

Legion Curia Slates Father Armand Nigro

Horseheads — Father Armand Nigro, the Jesuit priest and author who is widely known for his work in spiritual direction, will lead a Day of Prayer, Oct. 9, at St. Mary Our Mother Church here.

Registration for the event, which includes a breakfast of coffee and doughnuts, begins at 9:30 a.m. The day concludes at 4 p.m., and par-

ticipants are asked to bring their own lunches.

The program, sponsored by the Southern Tier Curia of the Legion of Mary, is open to the general public. A curia release stated, "This special day offers an unusual opportunity to learn more about prayer from a priest who has had much experience in directing retreats, and is willing and eager to bring those who hear

him into a closer, loving relationship with the Blessed Trinity."

A native of Spokane, Wash., Father Nigro is professor of religious studies at Gonzaga University there. He has directed retreats and workshops throughout the Americas and around the world.

Council Elects Officers

Elmira — The Knights of Columbus Elmira Council 229 recently installed its newly elected officers. James W. McCarey of Corning, district deputy, presided at the rites for Donald Blandford, grand knight; James Brady, deputy grand knight; Dr. James Mark, chancellor; Eldred Pannell, warden; William Johnson, recorder; Joseph McCluskey, treasurer; Thomas Sullivan, advocate; Walter Grybos, inside guard; Henry Lewis, outside guard; and James Howland, Richard Wilson, and Robert Ryniker, trustees.

ME Training Session Planned

Ithaca — Marriage Encounter team training will take place Oct. 16 at Immaculate Conception School.

The training is for any couple or clergy who want to learn more about the encounter weekend, the role of the team, and the new "Weekend Guide."

The trainers will be Jack and Mary Ann Prior, Camp Hill, Pa., and Brother Ben Frey, Larchmont. The cost is \$35 per couple, or \$20 for the clergy. A \$10 registration fee should be sent to John and Alice Neno, 1959 Mecklenburg Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

Couples attending from outside the area will have homes available to them for Friday and Saturday night.

ME Info Available

Ithaca — There will be a Marriage Encounter information night at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 6, in the Sherman Peer Room of the Tompkins County Library.

All are welcome. Two weekends are being scheduled: Oct. 29-31 and March 19-21, at the Casawasco Conference Center on Owasco Lake.

Women's Club Meets Oct. 14

The Rochester Federation of Women's Clubs will have its monthly meeting Thursday, Oct. 14, at Howard Johnson's, 12 Corners, Brighton.

An executive meeting will take place at 11 a.m., lunch at noon and a general business meeting at 1 p.m. Wyoming Best, Chamber of Commerce, will be speaker on the theme "New Directions."

Reservations must be made by the Tuesday before the meeting by contacting Joan Weiss at 225-3145.

Sister Mary Ellen Slates Final Vows

Sister Mary Ellen Campbell will make her final profession of vows in the Sisters of St. Joseph during Mass at 7 p.m., Oct. 8, at the congregation's motherhouse on East Avenue.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Campbell of St. Theodore's Parish attended St. Theodore's School, St. Agnes High School and Nazareth College, where she

earned a BS in music. She has taught music at St. Monica's, St. Theodore's and Nativity in Brockport. Sister Mary Ellen is a member of the Spirit House Community.

According to Sister Kathleen McCusker, congregational spokesperson, "Sister Mary Ellen brings a variety of gifts and talents to her service with the people of God. She has studied dance intensively both privately and at SUNY Brockport, and last summer attended the American Dance Festival in North Carolina. Sister Mary Ellen is working on a MA degree in choreography at Brockport. As a member of the sacred dance group, Hosanna, she has helped to bring a renewed appreciation to the ancient tradition of dance as prayer."

Sister Mary Ellen said, "What God is asking of vowed religious, as well as all Christians, is to act justly, love tenderly and walk

humbly. This is the theme of her profession liturgy. The Hosanna group will perform a liturgical dance during the rites and Sister Barbara Staropoli will sing.

"The Magnificat," she said, "exemplifies my response to an awesome gift and calling. Rooted only in God — in faith and hope, I respond to His call knowing nothing of future or path. I will travel — sure only of God's love and grace in my life."

Confirmation Is Region's Focus

Bath — Bishop Matthew H. Clark will lead a regional assembly on "The Challenges of Confirmation," 2-4:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 19, at St. Mary's School here.

All members of the region have been invited to the event, particularly the young, confirmation students and their sponsors.



PUBLIC SERVICE — Myasthenia Gravis Foundation meeting, featuring Dr. Robert Griggs, U of R Medical Center, and Mrs. Mary Pat Smith, RN, BSN, member of Rochester General Hospital School of Nursing, 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 17. For further information call 325-4945.

