



**St. Louis**

Girl Scouts of St. Louis Parish in Pittsford enjoy the sights during a recent bus trip to Niagara Falls, touring the falls, Power Vista Plant and aquarium.

**Sacraments: New and Renewed Thinking**

Sacraments: The word itself conjures up familiarity. As Catholics, we've all experienced sacraments in the Church, and would like to believe that we have an adequate understanding of them. Not so, says Bernard Cooke, a Catholic theologian teaching at Holy Cross in Worcester, Mass.

Rochester on May 22, Cooke spoke of a radically new future for sacraments. This future will require some new and renewed understandings on the part of the believing community.

Human life is fundamentally sacramental, says Cooke. We find sacraments in our everyday lives, because we find meaning in our everyday lives, and express

that meaning in symbolic ways. What is distinctive about Christian sacraments is that new meaning is poured into our lives through Jesus of Nazareth, the risen Christ. The purpose of the sacraments, according to Cooke, is to bring Christ into the consciousness of the people and to make Christ present to them.

What is gained is a challenge to everything else we are in life.

Bernard Cooke's lecture was sponsored by the Association of Religious Educators, the Pastoral Assistants Association, the Diocesan Sisters' Council, the Sister of Mercy, Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Notre Dame.

In a talk at the Interfaith Chapel of the University of

**Parents Group Needs Volunteers**

Parents Anonymous, a self-help organization dedicated to stopping and preventing child abuse, needs volunteers for child care, public relations, fundraising, transportation and to staff the PA hotline (from one's own home). Group facilitators also are

needed for parent meetings as well as for groups dealing with sexual abuse. Volunteers do not need previous experience or formal training for most positions. Further information is available by calling 454-5060.

Will the sacraments as we have known them change in the future? Cooke believes so. "To experience the living Christ is not to be left where we are. We move on to a new way of living." Faithfulness to Christ requires continuity with our tradition and change in the direction of greater humanization. Nothing is lost of the heart of the sacraments.

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Word for Sunday

**Discover The Spirit**

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 20/19-23. (R1) Acts 2/1-11. (R2) 1 Cor. 12/3-7, 12-13.

If you want to find out how a man feels about God, don't ask him for a creed; instead, watch his life. If you put a coin under a piece of paper, you won't be able to see it. But you can discover its denomination by rubbing a pencil over the paper. From all the individual rises and valleys, your answer will come out.

So if you want to find out who the Holy Spirit is, don't just hear about Him; rather, watch Him in action in the Bible and in the Church today. By examining the rises and valleys, we shall more surely get a glimpse of Him.

The root word for "spirit" in Hebrew is ruah. The word can mean two things: wind and breath. Wind is an impersonal force. Breath presupposes a person. But common to both words is movement. Ruah was always in action, always moving. It affected whatever it came into contact with. At creation, ruah moved over the waters and brought cosmos out of chaos. Ruah was breathed into nostrils and man became a living soul.

In later Old Testament books, the Spirit raised up the great shepherds of Israel. The Spirit poured strength into Samson, girded Gideon for battle, stirred up Jephthah and Joshua, anointed David. The Spirit made heroes of ordinary men.

In the Psalms, the Spirit created the clean heart and was intimately present to man. "Whither shall I go from Thy Spirit?"

Isaiah foretold that the Spirit of the Lord would rest on the Messiah. As we might expect, there is in the New Testament such a flurry of references to the Spirit that were we to strike out the passages referring to Him, little would be left of the New Testament.

In a magazine, there was a picture of a minister holding a leather-bound Bible in his

hand. From this Bible, every reference to the Holy Spirit had been neatly scissored out. Dorothy Ranagham, who helped launch the charismatic renewal in the United States, said this magazine picture shocked her: without the Holy Spirit, nothing of the Bible remained but fragments!

And yet, for so many Christians, the Holy Spirit has been scissored out of their lives.

But God's Spirit can no more be bound than can the wind. He has been brooding mightily over the waters of modern life. He moved John XXIII to call the Second Vatican Council. In 1966, the charismatic renewal (or Pentecostal Movement) brought Him into unprecedented prominence.

Our faith tells us we are temples of the Holy Spirit, endowed with His gifts and fruits. Yet so often we experience nothing, we see no change in our lives. Does that not strike us as strange? On the first Pentecost, the Spirit transformed the Apostles, empowered them to give witness to Jesus. Ought we not, then, like the Apostles, pray for the baptism of the Spirit?

In the Acts, every single Pentecost occurred after intense prayer, especially community prayer.

What is this baptism of the Spirit we ought to pray for? Simply, it is a profound experience of the presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts, not unlike that of the first Pentecost. As the baptism of water initiates us into the Church, so the baptism of the Spirit initiates us into a renewed and deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit.

**Jail Ministry**

Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministry, the volunteer organization offering basic pre-trial assistance to prisoners in Monroe County Jail, will hold training classes for persons interested in becoming jail visitors, 7 p.m., June 17, 22, and 24, at the Downtown United Presbyterian Church, 121 N. Fitzhugh St. Registration is made by calling 325-1942.

**Head master**

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