

Cursillistas Mark a First For Prisoners at Auburn

Auburn — For the first time in the history of the institution, the Auburn Correctional Facility has hosted a program of the Cursillo movement, Residents Encounter Christ.

Cursillo literature states that the program is parallel in format to the Cursillo

Weekend, but is modified to conform to the prison structure, the prison system, and the inmates themselves.

The event took place Nov. 12-14, and drew 40 inmates and 15 Cursillistas. In addition, several priests took part. Father Joseph Catanese joined Father James Enright

and Edward Zimmer, all of Auburn, and Father Jerome Dissek of the Diocese of Buffalo, who served as spiritual director of the effort.

According to the October issue of "Prism," a newsletter of the local Cursillo movement, "Three years ago, when the REC weekend was first proposed, the answer was a most emphatic NO! ... About two and a half years following initial contact ... permission was requested to put on a REC one day a week, over a 12-week period. We shared our hopes and expectations about putting on the REC with the residents themselves and asked them to join us in prayer. This they did as they prayed for us and with us. In the interim, a new Assistant Superintendent for Programs had been assigned to the prison. Now everything had to be checked through him. Back to step one, we thought ... A few minutes into the conversation, persuasive arguments and all that had to be presented ... he stopped it and gave the go-ahead to put it on, saying, 'If you hadn't asked to do it, I would have suggested it to you myself.'"

Cursillistas who participated in the event include Joe Amioia, Bob Bacher (who had participated in a REC at Fishkill Correctional Facility four years ago), Vance Carpenter, Carl Casstiglione, Ted Cobb, John Collins, Don Curreri, Dave Large, Sal LeChase, Vince Phillips, Fritz Palleschi, Tony Rocchi, Philip Sinopoli, Santo Sinopoli (rector for the Auburn REC), and Deacon Stanley Zawacki.

A Question Of Penance

Dear Father-Holman,

I have always tried to be a well-informed Catholic, but I was surprised to read the following excerpt in the back of a 1982 calendar put out by the Claretians in Chicago:

"Catholics are to substitute penance of their own choosing on all other Fridays (Fridays outside of Lent) and days of prayer (e.g., former ember and rogation days.)"

The preceding part mentioned the well-known requirement for meatless Fridays during Lent and also a meatless Ash Wednesday for all Catholics 14 years of age and older.

I remember that Bishop Sheen suggested such penance as visiting patients in hospitals. What puzzled me was how to determine which days are former ember days and rogation days.

One day after a long talk with my pastor in the Confessional I said to myself I might as well ask how to figure out what these extra days of penance are. Unfortunately, I had picked a bad time to ask because the pastor had to get ready for saying Mass. His reply was that the general rule was that Christ told us we must do penance in order to be saved. (I had known that.)

The way I solved the problem was to do a little penance every day. However, I would be very surprised if more than a very small percentage of Catholics know all of the penance requirements of present Church laws. Therefore, for their benefit, please specify which days are considered to be days of prayer as used in this context.

(Signed) T.V.L.

Dear T.V.L.,

It has been quite some time since the official fast days in the Church were limited to Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, days of abstinence to the Fridays of Lent. The reason was because they had become simply another form of legalism which was of no spiritual benefit to most people. The idea was to substitute a form of self-denial which would be more appropriate for the individuals involved. And it would also be a personal choice.



Fr. Louis J. Hohman

The Open Window

Unfortunately, the leaders of the Church did not do a very good job persuading people that self-denial is very necessary and the net result was that very few people substituted any kind of penance or mortification. In general the kind of penance we do should relate to the kinds of sins which trouble us. Apart from that there are other forms of self-denial which are built in to the present situation. One of the best I can think of at this point is the meetings with which most people are afflicted (in some cases quite numerous). Another form of penance for some is doing serious reading rather than watching the foolishness of TV.

If you would like to use the ember days as special days of penance, they were the following: The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after the first Sunday of Lent, those same three days after Pentecost, after Sept. 14 (Feast of the Exultation of the Cross) and after Dec. 13 (Feast of St. Lucy). They roughly correspond to the four changes of seasons. Rogations days were: Feast of St. Mark (April 25) and the three days before Ascension Thursday. There might be good reason for choosing specific days because otherwise we might never be reminded of our duty to do penance. Your idea of doing a little penance every day is of course an excellent one and far better than forced legal observances on particular days.



Sister Hogan Is Guest Conductor Of State Chorus

Virginia Hogan, SSJ, of Fairport is guest conductor of the Women's Chorus of the State School Music Conference, from Nov. 29 to Dec. 3 at the Concord in Liberty.

She is the first state resident and first woman invited to conduct the chorus. The concert itself will be tonight (Dec. 1).

Sister Hogan is the founder, vocal coach and conductor of the Perinton Community Chorus and Orchestra and the Rochester Diocesan Festival Choir. She is a senior adjudicator and vocal chairperson for the music festivals of the State Music Association and is known for her choral work at St. Agnes High School and with the Sisters of St. Joseph Concert Chorale.

She received her bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Nazareth College. Sister Hogan has studied advanced conducting with such musicians as Frederick Fennell and Elaine Brown and extensively with Robert Shaw of Chorale fame.



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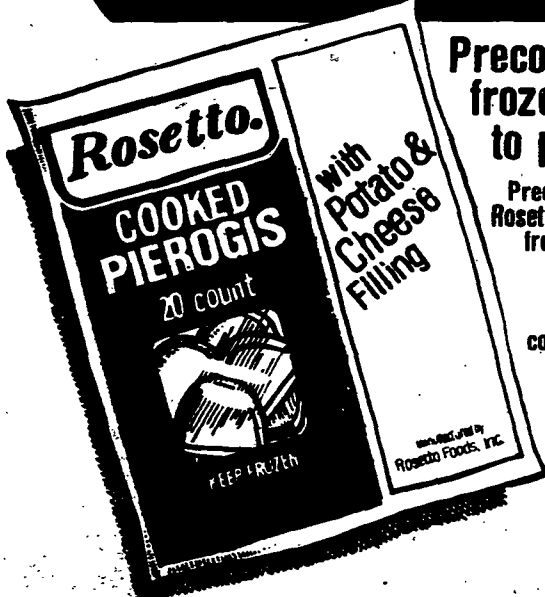
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