DANCE — Classes in Irish folk dancing for adults, 7:30 p.m. for beginners and 8:30 p.m. for advance, every Thursday starting Oct. 7, at 441 East Ave. Also Irish set dances will be taught (free) at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

FOLK PROGRAM — By Nydia Padilla's Borinquen Dance Company in a program of Puerto Rican dance, 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 10, Nazareth Arts Center. Free.

ART SHOW OPENING — Fiber Sculpture National, an all-American exhibit of three-dimensional works in textile and fiber media, with wine and cheese reception, 7-9 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9. Free.

GARIBALDI SYMPOSIUM — Guest speakers Professor Raymond Grew, University of Michigan, and Professor Salvatore Saladino, Queens College, 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, Nazareth Arts Center. Free.

WORKSHOP — "Working Attitudes" course, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 18, and Nov. 1, St. John Fisher. Fee \$20. For further information contact Continuing Education Office, 586-4140, ext. 365.

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On the Right Side

In Praise Of Sisters

Carmelite Father McGough, chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, had an opportunity to go to the Holy Land as chaplain to a Carmelite group of pilgrims. He engaged me to supply at the hospital Sept. 19-26. I was glad. Hospital work is congenial to my soul, and the southern tier is especially dear to me. On Saturday the 18th, with a car packed with prayer books, tapes, a cassock, and a change of socks and shorts, I set off from Webster, stopping for a luncheon meeting with eight priests at Dansville; for a brief stop at Hornell and Bath; and at 5:30 at St. Vincent's, Corning, for a spaghetti supper prepared by choir director Theresa Perotti, since the Twin Housekeepers had left for Lourdes. At 8 p.m., I went up the Corning hill to see Father Tom Brennan at St. Mary's. I have engaged him to give my funeral sermon and wished to confirm his good health. After confessions, the new pastor, Father Dick Murphy, 130 pounds lighter than a year ago, joined us.

Around 10 p.m. I wandered into the Emergency Room of the Elmira hospital. Secondary chaplain Carmelite Father Ernest Unverdorben (which is the German for "unspoiled") welcomed me. "You begin at 10 a.m. tomorrow. We have a room for you tonight at St. Peter and Paul across the road." I had not been there since Father O'Connell went to St. Cecilia's. At the rectory were the Superior, Brother Ed O'Donnell, who teaches at Notre Dame High; Father Fidelis Fosselman, the pastor, and another priest who was there involved in the sale of the Waverly priory. All were hospitable.

St. Joseph's Hospital was founded 74 years ago by Sisters of St. Joseph in the spirit similar to Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity. They began in poverty and scraps, and have established a great institution which today is a hospital of 300 beds, administered by Sister Martha Gersbach of Shortsville parish, and some 25 Sisters; with a fine staff of doctors, nurses, technicians, aides, et. al; plus an energetic Ladies' Auxiliary.

Adjoining is St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, founded in 1908 and administered by Sisters M. Remigia McHenry. The school is affiliated with Elmira College, which gives the rather stiff science courses. The 120 students are largely from Central New York and Pennsylvania. As I met these young women on the hospital floors or preparing for classes I was struck by their remarkable cheerfulness. They are happy people, and impressive in their neat uniforms. St. Joseph's gives the three-year course which includes that valuable extra year of clinical in-hospital training. It is so accredited that graduates with their R.N. can do an extra year or so of college for a B.S.N. degree.

In 1979 a fine Jewish young man came from San Francisco. He had already acquired a degree in psychology from the University of California. He was asked, "How did you ever land at St. Joseph's from California?" His reply was beautiful: "I watched a nurse from St. Joseph's, Pat Reardon, working in a hospital in San Francisco, and was so impressed by her manner and care that I decided I wanted the same training." He was graduated second highest in his class in 1982 and returned to San Francisco.

The Sunday I took over, Jesuit Father Vincent McDonough was giving a retreat for our 25 Sisters: a retreat, silent and serene. Father McDonough is chaplain at Notre Dame High School, and teaches religion and Latin, though his speciality, which he taught at McQuaid High, is higher physics. I sometimes hear people who see odd publicized Sisters on the Phil Donahue and such-like shows say: "What has happened to our Sisters?" To them I reply, "A few Sisters who get great publicity by using their religious profession as a springboard for the secular feminist movement do not represent the thousands of Sisters who live the religious life in prayer and service and devotion, faithful to their traditions." And I might add, the Sisters who serve at St. Joseph's Hospital represent the genuine religious Sisters.