

# Northeast Region Focus Is Adult Education

In an effort to stress the importance of adult education, a special program has been planned in the Northeast Region consisting of seven different courses at four parishes.

In describing the rationale behind the Northeast Regional Adult Education Program, Eileen Slagis, RE coordinator at St. Joseph's parish in Penfield, said, "Every parish has multiple needs in Religious Education. No one parish can do it all. At the same time, each parish may have a particular expertise that should be

developed on a regional basis. We just decided to join efforts."

Planners have come up with "the biggest and best smorgasbord of adult education possible," she said, emphasizing that adults should attend the programs which meets their needs rather being limited to their own parish topics.

Participating parishes are St. Ambrose, Rochester; Holy Spirit, Penfield; Resurrection, Fairport, and St. Joseph's, Penfield. The first sessions will take place at 7:30 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 13 and 20 at

Holy Spirit. The topic will be evangelization.

Fairport Resurrection will be host for a series at 7:30 p.m. on the Tuesdays of October. The schedule:

Oct. 5, "Faith and Men's Challenge in the Business World," Jim Perry; "Faith and the Wonder Work of Women," Joan Sobala; Oct. 19, "Faith and Moral Decision Making," Pat Fox; Oct. 16, "Faith and Prayer," Father John Mulligan.

"Focus on the Family," a seven-week film series, is scheduled to begin Monday, Oct. 4, at St. Joseph's in Penfield. It will be presented by James Dobson, associate clinical professor of Pediatrics, University of Southern California School of Medicine. A session will be presented from 2:30 to 3:30 in the afternoon, with babysitting provided. The session will be repeated from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m.

Topics for the seven sessions will be "The Strong-Willed Child," "Shaping the Will without Breaking the Spirit," "Christian Fathering," "Preparing for Adolescence: The Origins of Self-Doubt," "Preparing for Adolescence: Peer Pressure and Sexuality," "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Women: The Lonely Housewife," and "What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew about Women: Money, Sex and Children."

St. Joseph's also will be the site for a CERT ministries, "The Church," for adult learners and catechists. From 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 6, the topics will be "Biblical Images of Church," "Foundations of Church Mission and Ministry," and "Themes from Church History." From 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9, the topic will be "Reflections of Vatican II," and at the same time on Thursday, Nov. 11, the topic will be "Models of Church."

Speakers will be Father William Graf, Joan Sobala and Pat Fox.

On Jan. 16, widely-known columnist Father Joseph Champlin will present "An Evening on Marriage," also at St. Joseph's.

"Christian Mini-College," a six-part series is scheduled at St. Ambrose. Sessions are planned from 11 a.m. to noon, Sundays, Oct. 10, 17, 24 and 31, and from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Thursdays, Oct. 21 and Nov. 4.

Topics and leaders are "Traditions of the Church," John Dealy of the Harley School History Department; "Eschaton: What Does Scripture Have to Say about the End of the World?," Robert Smythe, RE coordinator, St. Ambrose; "Could You Not Pray a While with Me?," Sister Doretta Rhodes; "Peace as Power," Denise Mack; "Breaking Bread," Father Robert Werth.

Those interested in more information or in registering for any of the courses should contact the Religion Education coordinator at the host parish.

## Dr. Otto Resigns

Dr. Virginia Otto has resigned the chairmanship of the foreign language department of Nazareth College, and has been named professor emeritus by the school's board of trustees.

Dr. Otto held the department's chair for 18 years, during which time she was twice cited by the French government for her leadership in promoting French language and culture in the U.S.

She was promoted to "officier" in the Order of Academic Palms in 1980 after holding the rank of knight in the order of writers, educators, artists, scholars and scientists since 1973. Membership and promotions must be approved by the prime minister of France.

The National French Honor Society also cited her for "dynamic work in the area of French studies."



Father Lioi, Father Rogers, Tyman, and Father Shamon.

## Families Topic Of Course

The special challenges to families in modern America is the topic of a non-credit course offered by the Office of Continuing Education at St. John Fisher College.

