

Rochester Crop Walk Will Draw 5,000 May 1

More than 5,000 participants are expected to take part in 11 local versions of the annual Crop Walk for the Hungry in Monroe County May 1.

In addition, organizers are expecting to raise nearly \$100,000 from sponsor pledges during the event. The money will be used for a variety of food development and emergency relief projects of Church World Service and its CROP program.

The local walks are being coordinated by Food for

People Network/Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. Each walk will be 10 miles long, with shorter routes for the elderly, the very young and the handicapped.

Of the funds raised, 25 percent will go to hunger projects in Monroe and Wayne counties — food cupboards, soup kitchens, and other organizations geared to help fill the food needs of the community.

Walks are slated in Brockport, East Rochester, Gates-Chili, Greece, Hilton,

Irondequoit, Penfield, Rush-Henrietta, Webster, and the northeast and southwest sectors of the city.

The CWS/CROP organization represents 31 Protestant and Orthodox denominations, and works in cooperation with colleague agencies in 74 nations. Through the CWS designation program for contributors (in this case walk sponsors), a donor may choose to earmark funds to other international hunger-fighting agencies.

Persons interested in participating in the Crop Walk for the Hungry as a walker, sponsor or worker are asked to contact Food for People Network, 325-5600.

Elmira Club Seeking New Members

Elmira — The Elmira Ladies of Charity, under the leadership of Dorothea Watts of Horseheads, president, is seeking new members to carry out its many charity projects.

The motto of this international organization founded in 1617 by St. Vincent de Paul is "To serve rather than be served." Some of the activities performed by the members are:

- Helping children at Safe House, Cope House and the Office of Social Ministry;

- Caring for the elderly at St. Joseph's Hospital and at the Chemung County Nursing facility;

- Comforting the sick at the above mentioned facilities;

- Aiding in community action — sending representatives to area agencies to help guide services available to residents of Chemung and Steuben counties.

Spiritual projects include special Masses on the feast days of St. Elizabeth, Nov. 17; St. Louise de Marillac, March 15 (co-founder of the Ladies of Charity); St. Vincent de Paul, Sept. 27, and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Jan. 4.

Membership is open to all Catholic women, married or single, with a desire to unite in a communion of prayers and participate in works of charity.

Information is available from Dorothea Watts, 119 Scenic Drive South, Horseheads, or from Mary Smith, vice president; Patricia Huffman, recording secretary, and Theresa Hourihan, treasurer. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m., the first Thursday of every month at the Hibernian Center, Kinyon Street, Elmira.

Adoration

The monthly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at noon, Thursday, May 5 at Blessed Sacrament Church. The afternoon of devotions includes recitation of the rosary at 12:15 p.m., and benediction at 5 p.m. preceding the regular celebration of Mass at 5:20 p.m. According to Wilma Higgs, organizer of the rites, the intention of the month corresponds to that of the National Day of Prayer which falls on May 5. Calling for the day of prayer, she said, is based on the text of 2 Chronicles, 7:14.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Thorn Birds Apologia

Recently I met a priest-friend who was in high dudgeon over an OTRSide column on "The Thorn Birds" and celibacy (C-J, April 13). He said: "I consider it was a very poor article and badly written." "Strange. I consider it especially good. It's a candid expression of what I think should be said." With indignation he said: "It's judgmental!"

Now, when the opposition says "judgmental," many become defensive. My own reaction is quite the reverse. Usually such accusers are trying to force their will on me; so I take the offensive. In this case we were dealing with an undermining of the explicit declarations of the Holy Father and Church discipline. And I think we were dealing with a spiritually unhealthy case of priestly selfishness. God gave us an intelligence in order to come to honest conclusions. What so aroused the ire of my friend? It was like this.

Question: "Do you think this ('Thorn Birds') will raise the celibacy issue again?"

Answer: "Oh, that's a persistent nagging today, by a few conspicuous clerics within the Church who tend to be hostile to the pope and Rome and the institutional Church. Some of them even toy with Catholic doctrine as well as discipline, casting disquiet among the laity. (An example of this is the promotion of the book: 'Human Sexuality,' condemned by the Holy See for its gross errors, but still promoted by some priests and nuns, including one on a Phil Donahue show.) 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 to be celibate. 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."

In the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle (April 6, 1983) one priest is quoted: "Ideally and theologically it is said that

celibacy enables the priest to minister more effectively to the community, and for some this is true... But for other it becomes a discipline, a burden, a struggle. It's not second nature for a lot of priests." The obvious weakness of this statement is the implication that celibacy is not a discipline, a burden for other priests; that it is a kind of second nature to some priests. This is false. Priests have the same nature as any normal male. Whether married or single, all men have to maintain discipline, control concupiscence, overcome in struggles. Why, a man cannot become an expert ballet dancer or a football player or a machinist without discipline, sacrifice and struggle. Christ does not call priests to have their cake and eat it.

In 1953 I was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas where the commanding officer was General Wycliffe Steele. He was not a Catholic but he greatly admired priests, and especially a brilliant, hard-nosed Jesuit, Father John Long from Boston College.

One day the general, who was given to philosophizing, said to me with very questionable wisdom: "I haven't any use for a man who does not marry." I retorted: "We priests do not marry."

With touching earnestness he replied: "That's different. You priests sublimate your lives, which is quite a different thing." The dictionary reads: "Sublimate: to direct the energy (or impulse) from its primitive aim to one that is ethically or culturally higher."

General Steele later became a Catholic at Sampson Air Base near Geneva and was invited by Father Henry Adamski to be the guest speaker at a banquet in Clyde honoring Father Joseph Curfin on the occasion of his being made a monsignor. The general gave a rousing talk on the joys of Catholicism. It is interesting that a military man should understand so well what all priests should know: sublimation through grace and vocation, in the life dedicated to Our Lord.

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- May 7 CHILDREN'S FINGERPRINTING — sponsored by the Monroe County Sheriff's Department Noon - 5:00 PM — McCurdy Court Area. Children must be accompanied by parent.
- May 9 Greece Community Orchestra — 7:30 p.m./McCurdy Court
- May 12 & 13 SENIOR CITIZEN FESTIVAL, 10-4 p.m.

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