

'Church Leadership, Family Ministry' Topic for Parish Staff Conference

A special two-day conference entitled "Church Leadership and Family Ministry" will bring together members of parish staffs, Father Thomas F. Lynch, the United States Catholic Conference family life representative, and Dr. David M. Thomas, director of the masters program in Adult Christian Formation at Regis College in Denver, May 24-26 at Keuka College in Penn Yan.

The event, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life and the Office of Continuing Education, is designed to respond to a need spelled out in the recent Family Ministry Task Force Report:

"for vehicles by which parish staff and leadership people can become sensitized to the realities of family life in general and in their own parishes in particular."

Topics on the agenda include, "family ministry within the wider vision of ministry in the Church; how the minister's family experience helps and hinders in family ministry; today's Catholic family; leadership strategies in developing family ministry in the parish; and the process of adult education and its application to a variety of family situations," a press release stated.

Father Lynch, a priest of the Diocese of Bridgeport,



FATHER LYNCH

Conn., where he served as Family Life Director and Pro-Life Director for four years, was named to his USCC post in 1981.

He attended St. Bernard's Seminary and has served in parishes and has taught high school theology.

Dr. Thomas has been professor of systematic theology at St. Meinrad's School of Theology, St. Louis University and Loyola University.

He is the author of five books, including "Christian



DR. THOMAS

Marriage: A Journey Together," published last year, and numerous articles on marriage and family life.

He is also a member of USCC committees on family worship and spirituality, and marriage and family life. Dr. Thomas and his wife have five children.

Further information on the conference is available by calling the Office of Continuing Education, (716) 271-1320, ext. 21. The cost of the program is \$70 per person. Registration deadline is May 1.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

A Pastor's Warning

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 10:27-30. (R1) Acts 13:14, 43,52. (R2) Rv. 7:9, 14-17.

Next Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday.

One thing a good shepherd does is protect his sheep from predators. I feel compelled as pastor ("pastor" is the Latin word for "shepherd") to speak out against the anti-Catholicism so rampant in the media today, lest the unwary be deceived and begin to stray from the fold.

The latest affront to Catholics was the showing of "The Thorn Birds," during Holy Week no less. It was not the story that scandalized Catholics so much as the insensitivity of the media to the feelings of Catholics at so sacred a time. It was exceedingly worse than showing "The Merchant of Venice" during the Jewish Passover. The Bishops' Committee's protest from Washington met, as usual, with an icy snub.

Well, I have a suggestion. I remember, when studying European history, the power of the boycott in Ireland. Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891), an Anglo-Irish landowner, aristocratic and Protestant, organized the Irish Nationalist Party for re-establishing "home rule" as a solution to the Irish question.

With him, there appeared on the scene Michael Davitt (1846-1906), a lowly untutored Catholic farmer, who organized the Irish farmers into a "Land League," agitating for radical land reform.

When Gladstone's second Land Act (1881) addressed neither the question of "home rule" nor that of "ownership of land," the Land Leaguers and the Nationalists used the boycott. The word "boycott" got its name from a certain Captain Boycott, an agent for an Irish landlord. Boycott refused the

demands of the landlord's tenants. So Boycott's servants left him, his fences were torn down, his food supplies tampered with, his letters intercepted — he was "boycotted." He had to leave Ireland!

What I am suggesting is a boycott of the television industry. We are 50 million Catholics. Whenever the TV industry in the future presents anti-Catholic productions, I suggest all Catholics turn off their TV sets for a week! Do this every time any network presents anything offensive to Catholics and Christian morality.

What a beautiful week that week could be! We could listen to FM radio stations or play our stereos: the great operas, Broadway musicals, symphonies. Or just read a good book: The Bible, the lives of the Saints, or works by them. Or we could just have family get-togethers with fun and games.

Too long we've been the nice guys.

When our Lord confronted the powers of darkness, he gave no quarter. His strongest commands were leveled against the demons possessing persons. Should we be less firm in grappling with the powers of darkness? Rolo May said the devil has three trademarks: nudity, violence and confusion. Are not these the hallmarks of so much of what the TV industry is spewing out into our homes?

I have asked the Knights of Columbus to help disseminate this suggestion.

I hope and pray that whenever the TV industry acts irresponsibly and scornful of the common good of the American people, 50 million Catholics will respond by turning off their television sets for a week. This could be a blessing in disguise. We might learn how beautiful life can be when freed from our enslavement to that iconoclastic invader of our homes, our television sets, for just one week.

Parents' Seminar Offered in Hornell

Hornell — A weekend Seminar for Parents of Teens will be offered April 30 and May 1 at St. Ann's School assembly hall.

The seminar is open to both two-parent and single-parent families. The program will run 8:15 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Topics include improving communications within the family, helping teens develop their responsibility and maturity coping with peer pressure, building better relationships between family members and effective discipline methods.

Registrations are taken on a first-come basis, and enrollment closes April 25. Further information is available by calling Marianne Logan, 324-7121 or 324-6375.

The seminar has been given

Parents' Seminar Offered in Hornell

to more than 600 parents in Upstate New York, and is endorsed by the diocesan Office of Family Life.

The program was developed by Ron and Judy Platten, who are in wide demand throughout the diocese as speakers on parental skills and problems.

In addition, the Plattens maintain the Parenthood Resource Center in Fairport, (716)223-3639.

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Sarah Child
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