



**The Lilac Message**

Tony Matthews from radio station WCMF (second from right) presents Laval Wilson, superintendent of Rochester schools, the first of 25 1983 Lilac Festival Balloon-O-Grams. The other balloon-o-grams, aimed at getting school youngsters involved in the May 13-22 Lilac Festival, will be sent to Monroe County school superintendents. Others in the photo are, from left, Chris Shirer, WCMF news director; Karen Burkis, Greece Athena high school student and one of the five finalists in the Lilac Teen Pageant, and Stan Zawacki, Lilac Festival chairman.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

**A Tale Of Woe**

Did you see the Thorn Birds?

You mean the 10-hour TV mini-series intertwining religion, Catholic Church pageantry, ambition, sheep, sex, flesh, piety, infidelity: all ingredients for an elongated soap opera? Yes. And was envious. The Rochester Democrat and Chronicle claimed 75,000,000 people watched the Tuesday, March 29, showing. That was the night when Father Ralph and Meggie bumbled about in bed for hours, climaxing the pursuit by Meggie and the capitulation by Ralph of his priestly vow. I kept thinking: "Millions of Americans are being influenced to suspect priestly fidelity; and with the decline of trust and morals, even to sympathize with it. How I wish we could get a similar audience to watch a series on priestly fidelity and service. What fine series could be made from Dom Bosco and Father Ritter and Charles de Foucauld even as we once had in "Father Flanagan of Boys Town;" and as we did have recently in the Vatican life of Irish Msgr. O'Flaherty under the title of "The Scarlet and the Black," the story of an extraordinary priest's activities during the Nazi occupation of Rome. ABC did a good job on that, and on Easter Sunday did a good presentation on Pope John Paul II and the Vatican. The Church's work and gospel pertains to selflessness and service, not self-satisfaction. After Vatican II came the hue and cry for "self fulfillment," which usually meant: "If what I ought to do stands in the way of what I want to do, let's get rid of what I ought to do to satisfy what I want to do." This is an evil will, opposing "Thy Will be done."

Do you think this will raise the celibacy issue again?

Oh, that's a persistent nagging today, by a few conspicuous clerics within the Church, mostly youngish liberals who tend to be hostile to the pope and Rome and the institutional Church. Some of these men even toy with Catholic doctrine as well as discipline, casting disquiet among the laity. Why this belly-aching about having to be celibate? I lived nearly 30 years as a priest before Vatican II and nearly 20 years since then. We expected celibacy. We accepted it cheerfully. We were tested for it by a long seminary training and discipline. And we were contented and faithful to our vow.

Then you did not like the Thorn Birds?

I did not like the message: clerical ambition, infidelity cast in Church trappings. Meggie was a fine actress: beautiful, seductive, strong-willed. Ralph (Richard Chamberlain) struck me funny. He always walked as if he were in a procession; and everywhere he went he wore a beautifully tailored cassock which enhanced his natural good looks. The scenery was beautiful, though I thought the kangaroos at the beginning, imported from Australia to give an Australian atmosphere, seemed a bit hokey. Commentator Ted Kappel of ABC on the night of the sexiest Thorn Bird showing, had on his panel on celibacy Cardinal Krol, Father Hesburgh and Father Greely, who writes prurient novels about falling priests. Cardinal Krol struck a perfect cord when he observed: "With the moving picture on Ghandi, many are in admiration of this noble man. Ghandi was married and had four children. But for the sake of his cause, the freedom of India, he took a vow of celibacy and lived it for 30 years, to the day he was murdered." Thought provoking, isn't it?

**Churches Present Festival**

Four Hilton church choirs will perform in a two-hour sacred concert at 7 p.m., Sunday, May 1, at the Hilton High School auditorium. Churches participating are the Hilton Baptist Church, St. Paul Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, and St. Leo's Catholic Church. Performers will include 15 choirs (adult, youth and bell).

Father Chester Klock of St. Leo's will give the invocation after which the concert will begin with the pealing of bells, followed by an instrumental procession. Refreshments will be served in the high school commons after the performance.

The concert, "Praise and Love," is free but a goodwill offering will be accepted.

**Fraternity To Meet at St. Anthony's**

St. Patrick's Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order, formerly known as the Third Order of St. Francis, will meet Sunday, April 17, at St. Anthony's Church, 60 Lorimer St., Rochester.

Novice instruction is scheduled for 1:15 p.m., with the rosary at 1:30 p.m. and Mass at 2 p.m., celebrated by Father Dennis Bonsignore, the fraternity spiritual moderator. A short business meeting is scheduled.

**ME Weekend June 24-26**

Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring a Marriage Encounter weekend June 24-26 at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua.

Further information is available from Jim and Laura Griffen at 381-5930.

**Tombeau Program Scheduled April 16**

A tombeau program is being presented at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, April 16, at Old St. Mary's Church, 15 South St., Rochester, sponsored by the Nazareth College Department of Music.

A tombeau is a work written in memory of a deceased person.

The program includes Requiem, a Plainsong setting; Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary, Henry Purcell; a Cantata by J.S. Bach, and Requiem, Opus 9, by Maurice Durufle.

Performers will include the Nazareth College Concert Choir, the Nazareth College Chamber Choir, the Rochester Brass Consort and members of the Eastman School of Music — Barbara Staropoli, soprano; Carol Robinson, alto; Raphael Bundage, tenor; Richard Davis, baritone; Barbara Harbach, organ; Douglas McNames, cello, and Paul Smadbeck, timpani. Tom McGary will be conductor.

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**Kate Will**

The new Kateri Tel Group will April 17, in Cenacle Re celebrate niversary maiden's de

The prog recitation o prayers of p

Followin session, an will be hel refreshment According Scheuerman the group, friends, ii



**SPEAKEI** Wiesenthal, the 1983 N who is a World Wa centration c tonight, Ap p.m., at th Memorial l Rochester Technology

**COMMUN** ILLS — P TNT Toa from 8-9 p. 13, at St. M 813 Bay Call 425-2 vations.

**SENIOR** "Casablanc Humphrey Ingrid Berg Thursday, / Eastman Ho

**EXHIBITIO** Campbell Collection Campbell M Gallery, th The Prii Rochester Gallery, th The 17th Grandeur a Print Corrid 15, Rochest Gallery.

**COMPUTE** — Spons Women's C Monroe College, 8:30 Saturday, Monroe College, Ro the day incl \$20 for the tation. Fo formation c 325-2274.

**BOOK REV** sored by the Guild will fe current liter Friday, Apr will be Dr. Those attend bag lunch: available.

**KILBOUR!** Middy featuring E harp, 12:10 April 18: musica Co the six. Concerti of p.m., Tues Duo Gemir Stanley R violin and E harpsichord 8 p.m., We