

Viewpoint
Sisters Reflect



By Sister Josepha Kennedy, SSJ

Perspective
On Peace

Peace is a matter of perspective.

After love, it is the most precious gift we can give to any person. The longer we live and the more people we encounter, the more rare and beautiful that gift appears to be. It doesn't make life easy; it doesn't remove obstacles. But it lets us see around or through the obstacles, and it separates pebbles from rocks and boulders from mountains. And, if it doesn't make life easy, it gives us ease.

A peaceful person can be stern or uproarious, restless or vigorous, reserved or ebullient — but that person sees life "in the whole cloth," is aware of value, of strengths and weaknesses, of achievements and mistakes. It's all there and it's all in perspective. Big things loom large up front and small things fade into the background.

If there is one quality God's people have a right to expect from a Christian, it is peacefulness. We should have a superabundance, pressed down and running over; it should be in our eyes, our movements, our smiles,

our voices. It should beam out from us like a beacon, sweeping over the anguish and sorrow we meet every day, saying, "Peace, have peace, Christ's peace come to you. What is large and very significant? What is small and to be set aside? Do you know how valuable you are? Do you know how much God loves you?"

In my work, I meet young adults for whom "life" looms large; careers and marriage are looking them in the face. Everything is portentous and sometimes ominous. Their adolescent triumphs have dwindled into sober adult skills. They have very little experience to give them perspectives on life, to give them peace.

It is a joyful ministry to help them look at life and themselves as God does, to bring a measure of peace to their hearts. I always hope for the "ripple effect," that the peace in each young heart will eddy out to other hearts and that Christ's gift to us at the Last Supper will be received and cherished and shared and increased as I think He wanted it to be.

Sister Josepha is professor of music at Nazareth College.

Sarah
Child



All in the Family

Pea-Pickin'
Memories

In spite of the dry weather, the garden has never been better. Along with the usual zucchini, tomatoes, cukes, peppers, etc., I planted snow peas for the first time and was happy to see the low bush variety do nicely.

Not too many made their way to the pot, however, because all too often I ate more than I should have, bending over the vines.

My husband, who had been promised pasta and piselli as we had enjoyed it in Italy, protested. I pointed out the fruits of two rows were hardly enough to do the dish justice. Besides, I fibbed, tiny frozen peas would do just as well.

Sneaking peas out of the garden before they can get to the table is an old trick — one which dates back to the forties when Louise, my same-age aunt, and I would hide in the pea patch at Conrad, Pa., a wonderful hiding place with its row upon row of vine-covered poles.

We would shell and gobble down the fresh tender peas leaving a trail of ruptured pods. When Gram came to pick her batch to add to the new potatoes in cream sauce, we were left defenseless.

I can't remember us being punished — not for

our pea pickin' propensities, nor, when the pea supply declined, for climbing up on the tarpaper roof of the spring house to lie on our bellies and pelt the pigs in the pen below with bits of dried mud.

Those wee halcyon days, recalled each summer now with increasing nostalgia. Was anyone ever so fortunate as I?!

The "crick" (I never knew it was the West Branch of the Sinnemahoning River until years later) ran next to the house. An endless summertime attraction for us, we lived in it — swimming with inner tubes, playing ship with Gram's galvanized wash tubs and catching countless minnows in coffee cans.

On the other side of the house, the mountain rose — steep, dense and green, girdled low by the B&O track along which could be found Indian paintbrushes, a few strawberries and mayflowers which we picked and put in jelly glasses to decorate the kitchen table.

Standing barefoot in my own garden 40 years later, eating sweet, new peas, brings those summers back. If I close my eyes, I can almost smell Gram's bread, the aroma wafting down to the pea patch of long ago from the black wood stove in the kitchen.

AT YOUR PARISH



St. Bridget's

Members of The Bright Clouds of Joy perform at the Bright Clouds Gospel Summer Concert, hosted last week by St. Bridget's Church and coordinated by the First Community Interfaith Institute, Inc. At the same event, portraits of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and five of the nation's seven black Catholic bishops were unveiled.

Holy Trinity

Webster — Parishioners at Holy Trinity Church will fete Father Paul Cuddy on his 75th birthday with a party Sept. 7 at Sweet's Party House.

Festivities open with a cash bar at 6:30 p.m., followed by a buffet supper at 8. Friends, and present and former parishioners have been invited to attend.

The charge is \$15 per person, paid in advance, with reservations held at the door. Checks are made out to and sent to Holy Trinity Church, 1460 Ridge Road, Webster, N.Y. 14580, before Aug. 24. The charge also covers money toward a gift for the priest. Further information is

available by calling Kay Tichacek, 265-9354; Betty Schreiber, 265-0834.

St. Mary

Geneva — Sister Alice Marie Kurtz, newly appointed administrative assistant at Nazareth Hall in Rochester, was recently presented a handmade quilt by the pupils of St. Mary's School.

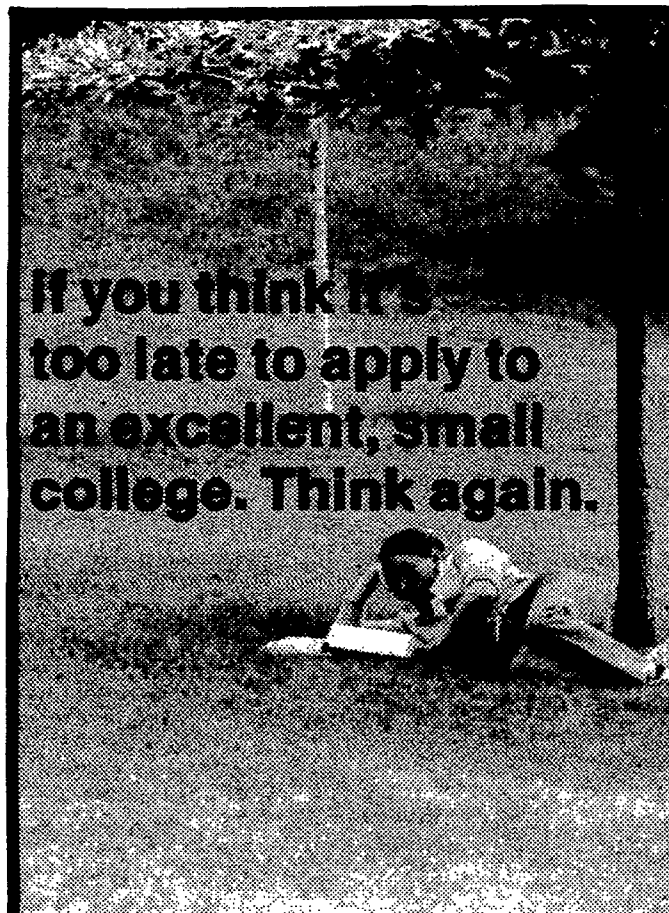
Sister Alice Marie, until this month principal at the school, was presented the gift by Michael O'Toole and Colleen Cuff representing the student body.

The quilt is composed of squares constructed by each class in the school. The designs represent Sister Alice Marie's years as principal, according to Carol Shamon, school spokesperson.



St. Joseph

Jerry Babcock, chairman of the human development committee of St. Joseph's Parish in Weedsport, presents a check to Giovina Caroscio, director of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry in Geneva. The check represents a tithe of the overage returned to the parish from the Bishop's Thanks Giving Appeal. The office provides support for area committees, social justice groups, individual and family counseling, and has recently opened a kitchen providing free lunches in Geneva.



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