

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Philip Neri

WOMEN'S Club regular meeting, Mass for deceased members, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25 in the Church; program featuring repre-

sentative from American Heart Association, in school hall; Terry Hinchcliffe, hostess.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Reaching The Heart Of God

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 18/9-14. (R1) Sir. 35/12-14, 16-18. (R2) 2 Tm. 4/6-8, 16-18.

The theme of Sunday's readings is not just prayer, but that quality of prayer that reaches the heart of God, namely, **humble** prayer. "The Lord hears the cry of the poor" (the humble).

Prayer can be divided into two kinds: the prayer of thankful praise and the prayer of petition. We might interpret Paul's prayer in the second reading as a prayer of praise and thanksgiving. "The Lord stood by my side and gave me strength," wrote Paul. "The Lord will continue to rescue me from all attempts to do me harm...To him be glory for ever and ever" (R2).

Paul's prayer of praise was undoubtedly preceded by a prayer of petition. Paul was in prison. He was on trial for his life. Fair-weather friends had abandoned him. He was alone and lonely. As always, he turned to the Lord. As always, the Lord stood by him when all others would not. As always, Paul did not forget to thank God.

God answered Paul's prayer because of his humility. His life had been poured out like a libation: given totally to God, emptied out, as when in offering sacrifice the priest took a cup of wine and poured it out on the ground. Paul had poured out his life like that serving God and his neighbor. When the time of his dissolution was near, and he had none to turn to, he turned to God. And God heard his prayers.

Paul knew God would, for Paul had been a Pharisee. He knew the Old Testament perhaps better than most men of his day. He knew Sirach (R1), and Sirach had written: "The Lord...knows no favorite...yet he hears the cry of

the oppressed...especially of him who serves God willingly. The prayer of such a one pierces the cloud, and reaches its goal."

Our blessed Lord, who always clarified what was written in the Old Testament and who always verified what His followers taught, illustrated these truths in the lovely parable of the Pharisee and the Publican (R3). Here both men pray. The publican's prayer is one of petition; the Pharisee's prayer is one of praise -- not of God, but of himself. Passion indeed blinds, especially the passion of conceit! The Pharisee with "unbowed head" prayed a litany of his deeds -- "I do this, I do that...I, I, I!" What a mentality -- as though God's blessings were to be merited, as though grace were not an unmerited favor, as though good deeds were done to win God's favor (which we always enjoy, no matter what we do)! **Rather we do good works that seeing them, others may glorify our Father who makes people good.**

The poor publican was closer by far to God. For in his humility he saw what he was -- and all men are -- truly sinners. "Not even daring to raise his eyes to heaven," he beat his breast and said, "O God, be merciful to me, a sinner." "The prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds."

Why do we pray? To praise God? Yes. Because we are so good? No! "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

At other times we pray to God for mercy. Because we deserve it? No! But because we are needy. We come, like the Pharisee, wholly taken up with ourselves, obstinate in our desires and half-crazed by our appetites. We need to be changed, not God. Because He loves us, He will change us -- if we are humble enough to realize our need for change.

St. Francis DeSales Epiphany

Geneva — MARRIAGE Alive, lecture and discussion program for couples, Oct. 28-30 at St. Francis DeSales school hall; featured speakers: Father Jack Zimmerman, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Rochester; Lita and Jim Gillette, diocesan Family Life Office; registration and information available through: Marie Venaglia, religious education coordinator, 789-0658/789-0930; Bob and Rosemary Tauscher, adult education committee, 789-3560.

Sodus — ANNIVERSARY celebration noting the 60th year of the Church of the Epiphany; Mass, for the living and the deceased members of the parish, 10:30 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 23, Father John Cavanaugh, pastor, celebrant; dish-to-pass supper, 4 p.m. the same day, American Legion Hall.

St. Andrew

ROSARY Society Living Rosary, 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25 at the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave.; Linda Contrino, president; Marie Trott, Lucy Caton and Beverly Digloma, leading the rites; Father Ronald Stacy, moderator; benediction follows with singing by St. Andrew's Choir members; Senior citizens and family groups welcomed.

