

# August Dates Announced For Single-Parent Camp

By John Dash

Dates have been announced for this year's Single-Parent Christian Family Camp, the highly successful week-long program sponsored by the diocesan Family Life Office and the diocesan Council for Ministry to Separated/Divorced/Widowed Catholics.

This year's camp will be held Aug. 28-Sept. 3 at Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake.

The theme of this year's program is "The Light within You," said Angela Gallo, director of the divorced and separated ministry.

A brochure distributed by

the Family Life Office states that the organizers are "committed to family camp as an experience of individual and family growth within a Christian community. We, therefore, want participating families to commit themselves to arriving at the camp's beginning and to stay throughout the week until the camp's conclusion."

Daily activities include group discussion, family Mass, guest speakers, sports and waterfront activities, socials and evening recreation.

Miss Gallo stressed a unique feature of the program, that teens from single-parent homes, and who are 15 and older, are eligible to become camp staff counsellors.

In this program, teens are given leadership training which at least in one instance has kept the diverse group of teens together to this day.

The entire week costs \$65 per person 8 and older, and \$20 for younger children. The cost of the program is underwritten by the Family Life Office, Ms. Gallo said.

Persons wishing further information are asked to contact her, (716) 436-5450.

## Directed Prayer April 15

Father Vincent McDonough, SJ, Father John Madden, SJ, and Sister Judith Reger, SSJ, will direct the last weekend of directed prayer this year for lay persons and religious, April 15-17 at the Sisters of St. Joseph mother-house.

The weekend will open at 7:30 p.m. Friday and close at noon Sunday. Further information or registrations are available from Sister Judith, 1012 Davis St., Elmira, 14901; (607) 734-9483.

## Pilgrimage Forming for St. Joseph's

A pilgrimage from Rochester to Montreal, Canada, is being formed for May 21 and 22.

Pilgrims will visit St. Joseph's Oratory on the anniversary of beatification of its founder, Brother Andre Bessette, CSC. The quondam textile union member was in later life known as the "miracle man of Montreal."

Persons interested in joining the pilgrimage are asked to contact Stella Masuzzo, 334-5516.

## Deadline

Items intended for publication 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. 14607.

# Wedding Music Workshop Topic

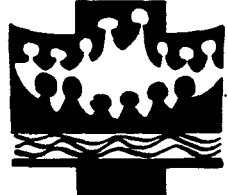
The diocesan Liturgy Office is sponsoring a workshop to assist pastoral musicians in the area of appropriate wedding music, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, at Good Shepherd in Henrietta, and 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 13, at St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads.

The sessions will explore the evaluation of music currently being used in parishes and the development and implementation of a

parish policy, and provide an opportunity to hear various appropriate vocal, folk and organ selections.

The registration fee of \$2 per person may be mailed in advance to the Liturgy Office, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, 14624 (checks payable to Diocese of Rochester), or participants may pay at the door. Additional information is available by contacting the Liturgy Office, (716) 328-3210.

**Insights In Liturgy**



By John M. Kubinieć

## Prayer Over Gifts/Invitation

The first section of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, the Preparation of Gifts and Altar, is concluded by the Prayer Over the Gifts and its Invitation. This short prayer serves as a summation of the preparation of the assembly, altar and gifts, and moves all forward into the Eucharistic Prayer.

During the first millennium in the development of the liturgy, the prayer over the gifts was known as the "prayer over the gifts that have been set apart." Historically, it was at this point in the liturgy that the people brought forth a number of gifts and offerings for the poor, as well as the bread and wine that was to be used in the celebration. The prayer was said over the gifts which were "set apart" — the bread and wine that would soon be consecrated. This prayer was preceded by an invitation to pray, and at first, the invitation was addressed only to the other clergy present. Further along in the development of the liturgy the invitation and prayer became known as the "secret" prayer, since the priest recited it quietly to himself; today, however, the original form and intent has been restored.

Today, the words, "Pray brethren" invite the assembly to pray. The Sacramentary gives freedom in adapting this invitation to fit the make up of the assembly. In parish celebrations it would be best, pastorally, to say, "Pray, my brothers and sisters," or to

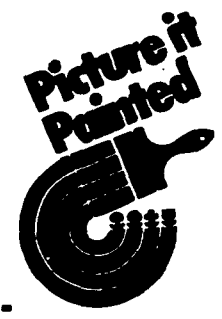
use an inclusive phrase similar to this suggested example. Inclusive wording opens the invitation more fully to each member of the community and calls forth a prayerful response in the form of a chorus of men's and women's voices raised as one saying, "May the Lord accept the sacrifice." Then the presider continues with the prayer over the gifts to which the assembly responds: Amen! ("General Instruction," 107)

Unfortunately, these prayers are usually recited in a careless manner. The words are usually hurried and/or mumbled. Blame for this must be shared by both presider and assembly. The invitation should be directed to the assembly by a presider using genuine gestures and eye contact, thus engaging the assembly's authentic response. People must be weaned from dependence upon missalettes or other such participation aids for their response. Once this begins to happen, the people's response will be addressed to the Lord, not to the pages of a little paper booklet. (After all, by now we are all familiar with what to say!) The presider should then wait for the entire assembly to rise before continuing with the prayer over the gifts.

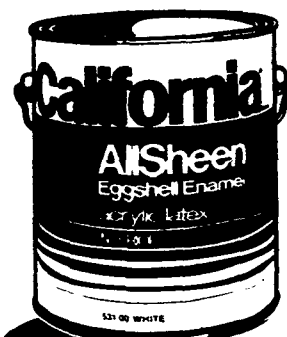
The Invitation, response of the assembly and prayer over the gifts serve as a bridge into the Eucharistic Prayer. They also serve to recall to the community its need to give of itself in the mission of the Church through both material contributions and service. While these prayers are brief and concise, they help to set a focus for the offerings of the people of God in the Eucharistic Prayer.



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