

AT YOUR PARISH

Assumption

Assumption parish in Fairport is planning a varied Lenten program, including special Sunday liturgies, homilies and bulletin articles. An expanded schedule of daily masses is planned with evening prayer on Tuesdays, communal Friday Stations of the Cross and communal reconciliation.

A special Week of Renewal is planned March 22-24 under Father Timothy Keating, a Redemptorist from Notre Dame Retreat House.

Perpetual Help

A renewal and reconciliation service will take place Friday, March 11, and Saturday, March 12, in Our Lady of Perpetual Help school hall. Liturgy, speakers, socialibility and food are all part of the program.

Good Shepherd

A weekend retreat is scheduled March 11-13 at Good Shepherd in Henrietta with Father Edward Palumbos and the Sisters from the Cenacle. The theme will be "Spirituality in Everyday Life."

Non-parishioners may participate as space allows. Further information is available from the Cenacle Ministry Office, 693 East Ave., Rochester, 14607; telephone 271-8755.

St. Agnes

Avon — The Family Life Committee of St. Agnes Church here is sponsoring a Lenten series entitled "A Close Encounter with Christ." The program involves discussion, liturgy and Scripture readings related to "His Way," by Father David Knight, and will be held each Wednesday (except March 9). Mass will be celebrated at 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. and groups will be formed following the liturgies.

Holy Cross

Thirty-five dealers will be featured at the 13th annual Antique Show and Sale at Holy Cross Church 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, March 5, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday, March 6, in the parish auditorium, Lake Avenue and Latta Road. Admission is \$1.50. Hot lunches and dinners will be available.

St. Mary

Waterloo — "What You Should Tell Your Children," a Lenten program for parents, has been slated for 7-8:15 p.m., five Wednesday evenings in Lent beginning Feb. 23 at St. Mary's Church.

Father Albert Shamon will discuss "Religious Education" Feb. 23; Father Bartholomew O'Brien, "Prayer," March 2; Sister Mary Ellen Bossack, "Behavior," March 8; Sister Mary Lynch, "Religion," March 16, and Stephen Graff, "The Bible," March 23.

Mission Postponed

The mission on non-violence scheduled Feb. 18-20 at Corpus Christi Parish has been postponed to March 25-27. Details on a new format will be forthcoming.

St. Thomas Apostle

The Home-School Association of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will host a Lenten family fish fry, 6-8 p.m., Friday, Feb. 25, in the school hall. The menu includes fried haddock, French fries, cole slaw, relishes and rolls and butter, coffee, tea and milk. Ice cream will also be served. High chairs will be

St. Philip Neri

The Women's Club will begin its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22, with benediction at 7:45 p.m. in the church, followed by the meeting at 8 p.m. in the school hall.

Guest speaker will be Gil Strother, field representative for the Rochester Social Security district office. Hostess for the program will be Eleanor Cirulli.

St. Francis Xavier

The annual spaghetti dinner for St. Francis Xavier Church will be held 1-5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 20, in the

St. Joseph

Weedsport — A Lenten Adult Education Series will be presented this Lent at St. Joseph's Church here. Each event in the series will include time for questions and answers.

Joseph Kelly, professor of

theology at Nazareth College, will discuss "How Should Catholics Read the Bible?" 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the church hall.

Father Benedict Ehmann of St. Bernard's Institute will deliver a lecture entitled "A Portrait of Jesus," 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 1.

Father Sebastian Falcone, dean and president of St. Bernard's, will discuss "Paul, Journeys and Message," 7:30

p.m., Tuesday, March 8.

The series will then shift from a Scriptural focus to a liturgical one as Thomas Driscoll, director of religious education at St. Louis Church, speaks on "Celebrating the Mass," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 16, and "The Mass after Vatican II," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 23.

The general public is invited to attend the series, and admission is free.

Nativity to Host Parish Liturgy Education Series

Brockport — A program of educational formation for parish liturgy team members, parishioners and teachers of religion will be hosted by the parish liturgy team of the Church of the Nativity, beginning 7:30 p.m., Feb. 21, and continuing for two hours each consecutive night through March 2 at the parish center, 138 Main St.

The series will cover such topics as the liturgical year, environment and art, Eucharistic theology, music at liturgy, Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Eucharist. Sister Nancy Burkin, SSJ, of the diocesan Liturgy Office will supervise.

Registration, which will be made at the door, is \$5 for all ten sessions, or \$1 for individual sessions. The text,

"The Liturgy Documents: A Parish Resource," will be available at each session or from the Liturgy Office.

