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AT YOUR PARISH...

St. Casimir

Elmira — The St. Casimir Region II School will collect old newspapers and computer paper, 8-11 a.m., Saturday, May 14. Proceeds will be used to purchase software for the school computer. Interested persons are asked to bring paper to the school parking lot, Roe Avenue near Davis Street. Arrangements for pick-up are made by calling Mrs. Thomas Tedone, 734-0211, or Mrs. James Brady, 732-6594, before 6 p.m., Friday, May 13. According to Sister Deanna Gears, principal, and Mrs. Kathleen Chimeleski, president of the School Parents Board, the software to be purchased will aid students in learning such subjects as arithmetic and reading.

St. Agnes

Avon — The Rosary Society of St. Agnes recently published its slate of officers for the 1983-84 year: Cindy Zhe, president; Karon Davin, vice president; Mary Lou Marks, secretary; Jean De Franco.

St. Ann

Hornell — The St. Ann's Alumni Association has slated a celebrity auction and arts and crafts sale as a fund raiser for the school, Saturday, May 21. Organizers for the event have written to a large group of celebrities including soap opera stars, television entertainers, sports figures, movie stars and state politicians, soliciting donations of items for the auction. An association release termed the response "remarkable."

The auction will open at 1 p.m.

In addition to the auction an arts and crafts sale will be staged, opening at 11 a.m. Crocheted, knitted, ceramic and wood items will be on display. Refreshments also will be available.

Holy Spirit

Webster — The annual auction for the Church of the Holy Spirit at the corner of Plank and Hatch roads will be held 7-9 p.m., Friday, May 20, and 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday, May 21.

The event features a "silent" auction Friday, and the "live" auction Saturday. Both events will take place in a festival tent. Used cars, electric lawn mowers, dinners at local restaurants, crafts, calligraphy items, racquetball club memberships, furniture, tutoring, special services and a yacht cruise are among the items up for bid.

Persons wishing to donate goods, or desiring further information, are asked to call Betty Fleischacker, 671-7481; Louise Creatura, 671-5422.

Holy Ghost

More than 50 pupils at Holy Ghost School took part in a talent show recently to entertain parent-volunteers at the school. The children sang, danced, played the piano, told jokes and performed gymnastics and cheerleading. There were magic acts and comedy routines as well.

According to Mrs. Joyce Piarulli, the show included 32 acts under the coordination of Marilynn McNamara and Kathy Murrer.

"It was a delightful evening for both the children and all the parents, grandparents and friends who came to watch," she said.

St. Boniface

The first anniversary of Holy Spirit Prayer Group of St. Boniface Church will be celebrated with a Mass, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 19. Father William Frankhauser will preside at the liturgy. Following the Mass, a reception will be held in the basement of the church, 330 Gregory St.



MAY WRIGHT

St. Philip Neri

The Women's Club of St. Philip Neri Church has chosen May Wright as its May Queen. She has been active in the parish council, chairman of the annual baked foods sale, president of the Women's Club and a participant in other programs.

Mrs. Wright will be honored at the May Queen Celebration, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 24 in the Church. A reception with refreshments will follow in the school hall. The public is invited. Mary Caimano is chairman of the event.

St. Rita

West Webster — The Catholic Youth Organization cheerleaders at St. Rita's Parish took second place in the CYO diocesan cheerleading tournament. The girls competed in the JV yellow division and finished the day with an overall score of 277.2. Co-captains are Tracy Krupnick and Nancy Zicari. Team members are Sheri Sofia, Dina Apostolou, Alice Egan, Kaly Stahl, Wendy Berthold and Sandra Arena. The girls are coached by Mrs. Donna Graham, fifth grade teacher at St. Rita's School.

Holy Apostles St. Francis de Sales

A banner, depicting the work of Amnesty International, and created by Sister Kristin Malone, SSJ, was dedicated recently at Holy Apostles Church. Father Benedict Ehmann, a member of the human rights task force of the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, presided at the rites.

The banner, according to Sylvia Thompson, diocesan promoter of Amnesty International, shows a large, broken chain and a Christ figure over the T in the word Amnesty.

The chain, she said, indicates the work of the organization to free prisoners of conscience and other people imprisoned by their governments for political, religious or ethnic reasons.

Holy Name

The annual banquet of the Guild of Our Lady at Holy Name of Jesus Parish will begin with cocktails at 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 17 at Lake Shore Country Club. The event will also feature installation of officers Rita Byam, president; Veronica McDonald, vice president; Madeline Weit, secretary; and Maffie Camillaci, treasurer.

Tickets for the event cost \$10 per person and are reserved by calling Maffie Camillaci, 865-5466; Verita LaForce, 865-6854.

Holy Ghost

The Sacred Heart Society of the Church of the Holy Ghost is making final plans for its annual Spring Banquet, Tuesday, May 17 at Three Acres Party House. Reservations are made by calling M. Bruno, 426-2545, or K. Maslanka, 247-1983.

Geneva — Marianna Moracco of Angelo Street has been named Rosarian of the Year by the St. Francis De Sales Rosary Society. Miss Moracco is a member of the Third Order of St. Francis of Assisi, of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and of the Knight of Columbus Auxiliary. In addition, she serves as an Extraordinary Eucharistic

Minister, works on the parish liturgy committee, is a CCD teacher, and sings with the inter-parish choir. She variously works for the parish festival, census, stewardship program, Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal, and on the church cleaning group. She is a member and past officer of the St. Anthony's Society and is treasurer of the Rosary Society.

Our Lady of Lourdes

The Junior High School of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish filled the main hall of its building with tables, projects and people April 15. According to seventh-grader Erin Fitzgerald, the occasion was a Science/Age of Home-spun Fair.

