



Celebrating Francis

Children of Immaculate-Conception School in Ithaca hold tight to their "animals" during a special Mass, prepared by the sixth graders under the direction of teacher Ms. Regina Plunkett, during which Father Anthony Mugavery blessed all the pets. The event was a celebration of St. Francis of Assisi. A Parish spokesperson said, "Only one pet, a rather independent dog, misbehaved during the service and had to leave early."



Liturgy Conference Draws 300 Federation Delegates

Buffalo — More than 300 members of the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions gathered here for the 15th annual meeting of the organization.

Federation membership includes persons involved in Catholic liturgical renewal on the diocesan level across the U.S.

The four-day meeting, convened on the 20th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, was co-sponsored by the federation and the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy of

the USCC and was hosted by the eight dioceses in New York.

Sister Janet Baxendale, SC, of New York serves as chairperson of the federation. She and Bishop William H. Bullock of Minneapolis-St. Paul, vice chairman of the bishops' committee, opened the meeting with status reports from the two organizations.

The topic under discussion this year was "Symbol, the Language of Liturgy," and it was developed by Father Edward Braxton, recently

named scholar-in-residence at the North American College in Rome; Father James LoPresti, SJ, of the Loyola Pastoral Institute in New York; and Dr. Don E. Sailors, teacher of liturgy at the Candler School of Theology in Atlanta, Ga.

The federation also approved a resolution authorizing a nationwide survey of attitudes and current practices regarding the Rite of Penance. The survey results will be given to the four U.S. bishops who are delegates to the 1983 Synod of Bishops in Rome.

Sr. LeValley Accepts NACPA Board Post

Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley, SSI, was elected to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA) at the Oct. 10-13 convocation in Silver Springs, Md. She will serve a two-year term as board member.

Under the theme of "To act justly; to love tenderly," the 200 people who attended the conference explored the justice issues within the Church administration. They heard Father Peter Henriot, SJ, review the ramifications of the 1971 Synod which challenged the Church to promote justice while analyzing issues of justice within its own structure. They

heard Sister Mary Trainor, RSM, PhD, discuss a systematic procedure for using one's own resources to understand problems involved in change and to locate action possibilities.

The closing address was presented by Father Eugene LaVerdiere who explained the gospels as major expressions of the Church ministry to its own members. Sister Elizabeth Anne reinforced this link with the gospels when she explained that the church groups at the meeting dealt with church questions in the light of the gospels and offered the practical tools with which to carry out their work.

The tools were provided through the 25 workshops on the agenda which included sessions on Canon Law, lay ministry development, and the right of church people to organize into unions.

"The best thing about the meeting," said Sister Elizabeth Anne, "is that you are with people in the same ministry," and she went on to say that it



SR. ELIZABETH ANNE LaVALLEY

is through these working sessions that critical questions are raised, such as, "What kind of expertise do we need for the future of the Church?"

Sister Elizabeth Anne is at present in personnel and development for ministry for the diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph Congregation. She previously taught and headed the theology department at Nazareth Academy.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Thankful For Priests That Care

Dear Father Hohman,

Recently the pastor of Christ the King Church, Father Maitoux, was transferred by his Basilian order to Texas. For six years we were inspired by his homilies. I am not sure he cared about any particular philosophy of preaching. But he did care very much about Jesus and helped us know Him better through the Word of God found in Scripture.

There was always a phrase that had special meaning for him and he shared this with us. From his own prayerful reading and meditation (many of his talks were written before the Blessed Sacrament) he showed us Jesus alive today in the sacraments, in his people, in the teachings of the Church, and especially in the Eucharist.

The talks contained sound doctrine but they were never catechism classes. The well-attended scripture classes and instruction classes attest to the desire of many to learn more about Jesus through a better understanding of the Bible and the teachings of the Church. Besides all the people who contribute their

time to the parish school, CCD and other groups, three prayer groups were formed (Legion of Mary, St. Vincent dePaul and a charismatic prayer group). There was a noticeable increase in daily Mass attendance. There is not space to mention all the service to the sick and the poor.

I have had the opportunity to attend Mass at many churches in the Rochester diocese and I am impressed by the high quality of the homilies. We should be thankful there are so many priests taking the time to read and pray and listen to the Holy Spirit.

(Signed) J.R.

Dear J.R.,

Your letter is a very beautiful tribute to a man who obviously has shared his own faith experience in a way that was very helpful and a real contribution to the growth of the people. I am delighted to hear that, as well as your statement about the high quality of homilies in the diocese. From time to time every one of us who preaches must look within and determine whether or not we are, as you say, showing Jesus alive today in the sacraments, in his people, in the teachings of the Church, and in the Eucharist. Thank you very much.



Keeping Busy

Residents of St. Ann's Home/The Heritage busily prepare many Christmas craft items for their annual Christmas sale, slated this year for 2-4:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 26, in the Bishop Kearney Auditorium on the ground floor of St. Ann's Home, 1500 Portland Ave. Ceramics, candy wreaths, yarn items and baked foods will be among the items on sale.

Fisher College Stages Lincoln-Davis Debate

A dramatized debate between Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis on the Gettysburg Address will be sponsored by the St. John Fisher College history and continuing education departments at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13, in the Kearney Auditorium.

Andrew W. Burnett of Sidman, Pa. will portray Lincoln, and Peter F. Blaisdell of Honeoye Falls will bring Davis back to life. The evening will begin with Lincoln's interpretation of the famous document. Davis will follow with a rebuttal.

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Expires December 31, 1982