

# Area Priest Updates Theresa Neumann Cause News

By John Dash

Father Donald Murphy, the priest who founded St. Pius Tenth parish from a century old mission, St. Feehan's, reported last week that a promoter has been named by the Diocese of Regensburg, Germany, for the cause of Theresa Neumann.

The promoter is Father Ulrich Uchs, and he is assembling material bearing on the events of Miss Neumann's life, and those events attributed to her intercession since her death in 1962.

Father Murphy is widely known in the Diocese of Rochester for his interest in the cause, first reporting on Miss Neumann in 1945.

A resident of Konnersreuth, Germany, Miss Neumann was an acknowledged mystic and stigmatic. Father Murphy told the following story:

"I was in Konnersreuth last week and visited her grave and was surprised to find that it is covered with fresh flowers and about 50 or 75 tokens expressing thanks

for help received. Some of these are plaques cut in marble, some are candles set in wooden devices to keep them burning.

"The Carmelite Convent of Perpetual Adoration in Konnersreuth was founded by Theresa before her death. This is flourishing. There is an office there where holy cards and photos of Theresa may be obtained.

"Just outside the village of Konnersreuth is Falkenfeld, a seminary for priests with late vocation. There are about 130 men there at present. This too was founded at the behest of the Bishop of Regensburg before Theresa died, and is directed by the Salesian Fathers.

"The town is about the same as during the time after World War II when our 90th Division was sent to occupy it.

"The Neumann home on the square has been sold, but there are two metal plaques on the outside, one attesting the fact that it is the birthplace and home of Theresa Neumann, and the other over a side door where

Father Naber, the pastor for some 40 years, spent his last days.

"While we were occupying the area, it was customary for me to bring our troops to the Konnersreuth church on Mondays at 3 p.m. The men would meet Theresa and she assisted at Mass and later met each individually. I was a chaplain with the 357th Infantry, 90th Infantry Division.

"At that time we received permission from the Bishop of Regensburg to visit Theresa. He told me that Theresa was not "approved" but that he was "indifferent" to our soldiers visiting her.

"Today, her cause has widespread publicity in Germany. Buses make the cemetery a regular stop for tourists. The bishop of Regensburg is very helpful, and on the first anniversary of her death, he dedicated the whole diocese to a day of public prayer and expiation to be held at Konnersreuth.

"Forty thousand people responded to his call, including six bishops and the Bishop of Fatima, Portugal.

"Her secret, if she had one, is that we accept the will of God, whether to be sick or to be well, whatever the Lord, the Redeemer, wills."

Nearly 40 years ago, Father Murphy remarked:

"It is certainly difficult to accommodate the sight of such a well-fed looking, health person with one who neither eats or drinks. Looking her forty-odd years, Theresa is robust and similar in appearance to all the other Bavarian women you meet on the road. She is strong, able to work, and does help around the house..."

"Talking with Theresa and watching her happy, joyous smiles, her equanimity amid so much ruin, I could not help but think that 'the weak things of this world has God chosen to confound the strong, and the simple things to confound the wise.' Here was utter simplicity.

### Tapes Available

Tapes and books from the recent National Right to Life convention are available to borrowers from the diocesan Human Life Commission, 750 W. Main St., Rochester, 14611; (716) 328-6400.

### Pilgrimage

A pilgrimage is being considered to Emmetsburg, Md., the site of the shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Persons interested in making a bus pilgrimage have been asked to contact Mrs. Mary Kelly, 586-1664.

"Great phenomena were associated with her life for many years. On numerous Fridays of the year, the blood flows from her stigmata in feet, hands and side. During Holy Week this year (as in other years, the pastor related), additional phenomena

were evident: nine wounds on her head bled, as where He bore the cross; her chest and back bled, as where He was beaten with a multiple metal-tipped whip.

"Notwithstanding the loss of so much blood during Holy Week and on other

Fridays, Theresa quickly regains her strength and takes up normal living. Despite the fact she has eaten or drunk nothing, her weight remains substantially the same. She is normal in every way, not nervous, or neurotic, but strong and healthy."

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### Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect



By Sister Rosemary M. Sherman, RSM

### Spreading The Seeds Of Peace

The Velveteen Rabbit, the Little Prince, the Mouse in the Manger, even the Star Wars saga — all contain a touch of mystery and wonder which we, as adults, find hard to truly capture. Perhaps our eyes have grown blinded, our ears deafened to the challenge they present to us. Peace can fall victim to the same fate: in our blindness and deafness, we often fail to see and hear the rhythm of peace all around us. But, as Dorothy Day has said, "What we avert our eyes from today can be bourne tomorrow when we have learned a little more about love."

Upon asking several third graders and teachers about peace, I found out how true this statement really is. To them, peace is "love," "quiet," "being nice to others," "harmony," "like prayer," "care for one another," "share," "eternal life," and even the more subtle "God thinks peace is just like love," "a rainbow," "birds chirping in the morning," "a graceful dance."

With even brief reflection, I think the message is clear: peace is a process of conversion which begins within EACH one of us. And letting Christ peace you together is admittedly not an easy transformation! To be committed to peace, one must begin within. As the Little Prince says, "What is essential is invisible to the eye."

To deeply believe in a liberating God Who sets captives free, cares for the downtrodden and raises up the lowly, one must face conversion and its cycle of death and resurrection. People who live in

the light of such a cycle, especially those I met this past summer in Santiago, Chile, are bearers of peace and a convicted hope that daily bread will be given and the Kingdom comes nearer each day. Such people become peace-makers and, like pebbles tossed into the water, send out ripples of hope and peace throughout their environments, gently and rhythmically challenging all in their paths to join in the pattern and dance of such a healing presence.

Perhaps Isaiah said it best when it was written: "For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord Yahweh make both justice (and I add peace) and praise spring up in the sight of the nations." To behold the Kingdom in this way is to see with new eyes and hear with new ears all about and within us! So, let us rejoice in God our Savior Who not only calls us to witness but also paces all of us into the Kingdom of God!

Sister Rosemary M. Sherman, RSM, is a third grade teacher at St. Joseph School, Penfield.

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Harriette Patrick

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