We generally need someone attractive to draw love out of us. But what if someone is not attractive? It is precisely here where Christianity has made a decisive contribution.

The New Testament had to find a special word to make perfectly clear what

Christian love truly is. The Greek language has three words for love: storge, the love of parents for children and children for parents; philein, the love of friend for friend; and eros, sexual love. These three words involve our emotions. They express an experience that comes unsought.

However, there is a fourth word in Greek for love: it is agape. Agape has to do with the mind. It is not just an emotion that arises unbidden in our hearts. Rather it is something we will!

Agape means the will-power to love people whom we do not like. Christ commanded us to love as He loves — to love the unlovable.

Agape says, "No matter what a man does to me, I will never seek to harm him. I will never set out for revenge. I will instead seek only his highest good." Christian love, or agape, consequently is not an emotion. It is a deliberate conviction of mind issuing in a deliberate policy for life. It takes all of a man to love like that — not only his heart, but his mind and will as well.

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