



Support for Casa

Joseph Anzalone, left, chairman of the Casa Italiana committee at Nazareth College, presents a \$500 check to Laurel Tarcinale, director of development at the college, on behalf of the board of directors of the Rochester Italian Invitational Charity Golf Tournament. The gift will be used to support the program of cultural and educational activities at Nazareth's Casa Italiana.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Paying Attention

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 5/1-11; (R1) 6/1-8. (R2) 1 Cor. 15/1-11.

Epictetus, the Roman thinker, said centuries ago, "Nature has given to man one tongue, but two ears, that way we may hear from others twice as much as we speak."

If we read into a tape recorder at a normal rate all the words Jesus spoke in the gospels, it would take about 11 minutes. That says Jesus spent more time listening than speaking. Sunday's gospel says that "crowds pressed in on Jesus to hear the word of God." If we continue the first reading, we shall see that the people who heard the words of Isaiah did not listen to them.

There is a racy little book titled "How to Get More Out of the Mass" (Ligouri Publications) by Father Joseph T. McGloin, SJ. One chapter, "Even a super quarterback needs a receiver," is about listening to the Sunday homily.

The greatest quarterback in the world is no good without a receiver. Neither is a homilist without listeners. To listen is hard work — in fact, it is an art. Sixty percent of misunderstanding is due to poor listening. How often I've been quoted as saying something I've never said!

Anyway, lay ministries are proliferating. You may have been asked to talk to one of the parish societies. Or you give a great talk on selling insurance. Or you've been to a Dale Carnegie course on how to win friends and influence people. So on a Sunday morning you are ready to start filing constructive criticism on Father as soon as he opens his mouth.

Of course some criticism, maybe even much criticism, of Father will be valid. But much of the loud or published criticism of homilies is not. And the basis of its invalidity is just about always the same single item: self-centeredness. It boils down to something like this: "Father couldn't possibly tell me anything, so I wish he'd quit interrupting

my extraordinary union with God, my already complete appreciation of the Mass, and my grasp of the whole field of theology, especially moral theology.

Every congregation has its experts who really do know more about their own fields than the priest does, but they are mistaken when they presume he is equally stupid about spiritual matters. So they endure him without really listening, since they're sure he can't possibly tell them anything. After all, they've read the National Catholic Reporter, or the Wanderer — depending on their points of view.

But when all is said and done, while there will be some good Sunday talks, there will also continue to be some incredibly awful klunkers. And when confronted with one of the latter, a person will be tempted to sit there bored to tears, and turn Father off completely. This isn't really very bright.

Here's what a recent study uncovered on what makes a poor listener: even before he's listened much at all, he decides the subject is uninteresting and the delivery poor; he becomes preoccupied with his own distractions and with maybe a tough objection to something said earlier in the talk, and so he misses all the rest.

Supreme Court Justice Taney used to say that he never heard a poor sermon, that he always got something out of a sermon no matter how poor.

Even a bit of broken glass on the wayside can reflect the glory of the noonday sun. A smart listener knows that God is trying to say something through this priest no matter how ineptly he may express himself at times. That makes the listener's listening active, with a bit of kindness or even a modicum of charity thrown in.

In an old McGuffey Reader there was this quatrain:

"The wise old owl sat in an oak. / The more he saw, the less he spoke. / The less he spoke, the more he heard. / Why can't we be like that wise old bird?"

Kodak Sponsors Black Theater Here

The Nazareth College Arts Center will present two performances of "Home," the award-winning drama by the National Black Touring Circuit, at 10 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 11.

The morning show will be a special performance for city youth sponsored in part by a grant from the Eastman Kodak Company. Written by Samm-Art Williams, "Home"

will be presented in celebration of Black Awareness Month.

Through a new programming agreement, Kodak has provided \$15,000 in grants to partially fund the production of four shows and completely cover the costs of tickets and transportation for hundreds of selected students in the county. In this third of four ventures between Kodak

and the Arts Center, high school students from the city school district will be the guests of Kodak.

Other productions in the 1982-83 agreement were the Spanish musical comedy "La Corte de Faraon" (The Pharaoh's Court) in October, and in December, "Winnie the Pooh," performed for day care children by the TIC/TOC

Players.

The last school performance of the joint venture, which has already entertained more than 1,700 young people, will be presented during the two-week run of "Pinocchio" in the Spring. Both "Winnie the Pooh" and "Pinocchio" are productions of the Nazareth Arts Center Children's Theater Program.

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DINNER COOK 5 days a week, one-priest rectory. Call (315) 946-4182.

COORDINATOR: BA preferred. Requires 1 year experience with low-income housing. Resume to Personnel Coordinator, Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester 14624. EOE.

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