

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Francis De Sales

Geneva — The St. Anthony Society and the Rosary Society of St. Francis De Sales Church combined recently for a Christmas Party and benefit for the Sisters of St. Joseph at Club 86.

According to parish spokesperson, Philomena Benedetti, the gathering drew more than 100 members and guests. Among the guests were Fathers Edwin Metzger,

Eugene Emo, and William Spilly and Sister Lorraine Julien.

Sam Palermo provided music for dancing. Chairmen for the event were officers of both societies.

Geneva — The St. Anthony Society of St. Francis de Sales Parish here recently elected a

new slate of officers. They are: Dora David, president; Rose Ventura, vice president; Mary Balistreri, corresponding secretary; Margaret Wiatrowski, treasurer; Philomena Benedetti, financial secretary; Mary Serrett, advocate; Mary D'Amico and Anna De John, trustees; Nancy Cataline and Eleanor Augustine, committee women; Edith Cocola, historian; and Ms. Wiatrowski and Ms. Benedetti, publicity chairmen.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Finding Christmas

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 1/39-45. (R1) Mt. 5/1-4. (R2) Heb. 10/5-10.

Christmas is touted as being the happiest time of the year. The tinkling and jingling of bells — "Jingle Bells." The well-wishing Christmas cards. The joyous carols. The angelic hymns: soul-stirring "Silent Night," the triumphant "Adeste Fideles." The colorful lights. The glitter. The tinsel. Newly fallen snow that hides the scars of earth. Shoppers — hurrying, hustling, faces wreathed in smiles. The gladsome greetings.

And yet for many, Christmas is not necessarily the happiest time of the year. For many it is a time of deep depression. Depression is the emotional response caused by the gap between what is and what should be. What should Christmas be? It should be the happiest time of the year. But what is it actually for so many? What is it for those separated from loved ones or faced with financial problems or spiritual aridity? Remember Tedd Smith's song, "Where's Christmas?"

*Last year I thought, maybe this year I'd see
Love and peace under my
Christmas tree.
Where, oh where did that
dream go?
I guess it got lost in the
deep, deep snow.
I thought maybe people
would change,
But here we are — just the
same.*

Unless we recognize the gap between what is and what should be for what it is, spirits can become unduly depressed during the Christmas season.

Of course not everybody will have a merry Christmas this year. The widow, the widower, the unemployed, those far away from loved ones must realize that not every Christmas need or should be merry. Christmas will not eliminate problems and concerns — November problems will perhaps still be present in January.

And yet what was Christmas for Him whose birth Christmas celebrates? The birth of Jesus Christ in a stable occurred in a terrible world situation. An emperor

scratches a decree and the whole world moves. There is disruption of family life. But who cares? Each person must enroll in the town of his birth. And why? To assess taxes and to discover those fit for compulsory military service. For the holy family, this meant an 80-mile trip — a hazardous trip for a girl about to give birth. But no complaint. Instead, she takes along swaddling clothes to be ready. At Bethlehem, for privacy's sake, she and Joseph choose a stable to the village khan. And there, when the night was in the middle of its course, Jesus was born.

Was that Christmas merry? Yes — a thousand times so. For Jesus was there. Mary and Joseph had been uprooted, far from loved ones; they were poor and alone, save for the companionship of animals; but they were joy-filled, for Jesus was there.

To humble shepherds, an angel announced the good tidings of the Savior's birth. And the lowly shepherds were filled with joy, because they, who were tending the lambs for the Temple sacrifices, were privileged to behold the Lamb of God. And their joy reverberated in the skies as angel choirs sang the glorious Gloria! Oh, we may have nothing but problems this Christmas, but we have the Mass. And the Mass is Jesus in our midst. And Jesus is joy!

*"Where's Christmas?"
We can ring jingle bells,
sing "Silent Night,"
Get teary-eyed over
Christmas tree lights.
Have our eyes fill up with
joy
At the sight of kids opening
some new toy.
Guess that's Christmas to
some,
But that's not Christmas to
me.
Where, oh where are all the
things
That I thought Christmas
time was going to bring?
I don't know,
Guess I thought I'd see
Something else under my
Christmas tree.
Maybe if we could think
about that first
Christmas night
When angels sang over all
the earth
Promising peace through the
Savior's birth,
If only people could see
Maybe that's what we need
under our tree.*

St. Pius X

Robert M. Stich of Archer Road will serve as colonel and Frank Meleca of Omega Drive will serve as lieutenant colonel for the Rochester Regiment of the Knights of St. John. Both men are members of St. Pius X Parish in Chili. Their terms will last three years. In other posts, Father Paul Freemesser has been named regimental chaplain, Joseph Cooper as senior major and William E. Higgins as junior major. The regiment is more than 100 years old and includes six commanderies in the Rochester area, according to C.J. Keller, director of publicity.