St. Thomas More

FALL Dance, "Harvest Time," featuring music by Fred Costello and Company, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 29 in the school auditorium, 2617 East Ave.; tickets, \$5 per person, purchased at the door, includes continental breakfast after midnight; Margaret Roper Guild sponsoring; Mr. and Mrs. J. Finn, Mr. and Mrs. P. Way, Dr. and Mrs. J. McIntyre, Ms. C. Gillen, R. Jacoby, Mr. and Mrs. G. Peacock, Mr. and Mrs. C. Reller, Mr. and Mrs. D. Verhoeven, Mr. and Mrs. J. Commisso, principals.

St. Patrick

Seneca Falls — RCIA, the five-stage Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults has been launched at St. Patrick Church here. Any person interested in the process has been asked to contact Sister Joan Cawley, 568-5203. According to Maureen Pysnack of the parish public relations committee, in the rite, "through prayer, study and sharing, the Christian community leads an adult to deeper appreciation of the Catholic faith. The process is meant to help people make a decision to become full members of the Catholic Church."

St. Charles

NUCLEAR disarmament subject of ecumenical presentation, 6:30 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 30 at St. Charles Borromeo Church; featuring song, prayer, the movie, "In the Nuclear Shadow — What Children Can Tell Us"; and discussion; sponsored by several churches in the Gates-Chili area; public is invited.

Retreat Weekends Offered

Four "Weekends of Directed Prayer" are being offered for lay and religious men and women in Rochester and Elmira.

Two weekends are scheduled in Rochester -- Nov. 18-20 and March 2-4 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse -- and two in Elmira -- Jan. 27-29 and March 23-25 at Mt. Savior Monastery. The weekends will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Directors for different weekends include Sister Mary Lou Heffernan, SSJ; Father Jay Madden, SJ; Father Vincent McDonough, SJ; and Sister Judith Reger, SSJ.

A donation of \$40 is suggested for the weekends and reservations for the Elmira weekends are necessary five weeks in advance. For further information or reservations, contact Sister Judith Reger, 1012 Davis St., Elmira, 14901; or call 607/734-9438, evenings.



Nativity

RIBBON cutting ceremonies for a new sign designating Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Brockport as a "Catholic School of the Diocese of Rochester" were part of opening-day events at the 107-year-old school. Cutting the ribbon are (left to right) Father William Amann, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hamlin; Father John J. Philipps, pastor of Nativity; and Sister Mary Anne Laurer, principal of the school.

Halloween Dance Scheduled

The Divorced, Separated, Remarried, Widowed Catholics of the diocese have scheduled a Halloween Party/Dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, at St. Charles Borromeo School Hall, 3003 Dewey Avenue.

Donation is \$5 at the door (\$3 if in costume). Music will be provided, as well as a midnight snack and beverages.

Anyone needing further information should contact the Family Life Office at 436-5450.

Giving Peace a Chance . . .

"To work for peace is not easy."

It will require commitment to dialogue and negotiation, patience, wisdom, ongoing conversion of heart and a capacity to experience failure and disappointment and still return to the effort."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark
September 8, 1983



Oct. 25th & 26th, 1983

**MURPHY HALL
7:30 P.M.**

• Panel Discussion • Lecture
Liturgy • Reception

A Peace Symposium

Sponsored by
**St. John Fisher College
Campus Ministry**

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



**EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

How long does grief last?

It is not possible to give an absolute answer to this question. Every individual reacts to loss a bit differently. We can expect intense grief during the first few weeks after a loss. In the following three or four months our feelings of grief may be strong as we encounter many reminders of the death. After that we will begin doing new things for ourselves, yet continue to miss our loved one. We may become frustrated as we attempt to do things the deceased once did for us. As a second year without the deceased begins we may find our feelings of loneliness and sadness have lessened. As we develop new relationships and do more things for ourselves our grief will diminish and we will be able to restore hope and happiness to our lives. Our grief, however, may never completely disappear as our memories linger.

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*The amount of individual contributions through collections, \$250,000.

Campus
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Office And In

This office : decisions of matters. Th dialogues and diocesan life commitment Livingston C Committee.

Office

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The purpose interests of reaching out coordinating of young ad young adults