

AT YOUR PARISH



St. Salome

ANNIVERSARY Dinner Dance ending year-long celebration of parish 75th, Friday, Oct. 21, Arena's Party House; further information: Don and Peg Stoffel, 467-2348; Irondequoit Press picture of Peg and Don Stoffel, Dorothy Fritz and Madeline Miller.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

A Trappist Funeral

While I was at Msgr. Simonetti's funeral at Annunciation, Sept. 21, a monk from the Trappist Abbey at Piffard, near Geneseo, phoned our Webster rectory. Our secretary, Mary Ann Penlon is a niece of Father "Whitey" Bialaszewski of Bath.

The monk said, "Father Ambrose Blouin has been a long time friend of Father Cuddy. He died last evening, about midnight, and the funeral Mass is at four this afternoon. Perhaps Father Cuddy could come to the funeral Mass." "He's at Msgr. Simonetti's funeral but he is going to Fr. Callan's at St. Thomas the Apostle afterward for lunch. I will get a message to him." "Oh, the poor man is along in years. We wouldn't like anything to happen to him." I suppose my 75th birthday gives the impression of infirmity and finality.

I got the message and remembered that Father Ambrose told me how pleased he was that I was his first priest-retreatant, around 1970, and he recommended me to God every day since.

I got a late start from Rochester and drove so furiously to get to the monastery on time that had the monk who was solicitous for "the poor man so along" been with me, he would have kept making hearty Acts of Contrition, and I will have to go to confession for dangerous driving.

When I got there at 4:03, a young monk silently escorted me to a seat among some 50 monks as the Vesper psalms swept gently along. Father Ambrose, weighing less than one hundred pounds, was in an open, light-tan pine coffin in the sanctuary.

The visitors' section seating about 80 people was full. One nephew was there, flown from Louisiana, representing the Blouin family. A group of Methodist ministers from Ohio come each year to make a retreat and they were there to share in the obsequies. Father Gordinier and I represented diocesan clergy.

Instead of an organ, two monks accompanied the chants and hymns: one with viola, the other with a cello. The accompani-

ment was melodious, soft and true. The monks sang well, though I was disappointed that nothing was sung in Latin.

Abbot John Eudes Bamberger gave a matter-of-fact homily, stressing eternal life. Fifty monks in white habit, performing the 2000-year-old Eucharist in the dark, eerie stone church was soul-stirring.

After Mass a long procession was formed from the sanctuary, led by cross and candle bearer. Half the monks led; then in the middle came four youngish monks carrying the coffin on their shoulders; then came the rest of the monks and the laity.

We proceeded through the cloister, and stopped just before exiting to the graveyard outside. "What's this all about," I wondered. Then the four pall bearers set the coffin on two wooden horses, removed their habits which covered their work clothes: dungarees and assorted garments which looked like bargains from Army and Navy surplus stores. Just what the point was I don't know, unless they were to fill in the eight-foot deep grave at the end of the service.

On my way back to Webster I meditated: What a precious house of grace we have at Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey. I sometimes drop in for Vespers and am always uplifted, but always thank God for not having the call to the Trappist life.

It's strange how many in the diocese have never visited the Abbey, or even know it exists. And many do not know that retreats or even quiet days are available.

Last Spring, Father Antinarelli brought all the CCD teachers of Hornell there for a pilgrimage and for Vespers. They went to a restaurant in Geneseo after and had a nice supper to end a good day. Several CCD teachers have brought high schoolers there for Vespers and to acquaint them with the Trappist life.

Well, Father Ambrose, thank you for the daily remembrance while you lived. Now will you do this please? Sing the old Gregorian "Salve, Regina" in Latin to Our Blessed Mother for me, and tell her how grateful I am that our diocese has these special monks. And I'll be seeing you soon.

Advisory

In an effort to accommodate the extraordinary number of parishes desiring to publicize their events in At Your Parish, a style change has been made in presenting the items. Parish correspondents are asked to note the change.

St. Joseph

PENFIELD - OKTOBERFEST, 7 p.m.-midnight, Oct. 14-17; featuring traditional German foods and beverages, music by Harold Tausch and his Royal Bavarians; Admission \$3, children under 12 free; movies shown in the school hall each night for the children.

St. Boniface

SCHOOL "Annual Garage Sale", 8 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 8, in the school.

St. Nicholas

"HALFI," annual dinner of traditional Lebanese foods and entertainment, Saturday, Oct. 8, Bishop Kearney High School; featuring Khalil Haddad Mid-Eastern Dance Band and members of Bal-Aziz Dance Troupe; tickets \$15, reservations required, 467-8925.

Holy Family

ROSARY SOCIETY Holy Hour, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 12, in the church; honoring Our Lady of Fatima, featuring prayer for peace; society meeting following in Pine Room, Mrs. Mary Nitzman, hostess.

St. Mary

ELMIRA - GOLDEN AGE "Pass-a-Dish Luncheon", noon, Tuesday, Oct. 11, Marion Center; meat, beverages, rolls, table service, entertainment provided; sponsored by human development subcommittee.



A Special Beginning

At the opening Mass each class at St. Thomas More received a plant, a symbol of new beginnings and growth, blessed by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey who celebrated the liturgy.

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Those who wish to have arrangements carried out in accordance with the ideals of their faith can rely upon the funeral directors listed to perform their duties with sympathetic care and attention.

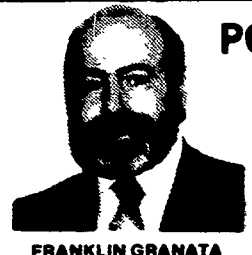
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Lady of Mercy

BAZAAR, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 14, parish, Armstrong and Denise roads; proceeds used to aid world and local hunger; Mary Loughborough, Diane Zwald, Gail DiTotto, Karel Tyr display handmade items to be offered for sale.

Blessed Sacrament

AFTERNOON CLUB "Bell Party", 6 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 19, school hall, 546 Oxford St.; tickets \$4, available at rectory, 259 Rutgers St., 271-7240.

Good Shepherd

ROSARY ALTAR Society will meet 7:30 p.m. sharp, Tuesday, Oct. 11, school gym; Wendy Hammerle, WOKR newscaster, featured speaker; public is invited.

St. James

SCHOOL "Ice Cream Social" and open house, 7:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 5, school hall, 119 Brockley Road; sponsored by the Home-School Association.

St. Andrew

ROSARY SOCIETY Card Party, 7:30 p.m., Friday, Oct. 7, in the hall; tickets \$1.50 at door or through Lucy Catan, 342-0021.

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CAMP STELLA MARIS

BENEFIT DINNER

FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 1983
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DINNER: 8:30

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