Corpus Christi

"I'd Rather Eat in Rochester," a cookbook which features the favorite recipes of Corpus Christi School parents, friends and local personalities, is now on sale for \$5 plus \$1 for postage and is available from Corpus Christi School, 880 E. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14605. Among the local personalities who have contributed book of 226 recipes are Foster Brooks, Chuck and Gap Mangione, Isaiah Jackson, Mayor Thomas Ryan, Rich Funke, Don Alhart and Mary Alhart, Mauro Panaggio, Rep. and Mrs. Barber Conable, George Beahon and Sheriff Andrew Meloni.

Precious Blood

The Men's Club of Most Precious Blood Church is sponsoring a New Year's Eve dinner dance in the parish hall. Tickets at \$20 a person, \$40 a couple, cover an 8 p.m. buffet dinner, open bar, party hats and favors. Dance music will be provided by "New Society." A lunch featuring Italian sausage will be served at 1:30 a.m.

Reservations are made by calling Paul McCormick, 647-1392; or the rectory, 458-6079, before Dec. 20.

Christ the King

A Catholic charismatic Mass will be celebrated by Father Robert MacDougal of Toronto, 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19, at Christ the King Church, Kings Highway. The public is invited to the event. Donations of canned goods for the poor will be accepted.

Deadline

Items intended for publication in At Your Parish must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices by noon Thursday before the Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal is located at 114 S. Union St. Rochester, N.Y. 14610.



St. Gabriel's Confirmation

Bishop Matthew H. Clark addresses members of the confirmation class at St. Gabriel's Church in Hammondsport. Confirmands from St. Gabriel's and St. Patrick's in Prattsburg included Lori Abraham, Shawn Card, Scott Carpenter, Aimee Cox, Pamela Doyle, Trudie Joseph, Tracy Perry, Joseph Reynolds, Barbara Schuck, Adrienne Shill, Mary Sokolowski, Randy Zimmer, Michele Card, Daniel Hershberger, Elizabeth Hiney, Theresa Kopyczak, Jennie McLoud, Randall Overhiser, Dana Peck, Ellen Reagan, Rex Sokolowski, John Underhill, Douglas Angus, Gregory Brayer, Kathleen Duggan, Amy Filkins, Bridget Finley, Robert Lewis, Janet Lukacko, Erin Manor, Morgan Reynolds, Jennifer Shill, Kevin Smith, Darren Towner, Steven Zimmer, Thomas Abraham, Patrick Doyle, Michele Farris, David Hiney, Kristine Kashorek, Lori Olszyk, Julia Peck, Elizabeth Reagan, Wendy Torbitt, Julia Marie Whible, Ray Joseph, Shelly Kashorek, Elizabeth Peck, Christine Lewis, and Edward Schnabel. Concelebrants with Bishop Clark were Fathers John Millet, Albert Ryan, Louis Vasile and James Cosgrove. Mrs. Rudolph Gyr was lector.

Day Care Toys Needed

The Child Care Information Service of the Western New York Child Care Council, which provides information on the availability of child care options to working parents and assists them with deciding the kind of child care that best meets their needs, is looking to build a toy loan library. The organization, because many care-givers in Family Day Care cannot afford quality nursery school-type toys which would enhance the environment of young children, is asking for durable toys in good to excellent condition appropriate for infants, toddlers and preschoolers. Infant equipment such as cribs, especially portacribs and strollers, are needed.

Persons interested in contributing should contact Ann McNabb at 461-2781.

Business in Diocese

George F. Wiedemer, chairman of the board of Cable-Wiedemer, Inc., and John H. Glavin, former vice president for Xerox Corp., have been named to the board of trustees of St. Mary's Hospital. Wiedemer is also the co-chairman of the 1982-83 St. Joseph's Villa Building Drive. Glavin served as general chairman of the 1981 diocesan Thanks Giving Appeal.

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Winnie the Pooh TIC/TOC Players
A musical adaptation of the story children have loved for years. Hum the tunes with Winnie the Pooh and his friends Christopher Robin, Eeyore, Piglet, Rabbit and Kanga as they present a holiday treat for children.
Friday, December 17 — 7:30 p.m.
December 18, 29, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 — 2 p.m.
December 22 — 10 a.m.
At Aquinas Institute Sunday, January 2, 1983
At 4:30 p.m.
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