

Honor St. Ann Mrs. Lida Lalucce, a member of St. Ann's Society, John Seppetula, honorary president, and Mrs. Jenny Cantatore, also a member of the society, pause during the annual parade in honor of the saint. Fifty members of the society were led by a marching band on Stenson Street to Most Precious Blood Church where a Mass was celebrated July 24.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

**Help Convert** Russia

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 12/49-53. (R1) Jer. 38/4-6, 8-10. (R2) Heb. 12/1-4.

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin (Solemnity August 15) is a harvest feast. It celebrates the reunion of Mary, the first fruits of the redemption, with her Son in glory. On Nov. 1, 1950, Pope Pius XII declared and defined as infallible that "the Immaculate Mother of God, ever-Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory" (Munificentissimus Deus). It was fitting that she who was without sin should not see the effects of sin, one of which is bodily corruption. This proclamation culminated centuries of devotion, worship, and theology surrounding the assumption of Mary.

In the Holy Land, there are two empty tombs: Jesus' and Mary's. The Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre marks the empty tomb of Christ; the Church of the Assumption, next to the Basilica of the Agony in Gethsemane, marks the empty tomb of Mary. Feasts in honor of the Mother of God began only after Nestorius challenged Mary's divine maternity and after the great Council of Ephesus (432) defined that Mary is truly the Mother of God (the Theotokos: The God-bearer).

On Aug. 2l, we are consecrating St. Mary's Parish, Waterloo, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. I firmly believe that world peace and the conversion of Russia will come only through a return to the Son of God through His mother.

Repeatedly, at Fatima (1917), at Austria (1956 & 1982), at Nicaragua (1980), Our Lady has warned that the world faces a catastrophe. Last December 22, 1982, in

Austria she said, "The superior forces of godless Communism will invade the free nations when they least expect it, for it knows no frontiers. That invasion will start the great world catastrophe. I am giving the same message I gave at Fatima." Her last words were, "The punishment can only be averted, or mitigated, if bishops and priests will lead a storm of prayer. Hasten! It must be done as quickly as possi-

The devotion our Lady requested for this to happen was that of the five First Saturdays (at Pontervedra 1925).

At St. Mary's on August 6, we have initiated the First Saturday devotions, as a parish.

On each First Saturday we schedule a noon day Mass. We encourage everyone to do the 6 things our Lady asked;

1. Go to private confession on the first Saturday or anytime within 8 days before or 8 days after the first Saturday.

2 Go to Holy nion on the First Saturday or the Sunday following.

3. Pray 5 decades of the

4. Meditate for 15 minutes on the mysteries of the rosary.

5. Do all these things in a spirit of reparation to make up for the ingratitude and blasphemies against Jesus and Mary.

6. Do all these things on the First Saturdays of 5 consecutive months.

The stakes are high. Unless Russia is converted, the movement against God and for sin will continue to spread and so will war and

persecution. Because there is so much at stake, our Lady, in order to encourage us to heed her requests, has promised eternal salvation to those who practice this devotion and, in addition, the conversion of Russia. Why not start the First Saturday devotions in your parish? Get your pastor's consent first.

## K. of C. Reiterates Support for Tax Credits

Columbus, Ohio (NC) --

The Knights of Columbus will strengthen its commitment to family life and tuition tax credits, said Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant, head of the Catholic fraternal organization.

Dechant delivered a report to the 101st annual meeting of the Supreme Council, the K. of C.'s highest legislative and policy body. The council met Aug. 2-4 in Columbus.

Dechant said the Knights must have "the courage of our convictions when our principles are trampled upon and our rights cavalierly disregarded.''

"Human life begins at conception," Dechant said. 'When a human life in the womb is willfully destroyed, it is murder.

"When a so-called defective child is starved to death in the hospital after birth, it is a crime so callous, so heinous, that our language has no adequate word to describe it.

"We need no Catholic Church to tell us these things. They pass the test of simple reason," Dechant said.

He said the Knights have formed a coalition with a number of other interested groups to seek passage of a tuition tax credit bill. Members of the coalition have distributed about 9 million cards supporting the bill to be sent to U.S. representatives and senators.

He said arguments favoring tuition tax credits are expressed succinctly in an ad which appeared recently in weekly papers.

The ad states it is time for Congress to grant tuition tax credits to relieve the "double burden of school taxes and tuition.'

The ad notes the proposed legislation would reduce tax revenues by less than \$800 million when fully implemented in 1985. That is less than 1 percent of the current public school budget of \$108 billion, and private schools educate 12 percent of America's primary and secondary school children, the ad says.

At the opening Mass of the convention, Bishop James A. Griffin of Columbus told the delegates to look to the Holy Family for inspiration. Some people think the Holy Family ficulties, he said, but they

"Few of us would begrudge Mary her anger when she and Joseph found the boy Jesus in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions," Bishop Griffin said. "They didn't understand his explanation of why he remained behind.

"They weren't the first parents who didn't understand their child, and they certainly won't be the last. When confronted with danger, hardship and confusion about Jesus and his mission, the Holy Family's faith and trust in God the Father never wavered.

"Our familiès will make it, too, if only we trust and depend on God," the bishop said. "Unfortunately, this is not easy to achieve.

The bishop said there are severe economic pressures on families today. Families whose breadwinners are jobless face the future with gnawing uncertainty.

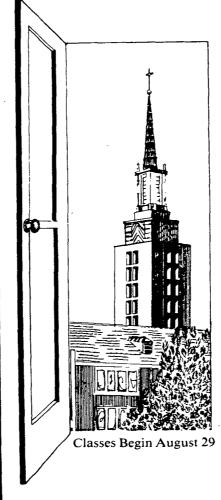
the pressures of unstable family life and peer pressure too great escape through abuse of alcohol and drugs, vandalism and sexual promiscuity," he said.

The bishop said there is

"Young people who find hope for families and pointed to the many organizations today working to strengthen family life.

He noted the hopeful message from Pope John Paul II in his 1981 apostolic exhortation on the family.

The document described the family as "an eminent form of love" which should have every reason for confidence because of the riches it possesses "by nature and grace and the mission God has entrusted to it."



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