

Triple Celebration Marks Melkite Feast

The small parish of St. Nicholas Roman Catholic Melkite Church had three reasons to celebrate Sunday, Dec. 5.

In the first place, the traditional date for the feast of St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, is Dec. 6 and is observed on the nearest Sunday by the parish. Secondly, Archbishop Joseph Tawil, Melkite Eparch of the United States, visited the parish, and thirdly, Joseph Versage, a professor of philosophy at St. John Fisher College, was ordained a deacon in the Melkite rite.

The rites were held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, said William Neilson, St. Nicholas spokesman, because the crowd could not be ac-

commodated in the small parish church.

The archbishop ordained Deacon Versage during the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. Celebrating with him were Msgr. Richard Quinn, and Fathers Robert Miller, Charles Lavary, John Cavanaugh, John Lee, William Marceau, Salem Faddoul, Joseph Mitrano, Patrick Braden, Joseph Trovato, John Pokonis, Mark Miller, Patrick Magnier, and Frederick Helfrich.

Also in the sanctuary was Rev. Stephen Upson of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. Deacons were Rev. Mr. Andre St. Germain and Rev. Mr. Paul Lawlor.

Deacon Versage, son of

Vincent and Angelina Versage, has been an active participant at St. Nicholas since 1962. He holds degrees in both philosophy and chemistry. From 1948 to 1955, he was professor of philosophy at St. Basil's Byzantine Seminary and College in Stamford, Conn.

In the evening a celebration dinner was held at the Mapledale Party House.

The liturgy musicians also provided music for the dinner: Ruth Loughton, organist; Javier Che Pabalan, tenor, former choir director of St. Patrick's Church; Corning; Johanna Valentina, soprano; and Peter Pabalan, a student at Cardinal Mooney High School and a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.



Photo by Hank Kula

Archbishop Tawil preaches at the Sunday liturgy.

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Catholic Education Should Include the Human Side

"Looking down the road," said Brother John Walderman of the Bishop Kearney guidance department, "Notre Dame University" could serve as a resource center for Catholic schools throughout the country." He was referring to the idea of a homogeneous curriculum not only between Catholic universities and Catholic high schools but between the

Catholic high schools themselves. This idea was one phase of education touched upon during the educational interface conference held at the South Bend, Indiana, university, Nov. 7-10. The event was coordinated by Emil Hoffman, PhD, dean of Freshmen Studies at Notre Dame, and attended by Brother Walderman and representatives from 40 Catholic high schools from across the nation.

In Brother Walderman's opinion, one of the big pluses of the conference was the opportunity of hearing new ideas from other educators and "being able to sit down and talk about them," he said. Another plus and one doubly exciting for him was the focus on "going back to our roots," he said, "a coming back to making the students aware of what Church is all about."

This idea was expanded upon by conference participants in discussing the role of Catholic schools as transmitters of Catholic values. Father Theodore Hesburgh, president of Notre Dame, in his address, emphasized the role of the Catholic university as the conveyor of values to its students and underlined the importance of including student social involvement at all levels of Catholic education.

In discussing Father Hesburgh's address, Brother Walderman noted that the idea of social commitment was already a part of Bishop Kearney through the school's Senior Reaching Out Program, a project through which volunteer students become socially involved with the community.

Along with the human service aspect in Catholic education, other topics discussed at the conference were the importance of the high school curriculum in assuring students' academic success in college, the commitment of the high schools to building strong academic foundations for their students, and the development of a total school program, stressing the commitment of each staff member to the mission of the school.

SIDS Book Refunds Promised

A Canadian advertising agency has promised refunds to American purchasers of an unpublished book, advertised in U.S. religious publications, that claimed to reveal the secret of preventing Sudden Infant Death Syndrome.

Members of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) parent support groups in both countries said there is no means of preventing SIDS (also known as crib death) because its victims are often otherwise healthy babies who die mysteriously while asleep.

An advertisement for the book, "Preventing Crib Death," was sent to Catholic newspapers and other religious and ethnic publications in the United States earlier this autumn. The ad claimed "in simple terms, crib death is now 100 percent preventable."

Following public criticism, many Catholic newspapers, including the Courier-Journal, dropped the ad.

Monette G. William Cooper of the Ottawa Cooper Advertising Agency, sent U.S. editors a notice advising them "that the book will not be published" and "that all people who forwarded the purchase price of \$17 have been sent back their checks, unopened."

C-J Editor To Receive K. of C. Award

Carmen J. Vigiucci, editor of the Courier-Journal, has been named the first recipient of the Jim Travers Memorial Community Service Award of the Pope Pius XII Council 4691 of the Knights of Columbus.

Vigiucci will be presented the award at the Knights' annual Christmas dinner dance, Friday, Dec. 10, at Arena's Party House.

Mr. Travers, a highly decorated veteran of World War II and the Korean War, died September 1981. He served as an officer and as community service chairman of the Irondequoit council, and was a leader in several religious and civic organizations.

Vigiucci's selection was unanimous, according to William F. Schmitz, past grand knight of the council.

Vigiucci was singled out for his outstanding service rendered to the community by editorial support for the cause of the unborn and their right to life," Schmitz said.

Diocesan Appointments

Father Paul J. Freesecker, from associate pastor Holy Family, Auburn, to pastor, St. Patrick, Cato/St. Thomas the Apostle, Red Creek/St. Jude, Fairhaven

Father David N. Grankee, from chaplain, Elmira Correctional Facility and Reception Center, to pastor, St. John the Baptist/St. Cecilia, Elmira

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Local Sister Elected Prioress In Wisconsin

Sister Mary Paul Murphy, OP, has been elected prioress of St. Dominic's Monastery in La Crosse, Wis.

The former Carol Murphy is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Murphy of Pittsford. Her uncle, Msgr. J. Emmett Murphy, is pastor of Holy Apostles Parish in Rochester.

Sister Mary Paul was a parishioner at St. James in Irondequoit and attended that grammar school. After being graduated from Mercy High School, she joined the Sisters of Mercy for three years.

In 1967, she entered the Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen in Elmira and then transferred to St. Dominic's in 1977.

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