



Poetry Program

Nazareth College's resident poet Francesca Guli will present a poetry program featuring poetry dramatized in word, set to music and interpreted in dance, 8 p.m. Sunday, April 17, in the Nazareth Arts Center. Featured will be Thomas Warfield, theater arts major, the music of Nazareth alumnus Moses Howden and the work of six Nazareth poets. In addition, the program includes selections from Miss Guli's "The Hollow Madonna" and "Songs for a Marriage." Admission is free.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Christ Gives Life New Meaning

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 20: 19-31. (R1) Acts 5: 12-16. (R2) Rv. 1: 9-13, 17-19.

At a lecture not too long ago someone asked me, "When did Christ institute the sacrament of confirmation?" Such a question betrays a misunderstanding regarding the institution of the sacraments. The sacraments were probably not instituted by a specific act of Christ done at a particular time, so that at one moment there was no sacrament but after that moment there was.

Historically, rituals were used long before Christ. Thus most peoples had a rite of baptism. Ancient tribes solemnized marriages. There were sacrifices to gods and goddesses, penitential rites, and so on. God's action in history has constantly been one of transforming man — of transforming the whole meaning of human life. In the Old Testament God took natural religions and philosophies, and placed them in a different context. He took a nomad's agricultural feast and transformed it into a Passover Meal. He took the Sabbath day, which ancient peoples celebrated, but too often with orgies, and ordered His people — not just to keep it, which everybody did — but to keep it holy, which nobody did.

When the Son of Man came into the world, He instituted the Christian sacraments in a certain sense. In passing through birth, education, growth, experience, suffering, human communication, love, death and new life, He put new meaning into human life. Human life can never again be the same because the Son of God lived it, died and passed into His glorified life.

A beautiful example of this process is found in the institution of the sacrament of penance. Christ took an ancient custom and showed the Church how to put new meaning into it. A custom of all countries and ages is to greet one another. The joyous Greeks hailed each other with "Chaire!" Chaire meant "be happy, rejoice, take a cheerful view of what is before you." The sturdy Roman's greeting was, "Ave!" "Salve!" "Vale!" Be alive! Be healthy! Be strong to surmount the enemies and difficulties on the road! Override and trample them down! The serious Saxon race used to say, "Farewell!" Fare on, walk well and wisely on the mysterious road of life and all will go well with you! The Christian greeting is "Good morning" and "Goodbye." May the day be good for you! May God be with you: we commend you, as you leave us, to a better guidance than ours. But there is another form of greeting, still universal in the East. It is "Shalom alachem!" Peace be with you! Peace on your travels amid the incessant wars and feuds of the desert! Peace from robbers at night. Peace from quarrels at day.

This was the greeting Christ used to express His best wishes to the apostles. He took a conventional phrase. But he did not use it conventionally. A sincere, authentic person means what he says, even when what he says is prescribed by etiquette or custom. Great teachers do not employ new languages so much as breathe the new meaning into old words.

The greeting of peace which falls so unthinkingly from the lips of men. He restored to its original power and sanctity; for peace originally meant well-being — a person being as he should be. When Christ uttered "Peace be to you," He made the apostles as they should be — at one with Himself.

Program Offers Healing Road

By Joan M. Smith
While pro-lifers and pro-abortionists argue their cases before the Supreme Court, abortion has become an everyday occurrence: an occurrence which causes traumatic aftershocks for the woman.

What about these women who, having opted for an abortion, are confronted with emotional disturbances? Here in Rochester and Buffalo (where the program originated) there is help. It comes from the Puzzle Project, a pastoral care support group which offers post-abortion counseling. The project, now beginning its second year of operation, is coordinated by Father David Mura; Father Robert Winterkorn, pastor of St. John's in Spencerport, and Linda Charles, counselor. During the past year the program has reached out beyond the greater Rochester area. In the last 12 months, Father Winterkorn and Linda have given presentations throughout the diocese including St. Vincent's in Corning, St. Aloysius in Auburn, St. Stephen's in Geneva, and Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira. There are pending dates for the program to be presented at Geneseo and Ithaca colleges.

