



Ss. Peter and Paul

Organizers are still trying to locate members of the 1933 graduating class of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Rochester. A gala 50th anniversary reunion is being planned for 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 29 at the Crescent Beach Hotel. About a dozen members of the class are still being sought. Interested persons are asked to contact Carl Heuer, 621-7120; or Eleanor Brian Meisch, 225-2651.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Our God Is not A Bargainer

Dear Father Hohman, Lately I have been hearing a great deal about St. Jude. While I am aware that he is the patron of hopeless or difficult cases, I find the attention being given to him right now a bit puzzling. First of all, practically every day the personal want ads in the paper carry numerous "Thank you's" to St. Jude for favors received. Even the Courier runs these ads.

Secondly, I have twice found the following prayer in one of the pews of our church: Novena to St. Jude — "May the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised and glorified now and forever. Hail Mary, Mother of God, pray for us; St. Jude, pray for us and hear our prayer. Amen." Say this prayer for nine consecutive days, leaving a copy in the church each day. It has never failed to gain favor by the ninth day. What is to be thought about all this?

Dear F.G., My first reaction is to think in terms of gross superstition but I feel the whole thing is more complicated than that. There is much in this which offends Protestant people because they see it as a bypass of Jesus Christ who is "the one mediator between God and man." So let's try to think the whole thing through as carefully as we can.

First of all, the Catholic Church has always allowed for the intercession of the saints on our behalf in view of the fact that they are our brothers and sisters in the communion of saints who are already in the presence of God and therefore

whose intercession carries a special value. We do not pray to them for favors but we ask them to join us in our prayer to God. The novena you quote seems to at least imply that it is St. Jude who is being prayed to and that he is the one who will grant our prayer.

I have no idea how St. Jude acquired the patronage of hopeless cases but I can assure you that it is not an assignment that he has in heaven. However, it would be foolish to write it off completely. When people pray to the "Patron of Hopeless Cases" it is an outward expression of their deep inward feelings of helplessness and it is certain that God is indeed close to the brokenhearted.

I do, however, have some real difficulties with the Novena. The first is that I would rather not have the expression "St. Jude, hear our prayer." It can be taken in an OK way but it sounds as though he is regarded as the answerer.

Secondly, the idea that leaving a copy in church for nine days has anything to do with the prayer being granted is utterly ridiculous. It would be something like God acting like a father who would say to his son, "I'll give you your school lunch money, if you'll go upstairs and get my pipe." God is not a bargainer or briber.

Thirdly, "it has never failed to gain favor" can mean only one thing — that God answers your prayer by giving you what is best for you, not necessarily granting your specific request. Prayer was never intended to be an infallible "gimme" machine. It is intended to seek God's will and have whatever it takes to live with that will. Anything less is simply superstition.

A Sprucing-up At Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd Church, 3264 East Henrietta Road in Henrietta, will hold an Open House of its recently renovated rectory and convent on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2-4 p.m. All are welcome. Members of the parish staff, as well as parishioners who worked on the renovation, will be on hand to guide visitors.

Open House visitors should park in the main church parking lot. The convent is just north of the lot. The rectory is two houses south of the lot.

Since its establishment in 1911, Good Shepherd Church has grown with Henrietta. From the handful of farm families who founded it, the parish has increased to over 1,800 families. Initially staffed by a priest who came from Rochester weekends, it now has a pastoral staff of eight and a teaching staff of 12.

In the past the teaching staff was composed largely of sisters. In the late '50s a private residence two doors south of the church was purchased as their convent but over the last 10 years the number of sisters on the teaching staff has dwindled.

Last year to remedy the lack of working space for the

pastoral staff the parish decided to convert the convent into a rectory. The undersized rectory had been used for that purpose since 1946, but the building dates back to the 1880s. Inspection showed it structurally sound enough to be of continued use. It had space enough to house the sisters living in the parish so it was designated their new home. When the sisters moved into their "new" convent in July, the renovation of their former convent began. This work was completed and the "new" rectory opened in mid-August.

Holy Rosary

The Rosary Guild of Holy Rosary Church will have its first meeting of the year, beginning with enrollment of new members and benediction, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 4, at the church; followed by a meeting and "birthday party" at Matella's Party House, 354 Driving Park Ave. Persons wishing to attend are asked to contact Father Timothy Horan, 458-4422; or Rosemary Cardamone, 254-2861 after 6 p.m.

Deadline

Items intended for publication must be typed and in the Courier-Journal offices by noon Thursday before the Wednesday publication.

YES TO CATHOLIC SCHOOLS!

You've heard about the financial problems of Catholic schools. And, you've certainly heard all sorts of stories about the end of Catholic schools in our nation's cities.

Most Catholic schools have financial problems these days. Here at Saint Augustine's and Saint Monica's, our problems are great, the solutions difficult.

Today, we are struggling to provide Catholic education to children in our central city area — children who really need this kind of education! We serve families who are often poor sometimes lonely, and always in need of Christ's gentle comfort.

We believe the Lord has given us an important mission. It is not an easy one. But, we are deeply and firmly committed to it.

Today, may we ask you to help us in two ways? If you can possibly spare a few dollars to assist us in our work, we would be deeply grateful. We depend on the goodness and generosity of our friends to continue and strengthen our work.

We'd like to ask you for your prayers, too. Prayer is the most powerful force available to us; your prayers — and the prayers of thousands of committed people like you — will surely be noticed by the Lord!

We promise you that we will use your financial gifts carefully and wisely. We promise you, each day and every day.

FATHER BILL BARRETT, FATHER BILL TROTT

Father Bill Trott — Father Bill Barrett
Saint Augustine's School - Saint Monica's School
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Yes! I'd like to help. Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ to Saint Augustine's-Saint Monica's CATHOLIC EDUCATION FUND. And, I promise that my prayers will be with you!

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Clip and mail to the address above. Your financial gift is tax deductible.



Knight Named President

Joseph Cooper, of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Knights of St. John Comm. #308, has recently been elected president of the New York Grand Commandery. This past Sunday, a testimonial dinner was given in his honor at Arena's Party House on Ridge Road. Chairpersons for the event were Ned and Santa Meloni; honorary chairpersons were Michael Fredericks, president of Comm. #308, and Elsie Bonafede, president of Knights of St. John Auxiliary #285 of Annunciation Church. Among guests were Fathers Genaro Ventura and William Graf, Msgr. Albert Simonetti and Msgr. Carl Denti of Utica.

Mother of Sorrows

Oktoberfest music, foods, beverages and a polka contest will be featured at Oktoberfest '83, 7:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, at Mother of Sorrows Church hall, 5000 Mt. Read Blvd. The event is sponsored by the Mother of Sorrows Men's Club of which Mike Belluccio is president.

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