

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

By Sister Marsha E. Foote, MSHS



Finding The Meaning Of Peace

There was a time in my life when I thought I really knew what the word "peace" meant. As a small child, it meant being as quiet as a mouse so that mom and dad could have some peace.

As a teenager, the word took on a much more broader meaning as I struggled with the idea of "peace" for the world. I often found myself trying to shrug it off because it was too intense and too much of a responsibility for one person.

But as a young adult, I began to discover a new dimension to the word. "Peace" became personal, intimate and unique. It was a time in my life when words such as belonging, identity and independence not only increased my vocabulary but also widened my vision and deepened my understanding of life.

People have always been special to me. It is through my ministry and my contact with others that my life has taken on the image of a swinging door.

When it first began to happen, I thought I would never experience peace. But it was with all the people passing in and out of my life that I found the presence of God and the true meaning of peace for me.

So what is peace? It is a newly-born infant snuggled trustingly in a young mother's arms or an excited toddler sitting confidently on dad's shoulders. It is the gentle sound of rain beating against the window pane or a brisk walk along an abandoned road after a snow fall.

Peace is the laughter of two youngsters wrestling among once neatly-raked

leaves or the warm affection that two lovers find just by holding hands.

I believe that these are experiences of peace. It is knowing that in the midst of a dying economy and a threat of nuclear destruction, peaceful joy in the simple moments of life can still be felt and celebrated.

Peace is the comfort a small child seeks from a mother after a dramatic first day at school or the companionship an elderly person, alone on a park bench, clings to as the passerby smiles out of respect. It is the security in a loved one's arms wrapped around you or the "we did it!" excitement when a dream has become a reality.

Peace is knowing that no matter what you do or how often you turn away from God, you will always be loved and never forgotten. It is the calmness you may feel when throughout your journey of life you have always done your very best; it is now time to let go and return home to God.

I am not sure if I have given a concrete meaning of peace or if I ever could. God had deepened my ability to love and to find peace through all people. Sometimes this can be a challenging task but in the end it could be the most rewarding ever accomplished or at least attempted. I have often found peace in my heart even when it is heavily burdened with sorrow and pain because the simple moments of life have created "rainbows of promises" — promises that the ultimate peace I can ever experience is with my God.

Sister Marsha E. Foote, MSHS, is coordinator of junior and senior high school religious education at Assumption Parish, Fairport.

Interfaith Institute, St. Bridget's Join For Youth Conference

The Community... The Interfaith Institute and St. Bridget's Church are sponsoring a youth conference...

Dante Ball Scheduled Sept. 24

The annual Dante Ball, sponsored by the Italian Women's Civic Club, will take place at the Holiday Inn, Sept. 24. The event promotes the cultural heritage of Italian-Americans as well as supporting the Dante Scholarship Fund, which is noting its 60th anniversary this year.

The club has granted 45 full scholarships to students at Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College and the University of Rochester. Two scholarships to Monroe Community College have been granted.

The club began in 1918 when some women of Italian descent joined to encourage their peers to register and vote. From that, they formed an organization devoted to philanthropic causes, adopting education as the their primary focus. In 1921, the first scholarship dance took place at Edgerton park in conjunction with the Dante Aligheri Society. When that society disbanded, the IWCC

took responsibility for the scholarship fund.

In 1961, Dr. Mary Gantry of New York City donated a bust of Dante to the club, in memory of her friend, Mary L. Sicilia, a founder and past president of the club. In 1981, the bust was donated to the Casa Italiana at Nazareth College.

NFP Class July 12 at Holy Cross

A Natural Family Planning class, sponsored by NFP Education of Rochester, will begin Tuesday, July 12, at Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Ave. Enrollment is limited and pre-registration required.

NFP can be used either to achieve or avoid pregnancy; it is not the calendar rhythm method. Anyone wishing further information should contact NFP at (716) 464-8705.

POSITION SOUGHT COMBINING PASTORAL/ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

Experience Background: Developing and implementing Sunday and Special liturgies including selection of music, program design and format. Training of Altar Servers, preparation of Altar and care of Altar. Scheduling of ministers. Several years experience as Church musician. Planning and implementation of adult educational programs. Counseling skills include working with the sick and grieving. Parish Census work, knowledge and much experience in Fund Raising both for the Church and non-profit agencies. Familiar with human resources available to families to assist them in human needs. Serve on committees, parish level and Diocesan level and community organizations. Administration/Business Skills: Ability to set goals/priorities, develop Job Descriptions, budgets. Experience in grant writing, preparation of news releases. Editing Church monthly news letters, monthly calendar and Church bulletins. Recording and writing of minutes. Typing, bookkeeping, bulk mailing, and other general office skills. Posses initiative, common sense. Communication skills, both written and verbal. Self starter. Excellent letter writer, business and personal Ability to motivate, instruct staff/volunteers. Contact Box 25 Courier-Journal.

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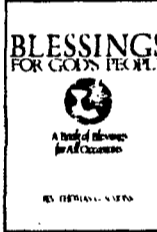
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Meaningful Reading

Mother Teresa WORDS TO LOVE BY... Mother Teresa's social witness to the gospel is known throughout the world. Less known is her spiritual commitment that undergirds her work. Here, in her own words, she offers the simple basis of her spirituality, giving a clear understanding of why and how she tends to the "poorest of the poor." February. 80 pages, 25 photos, paper, \$4.95

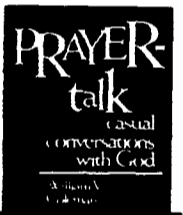


The Story of a Retreat IN THE CENTER by Barbara Rogers. A fascinating montage of the experiences of eight participants in a month-long retreat, as they seek a richer awareness of God through prayer, meditation and self-analysis. Collectively their stories convey profound new levels of insight and understanding into prayer and religious experience. March. 160 pages, paper, \$4.95



A Book of Blessings for All Occasions BLESSINGS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE by Rev. Thomas G. Simons. A rich and flexible treasury of blessings to be used in the home, the parish or the classroom. These models follow a basic liturgical structure, but invite creativity of use in responding to the specific situation of those who are celebrating. February. 112 pages, paper, \$5.95

Casual Conversations with God PRAYER-TALK by William V. Coleman. In this refreshing "book of praying," the author presents 32 meditations covering a wide range of everyday concerns. Each begins with a "casual conversation with God," followed by a brief story, a reflection and a prayer. Ideal for personal daily reading. January. 112 pages, paper, \$3.95



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