



Parish Jubilee

The jubilee committee of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, has announced two events of interest: a Jubilee Mass and reception Sept. 26, and a dinner dance Oct. 2 at the Diplomat Party House. Committee members are (left to right) Hilda Smythe, Joe Gallagher, Joe Mercier, Ray Maginn, Ellie Bittner, Yvonne Boynton, Mary Morphy, Laverne Gallagher, Jack Morphy, Helen O'Neil, Helen Mercier, Nona Maginn and Dave O'Neil.

Reunion Calls Issued

The 1932 Class of Corpus Christi School and the 1942 Class of Holy Rosary School last week issued calls to fellow graduates to attend respective reunions.

The Holy Rosary group will meet Oct. 23 at the Party House in Chili. The organizing committee is seeking to locate Robert Coleman, Robert Morrison, Helen Atkinson, Betty Beach, Betty Decker, Margaret Lee, Richard Ciciotti, Mary Barry, Barbara Hilbert and Pat O'Neil.

Further details on the reunion are available by contacting Virginia Davis Mahns, 621-8294.

The Corpus Christi group

will gather Oct. 16. Interested persons have been asked to contact Mary Jane Berry, 467-0943; Bernard Schnaus, 425-1236, or John Heckner, 467-5598.

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Fr. John Reedy



Looking for the Lord

The Israeli Siege Of Beirut

By the time this column appears the situation in Lebanon will probably be quite different from what it is at this writing. Nevertheless, here are some of my personal judgments.

I regard the character of Israel's attack on densely populated Beirut as morally outrageous.

Regardless of what the Jewish people have suffered, regardless of the continuing attacks by the PLO, I simply don't see these elements as a justification for the brutal indifference to civilian life in this siege.

Granted, it was a similar moral outrage for the PLO to slam rockets into civilian communities of Israel, as it was for our own forces to bomb civilian communities in North Vietnam.

It seems to me we are dealing with a new level of moral sensitivity to military actions. It is a sensitivity arising largely from our viewing of horrors which in former times were reported in written descriptions of military actions.

In a way, it is similar to our nation's altered moral sensitivity toward racism after we saw it brutally personified in televised scenes from the civil rights struggles.

As an American, I felt a sense of shame at our government's complicity in this attack. It struck me as shameful that the Reagan administration seemed willing to tolerate the weeks of destruction in the hope that a new, more promising situation might develop in this troubled area.

America was involved, in

spite of all the pious regrets being expressed by our national leaders. Most of those weapons being used in the attack came from this country. Some of them were apparently used in a breach of the agreement under which they were supplied.

We were involved — because of our continuing vital support for the nation of Israel. When Israeli troops went beyond their attack on those PLO installations which had been firing across the border, when they turned the battle into a siege of a densely populated city, I would have had President Reagan announce: "Not another dollar, not another bullet will go from this country to Israel until this stops."

The Palestinian cause will not be destroyed with the destruction of these weapons, these fighting forces. This cause is too deeply rooted in the passionate dedication of these people.

The Israelis have won a temporary respite from a particular kind of attack, but I suspect the respite will be brief.

Much has been written about the political effectiveness of the Israeli lobby in this country. Whatever the truth about that representation, our nation's support of Israel has also been a reflection of a much wider political sympathy based on a generation's traumatic memories of what the Jewish people went through in our time.

Those memories are appropriate for human beings with any sense of decency. They do not, however, constitute a carte blanche for every decision, every military action of a particular Israeli government. Indecent actions are not made decent by our memories of the holocaust.

Free Swim

Project SEED and the Edgerton Park Recreation Center are offering a free recreational swim to any disabled person. Staff and volunteers will assist in both the water and locker rooms. The program is open 9:30-11:30 a.m., Mondays through Fridays. Further information is available by calling Adele Carlson, director of Project SEED, 428-6769.

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