"The eighth grade occupied the first half of the main hall with science projects. Among the topics they

covered were dental care, the heart, computers, and nuclear war.

"About halfway down the hall a sign saying 'Welcome to the Age of Homespun' welcomed visitors to the seventh graders' projects about life 150 years ago. Many topics were covered, such as medicine, weaving, blacksmithy and furniture.

"All in all, everyone who went enjoyed the fair. The visitors were mainly parents and students from the other grades at the school."

Corpus Christi

Fifty five students in grades four through eight participated in a bowl-a-thon for the benefit of Corpus Christi School. The event was sponsored by Dick Ladd, owner of Eastside Lanes. Approximately \$700 was raised for the school.

St. Stephen

Geneva — The education committee of St. Stephen's Parish is sponsoring a program on "Parenting for Peace and Justice," 7:30-9:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 17 in the school hall. This is a rescheduling of the program which was canceled due to inclement weather last month. The program will be given by Deacon Daniel and Sheila Kinsky, affiliated with the diocesan Family Life Office.

Assumption

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at the official church dedication of the Church of the Assumption in Fairport, 11 a.m., Sunday, May 15. A reception for parishioners, priests and local dignitaries will follow in the church hall. Several of the associate pastors of recent years have been invited to the event and are expected to attend, a parish release stated.

In addition, a special ecumenical prayer service will be offered by Father Robert Ring, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 17. Clergy and the general public are invited to attend. A tour of the building will follow, and refreshments will be served.

After M\*A\*S\*H: Children Left to Suffer

By Father Francis Wright, CSSP

On Feb. 28, 1983, Capt. Benjamin Franklin Pierce left Korea for the friendlier shores of Crabapple Cove, Me. His 11-year tour of duty in the war zone was unusually long for an American. But there are Americans who have been stationed in Korea even longer — tens of thousands who have lived there all of their lives. There they would remain, in desperate squalor, were it not for the efforts of Father Alfred Keane, a Maryknoll priest.

Father Keane has served in Korea for 24 years, most of that time among the offspring of American servicemen, the Amerasian children who are despised as "honyana" (mixed blood) in the land of their birth.

"These children are ridiculed, harassed, exploited, beaten," said Father Keane. "They are ashamed of their American faces. But these are our children. How can we ignore them?"

There are more than 80,000 of these children and young people not only in South Korea now, but also scattered throughout Southeast Asia — Laos, Thailand, Kampuchea and especially Vietnam, where they are branded "bu-doi," the dust of life.

Such children have been

born into a culture which treasures social and racial purity and grants all rights from the father.

"The Korean people think that the father is everything," explained a young Amerasian girl in Korea. "If a father does not take care of his daughter, then the Koreans think that the daughter is a bad person. I am not a bad person."

Not only the Koreans and other Asians, but the United States Congress has for too many years regarded this young girl as a bad — or at least undesirable — person. In spite of such evidence as blond or red hair, black skin, blue eyes, curly hair and other signs of non-Oriental parentage, we have refused these children entrance into the United States unless they could prove the paternity of an American citizen.

Late last year, however, Congress opened its mind and its collective heart, and paved the way for some of our American children out of the hell of their existence. A bill signed into law Oct. 22, 1982 by President Reagan amended the Immigration and Naturalization Act to provide preferential treatment for some Amerasian children. To be sure there are still restrictions. These children and young people can enter the United States only under the presently

established annual quotas for immigrants from their land of birth. However as sons and daughters of American citizens, they will be among the classes of people given top priority in filling those quotas. Only spouses and acknowledged children of American citizens have higher priority.

To be eligible for immigration, the Amerasian child must have been born after 1950, and must have American sponsorship with guarantees of financial responsibility. Of course, there must be some supporting evidence of American parentage, but appearance, letters, photographs and other informal records can be considered in lieu of birth or baptismal certificates.

How many Amerasians will eventually avail themselves of this new status for immigration is difficult to predict. Many of the offspring left behind in Korea have grown to adulthood now, with less appeal for American sponsors than toddling orphans might have.

For the children left in Vietnam, the new law has already proved inadequate. Immigration quotas for that country are low, and the children are many.

Nevertheless, passage of the new immigration law for Amerasians represents a new awareness of America's re-

sponsibility in this global village. It culminates 20 years of labor for Father Keane, who was assisted in the last several years by Americans for International Aid, an organization of airline employees has used its free time and flight privileges to assist children throughout the world.

AIA members have transported medicines and food to disaster areas, transported gravely ill children to treatment centers, and escorted adopted orphans out of impoverished countries. During the final days of South Vietnam, many AIA flight attendants and pilots helped in the orphanages, particularly at An Loc, and they were instrumental in mounting the "baby lift" at the fall of Saigon.

And, AIA became a leading force behind the new immigration law. For all its efforts, AIA received the first Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson Award from The Holy Childhood Association, an organization of children helping children, founded in 1843 by Bishop de Forbin-Janson. The annual award has been established to recognize exceptional compassion for children.

From its national headquarters in Washington, D.C., The Holy Childhood Association said it hoped by honoring the AIA to inspire

others to become involved in the "never-ending challenge to aid the estimated 312 million children who now live in conditions of absolute poverty."

That, in fact, is the challenge before the American people as they regard their half-Asian sons and daughters. The government has finally eliminated the official blocks to bringing these children home. Now only the welcoming hearts of the American people can really open the doors for these lost citizens.

On Feb. 28, most of the people in this country sat

transfixed before a television set, fondly watching Hawkeye take his last look at Korea and begin the long journey home. We can only hope the same fond good cheer will prevail as thousands of half-American boys and girls begin the same journey — home.

(Father Wright is national director of The Holy Childhood Association. Further information on the association's work is available from its national office, 1720 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.)

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