Further information is available by calling the Liturgy Office at (716) 328-3210.

Guild Meeting Slated

The Cardinal Mooney Women's Guild will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22, at the school. Cocktails will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner. There will be a skin care and makeup demonstration following the dinner.

Reservation deadline is Thursday, Feb. 17, and can be made by calling Donna Lucchese at 254-1781 or Pat Proud at 225-7672.



Father Bruce Ritter

ANONYMOUS DEATH

A bus driver found her in the parking lot behind UNDER 21. My kids kept sneaking over to look at her body. She was 17 or 18. You really couldn't tell how pretty she'd been—her face had been mashed in and she had been stabbed eight times. The autopsy put the time of death between 2:00 and 5:00 AM on Thursday.

Detectives were able to determine that up until the night before her death she had been living in a hotel on 47th Street. The hotel is used by a lot of pimps and prostitutes.

My kids all knew her—but nobody knew her real name. They remembered she used to have a baby. The word spread through UNDER 21 like wildfire. The kids sat in stunned silence or talked quietly. The older kids didn't bother getting angry or belligerent—casual, unexplained, anonymous death is a fact of street life.

That afternoon, Sister Alicia, our Director of Residential Services, called our kids together in the main lounge. "Look," she said, "this is a dangerous and violent area. Out there, we can't protect you. In here, we can. You're safe in here. Look," she said, "we care about you. Don't hang out in the streets. Times Square is a sick place with sick people who will do this to kids."

Our counselors, heavily involved, trying to reach as many kids as possible, reported that the shock and fear were profound. Our kids are afraid of dying—they feel exposed, vulnerable, used. A curious uneasy undercurrent of the discussion swirled to the surface repeatedly.

"We don't know her name...I can't use my name...nobody knows who I am...we can't tell anybody who we are...a hundred people know my first name and it isn't really me...Bruce, I ain't anybody somebody knows."

All during that day we tried to calm and reassure our

Father Bruce Ritter, OFM Conv., is the founder and President of Covenant House/UNDER 21, which operates crisis centers for homeless and runaway boys and girls

kids—and braced ourselves for what we knew would happen. A lot of kids did not go out that night. The few that did go out came home early. And then it began. The new kids, those we never saw before began flooding in, knowing they would be safe here. Our intake workers reported that a record number of kids came in that night and the next. More than 80 new kids. They came in small groups of twos and threes, afraid to walk alone, to be alone. We took them all. We beefed up our street patrols. Put extra 24-hour street counselors outside.

"She was 17 or 18. You really couldn't tell how pretty she'd been ..."

We were right to be afraid. Two Saturday nights later they found the body of Cheryl in an abandoned warehouse on 33rd Street. She had been strangled and beaten to death. She was 14. Cheryl ran away from warm, caring parents, from a small town, from safety and security and a future, to the Big Apple, to Fun City, to the Great White Way, to 42nd Street and the pushers and pimps and panderers and johns who buy little girls.

Cheryl stayed at UNDER 21 for about five days a couple of months ago and then had returned home to her parents. She ran away again and came back to New York—a tiny little moth—and flew directly into the flame. If she were trying to get to UNDER 21 she never made it. She was only blocks away when she was killed.

"Our counselors, trying to reach as many kids as possible, reported that the shock and fear were profound."

The police described her as simple, not sophisticated. She was known to hang around Times Square, often seen there in the company of a pimp.

My kids were scared to death. We didn't have problems with our 10 PM curfew for a long time. And our census

nearly went through the roof.

Please help Covenant House continue to care for these "fragile moths", to offer them a place where they can be safe, where they can come for help. Nine out of ten dollars we receive comes from people like you. Without your loving—and consistent—support we simply would have to close our doors.

Maybe it's a little easier to understand now why other UNDER 21s—centers in Houston and Boston are already underway—are so desperately needed. I mean I really worry about those other kids. You've got to, too.

Pray for us and my kids. Pray for all the tens of thousands of kids here in New York City and other large cities in the United States that are at great risk. And thank you for caring about our kids.

I want to help Covenant House meet the needs of all homeless youth. Here is my gift of: \$ _____

please print:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

ZIP: _____ AP (BCE)

Please send this coupon with your donation to:

COVENANT HOUSE
Father Bruce Ritter
P.O. Box 2121
Times Square Station
New York, NY 10108

Because the street is NO PLACE FOR A CHILD