



Healers Due

Paula and John Sandford, authors and principals of a counseling and healing service in Couer d'Alene, Ida., will lead a healing service sponsored by the diocesan Charismatic Renewal Office 7:30 p.m., Sunday, May 16, at the Cenacle Spiritual Renewal Center, 693 East Ave. The couple has authored "The Elijah Task," "Restoring the Christian Family," and "Transformation of the Inner Man." Further information on the program is available by calling the Charismatic Renewal Office, (716) 436-6252.

Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

Requirements Of Catholics

A hard-working, conscientious pastor said, "If men and women are not really interested in worshipping seriously, in giving time and energy to building up this Christian community, I'd just as soon they go somewhere else."

My first reaction was: Sure, that makes sense. Religion is too serious a matter to be dealt with in a routine, superficial way. The non-involved members become a drag on the efforts of any organization.

At the same time, there was something that bothered me about this attitude when it was directed toward a Catholic parish. What might be right for a lean, efficient business organization seemed to contradict the experience and the approach of Catholicism.

Father Philip Murnion commented on this tension in the April 24 issue of America. He said that the efforts to improve the religious life of a parish can create expectations and requirements which result in an implicit exclusiveness.

In other words, if you're not willing to get involved in the parish council or the CCD program or the liturgical commission or the social action ministry, you will get the signal that you're really not very welcome in this parish.

But hasn't it been a characteristic of the Catholic community that it accepts almost anyone who comes, who brings whatever he or she is able and willing to bring at this time?

I used to remark, in a patronizing way, that three-fifths of the many crooked politicians in my home town were members of our parish.

The judgment was accurate. We also had

parishioners who were involved in some very shady gambling operations, probably a few who were involved, in one way or another, in the wide-open prostitution of the area.

I don't mean to suggest that the parish should have condoned these activities, but there was in my attitude an implicit judgment that our pastor should have gotten rid of these unsavory characters. After all, who could respect a religious community which included people like this?

It's the same attitude which causes us some embarrassment when a notorious gangster or a high-living celebrity is buried from a Catholic Church.

But hasn't the Catholic tradition been one of minimal requirements for admission? Hasn't it always been a tradition of saints and sinners, encouraging people to sanctity while being completely realistic about the prevalence and variety of sin?

It would be pleasant to share a religious community with people who are virtuous, devout, dedicated to social justice — and who liked the same kind of hymns which appeal to us.

But that would not be the Catholic Church.

It's clear that Jesus did not use a demanding screening process in calling His first followers. They didn't come with great virtue or with great holiness or with very much respectability.

Their unity came from the fact that in some way — to the extent that they could — they accepted Him. Without knowing where He would take them or how far they would be able to go, they committed themselves to the next step in following Him. For the Lord, that seemed to be enough.

St. Thomas Apostle Church Slates Week of Festivities

A musical production at Bishop Kearney High School and an appreciation dinner for its retiring pastor will cap a week of festivities and religious services celebrating St. Thomas the Apostle Parish's 60th anniversary, and the 28 years of service given by retiring pastor Msgr. Richard K. Burns.

"Going Like Sixty," a musical revue produced and directed by Ray and Joyce Shahin and featuring parish and area talents, will be staged at 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday, May 21 and 22, in the Bishop Kearney High School auditorium. Tickets at \$2 are obtained by calling Dave DeVoldre, 342-1098; Jim Vaeth, 544-7204; Bob Roney, 338-7673; Rick Cusker, 544-7136; or Bus Crowley, head of the week's organizing committee, 266-2943.

The appreciation dinner will be 5 p.m., Sunday, May 23, at the Mapledale Party House. A choice is offered between \$12.50 roast prime rib of beef and \$10 stuffed breast of chicken. Reser-

ervations are required before Sunday, May 16, and are made by calling Rosemary Fitzpatrick, 338-2026; Sharon Scantlin, 266-6600; Barbara Knapp, 338-1924; or Nancy McBride, 338-3852.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will open the week at a 12:15 p.m. Mass, Sunday, May 16. He will greet parishioners and friends outside the church following the Mass.

A special Mass for deceased members of the parish and deceased priests and women religious formerly stationed at the parish will be 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, May 19.

The day following, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be principal celebrant of a special Mass for the parish children, 9 a.m.

A Communal Anointing Ceremony for any area Catholic with serious illness or whose age makes one more susceptible to illness will be celebrated 11:30 a.m., Friday, May 21. A luncheon will be served following the service

Charismatics Set 'Pentecost' Mass

The diocesan charismatic community will celebrate Pentecost a week early with a special Mass, 7 p.m., Sunday, May 23, at St. Pius Tenth Church.

The rite, at which Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside, will be open to the

Rosary Hour Returns To Hornell

The Family Rosary Hour can be heard in the Hornell area once again after a lapse of seven months. Hornell Television Service is making it available to its subscribers on its FM band, WXXY, Watkins Glen.

Formerly, the rosary hour was heard in Hornell on the cable over WRLX, Auburn, which, until last October was part of the Family Rosary for Peace Network. When the Family Hour moved from WRLX to WSWF, Seneca Falls, the station could not be picked up in Hornell.

However, special arrangements with WXXY will bring the program directly to the FM band of Hornell Television Service at 102 MC and this will include the Family Rosary at 6:30 nightly.

Club Lunch Set for May 13

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs will host its May meeting at noon on Thursday, May 13, at Barry's Restaurant, 4370 Dewey Ave. Guest speaker will be Gerald Phelan, Chief of Police for the Greece Police Department.

For reservations call Joan Weiss, 225-3145.

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Aquinas Parents Slate Picnic

The Aquinas Parents Association is hosting a picnic and elections beginning at 6:30 p.m., on Monday, May 24, in the cafeteria. Food tickets will be sold at the door.

OVERWEIGHT?

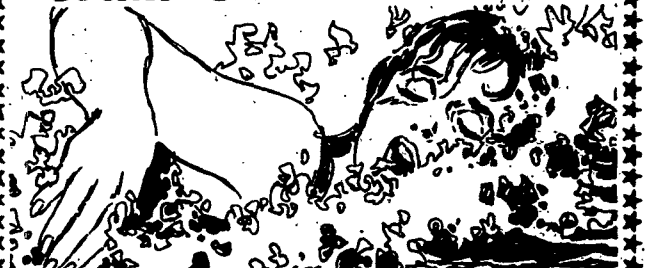
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For further information, contact the secretary at: CAMP STELLA MARIS 3052 East Lake Road • Livonia, NY 14487 • (716) 346-2243

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