"We have to get the idea across that this program is just as necessary in Geneseo and Elmira as it is in Rochester," Father Winterkorn explained. What the program staffers want to avoid is losing the opportunity of helping someone because of unavailable contacts.

"The people who really need help," Father said, "will not call Rochester if there isn't a contact person in their locality."

The Puzzle Project is a program of the Human Life Commission providing an

Cenacle Feast Tickets Ready

Tickets are available beginning today for the annual celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Cenacle, May 14.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate Mass at 10:30 a.m. and a luncheon will follow at noon.

The event is jointly sponsored by the Sisters of the Cenacle and the members of the Retreat League of the Cenacle.

Tickets are obtained by calling Mrs. Nancy Tomaselli, 482-4247, or the Cenacle, 271-8755.

Smoking Topic

"Cigarette Smoking and Heart Disease" is the title of a discussion to be given by Dr. Alvani Santos, medical director of cardiac rehabilitation, at the April meeting of the Coronary Club of Rochester, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, in the ground floor cafeteria of St. Mary's Hospital. The club is a national non-profit group dedicated to providing information on the prevention and progress of cardiac disease.

avenue for women who have had abortions to seek healing and reconciliation. And it this reconciliation with God, oneself, and society which is perhaps the most difficult task on the road back to both physical and mental health after an abortion.

The reason priests are involved in the program, Father explained, is for sacramental reconciliation with the woman. It is Linda who takes care of the personal problems. She gives the presentations, taking her audience through the post-abortion confusion, through the abortion, and then its aftermath.

"And she knows where she's coming from," said Father Winterkorn. "She's been there."

Linda has had an abortion and has struggled through the maze of guilt, anger, and depression that she now tries to help others through. During her struggle, she said, she began to realize that her experience didn't make sense unless she could use it to help people. Now she is totally involved with the Puzzle Project as well as training for her nurse's degree at Monroe Community College.

In her position as counselor for the project she said she has talked to women from ages 12 to 38 "who are suffering." Usually they are referred to her by a priest or minister and she talks to them over the phone except for those who are suffering the aftershock. "I have to see them," she said.

She recalled one woman who not only was fighting abortion aftershock but a bout with drugs and alcohol. After counseling her for several months, Linda was happy to report that the woman now has a new job and is engaged to be married.

"Those are the success stories," Linda said, and explained the most important step toward this success is to talk about the abortion, "to verbally work it through," she said.

It was the advice she received from Father Winterkorn when she was on the other side of the counseling table. "I had to talk about it," she said and when she finally did she began the long road back to reconciliation with herself.

It was during this period she decided she just couldn't sit home and feel sorry for herself and decided to pursue a nursing career. "My decision had a lot to do with the people who have helped me," she admitted. And it is because of the help she received that through the Puzzle Project she is


now helping others. Those in need of help can call Linda at (716) 352-1765, or Father Winterkorn at (716) 352-5481, or write Father Dave Mura, 80 Prince St., Rochester, 14605. In Geneva, contact

Father Paul Tamasso, St. Stephen, (315) 789-1124; and in Elmira, contact Joel Ramich at (607) 734-9824. The caller may remain anonymous. All the project members want is a way to respond to the letter or call.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI

When should we get back to a regular routine after a loved one dies?

No two people react in exactly the same way to the death of a loved one! Some people do well by plunging into old routines or setting up new ones. Others need time to adjust to life without the deceased. They need time to express feelings, to learn new ways of doing things and to put affairs in order. The critical matter is that the grieving person be aware of and willing to deal with the changes death has created. Activity solely for the purpose of escaping feelings and running from the pain will not work. On the other hand inactivity can further depression. The newly bereaved should take time to deal with feelings and then begin the tasks necessary to make life meaningful.

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