Father Robert Collins, former director of the diocesan Office of Family Life, will be the instructor. Topics to be covered include marriage communication, family dynamics, married sexuality, rearing children, family finance and religion and the family.

The course, "The Family: Challenges for the '80s," will be offered from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., Fridays. The 10 sessions will begin Sept. 17 and end Nov. 19. The fee is \$45.

## European Studies Draw Diocesans

Louvain, Belgium — Four Rochesterians, three priests and a seminarian, spent July at the American College of the Catholic University here.

Two of the priests, Father Foster Rogers and Father Albert Shamon, participated in the school's Theological Institute.

Father Rogers, associate pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn, and Father Shamon, pastor of St. Mary's in Waterloo and regular Courier-Journal columnist, were among 45 priests from the U.S. and Canada to attend the program of theological studies.

Gary Tyman and Father Lioi are in Louvain for a longer term. The former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, Father Lioi is now assistant to the rector of Louvain for planning and development. Tyman, a native of Phelps, is a second year seminarian.

## Mission Guild Plans Meeting

The Maryknoll Catholic Mission Guild will meet at noon, Wednesday, Sept. 8, at the home of Letisha Welch, 80 Elaine Drive. The meeting will follow a dessert lunch.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

## Doing It God's Way

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23. (R1) 2) Dt. 4:1-2, 6-8. (R2) Jas. 1:17-18, 21-22, 27.

—A man walked down a street. As he passed a house a woman screamed, "Get out of here. I don't need your help when you do it that way."

Somebody answered back, "But I'm doing everything you told me to do."

The woman retorted, "I know you are, but your heart's not in it."

With that a door slammed and a young man came out muttering to himself, "I give up! Nobody can satisfy her. She wants everything her own way."

The theme of Sunday's liturgy is, "Put your heart in it." Quoting Isaiah, our Lord complained, "This people pay me lip service, but their heart is far from me."

What did our Lord mean? He meant we sometimes put aside His will for our own. We rationalize. We follow our preferences to His commands. Once two friends met. One was a Buddhist, the other a Catholic. After much talk, the subject drifted to religion.

The Buddhist said, "Well we are both serving God."

"Yes," answered the Catholic, "you're serving God your way, and I am serving Him His way."

That's the question: Do we serve God His way or our way? How many for instance follow their own preferences to God's commands. How many opt for artificial contraception, even though it is explicitly condemned in "Humanae Vitae." How many savor divorce, even though Christ said, "What God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." How many submit to abortion for convenience sake, even though God said, "Thou shalt not kill."

This tendency to serve God my way and not His way is as old as the human race.

The first reading is from the book of Deuteronomy. Deuteronomy is one of the most oft-quoted Old Testament books in the New Testament. Deuteronomy is a law book expanded by homiletic and poetic material. It expresses the religion of Israel in all its purity. It is a vibrant appeal to be faithful to the true God, who is a loving Father and whose commandments are the gift of his paternal love for the education of His children and for leading them to happiness. Deuteronomy insists on interior religion. It proclaims the primacy of the Spirit over Law. It speaks to the heart. It is the most "Christian" book of the Old Testament.

Moses warned Israel not to add or subtract to God's commandments. Of course, time and living give deeper insight to God's Law. This is Tradition. What Moses decried, however, was not such Tradition, but man-made traditions.

Mark gives an example of this in the gospel — the ritual washings before a meal. Such man-made regulations touched only external behavior, but not the heart. They left motives and intentions untouched. When such man-made regulations became sanctity symbols and pre-empted God's commandments, they led man away from God and from true religion. Thus the Scribes and Pharisees, who insisted on the cleaning of cups and dishes, actually rejected the meal — the Bread of Life. Had they had their hearts in the commandments of God, they would have been open to the Word of God.

Today's readings, therefore warn all of us against self-deception. All of us are disconcertingly ready to justify and rationalize whatever we do. From time to time, it behooves us to evaluate our service of God honestly. To help us, there is the sacrament of penance. Undoubtedly, the neglect of this sacrament accounts for the situation ethics that seems to have become the norm of morality for more and more people. "For who is judged by himself," said St. Bernard, "is judged by a fool."

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