

Friends in High Places?

Pope John Paul and Bishop Larkin Renew Friendship During Pilgrimage

By Fred Beuerlein

Mt. Morris — "This is my friend. Your bishop is my friend," Pope John Paul II recently told a group of priests on pilgrimage from St. Petersburg, Fla. to Rome. The friend referred to is Bishop W. Thomas Larkin, a native of this diocese, who also was in Rome for a number of reasons, educational updating among them. The son of the late William T. and Julia B. Larkin of Mt.

Morris was named bishop of St. Petersburg four years ago.

The pontiff and the bishop attended the seminary together in Rome a number of years ago; and it was Bishop Larkin's friendship with Pope John Paul that apparently opened a number of doors for the visiting priests and their parishioners.

Msgr. Laurence Higgins,

pastor of St. Lawrence Catholic Church of Tampa and vicar general of the diocese, said he was sure it was the friendship between the bishop and the pope that brought the Florida priests an invitation to take part in a private Mass with the pontiff.

As for the bishop himself, he considers the month spent in Rome to have been a "great experience." While in Rome he met with the pope

privately for about 20 minutes.

Bishop Larkin said he and the pontiff, then Karol Wojtyla, and about 20 other seminarians, had private rooms in the "Belgian College" near the seminary.

The two seminarians "used to walk to school together," Bishop Larkin said. "He used to practice his English along the way."

The recent reunion was not the first for the two prelates. While still only a monsignor, in 1979, Bishop Larkin attended a college reunion in Rome. Pope John Paul celebrated with his classmates during that reunion and joined them for a party afterwards. A month later came the news of Bishop Larkin's appointment.



Scout to Scouts

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan preaches at a Finger Lakes Council Boy Scouts "Be Fit for Life" Jamboree recently at Camp Babcock-Hovey. The jamboree, held every four years, drew nearly 1,000 scouts and their leaders across the diocese and from Canada. Bishop Hogan, retired Bishop of Rochester, is the only bishop recognized as a Distinguished Eagle Scout.

Forum Planned On Issues of Senior Citizens

A Community Forum on the "Issues and Problems Facing Our Senior Citizens" will take place at 7 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 26, in the Lena Ganit Apartments (formerly Hanover Houses) at 86 Vienna St., site of the Senior Citizens Friendly Neighbors Club.

Jean Smith and Jack Skvorak of the Regional

Council of the Aging will be among the presenters of the forum. Also taking part will be Mattie Sams, coordinator of the Baden Street Settlement Senior Citizens Program and Daisy Cason, a senior activist.

The forum is free and the public is invited. Further information is available from 328-3210, ext. 268 or 269.

Irish Ceili Dancing Continues

Despite the loss of their customary haunts, the former Moose lodge on East Avenue, the Hibernian Ceili Dancers are continuing their activities at the Knights of Columbus clubrooms on Thurston Road.

According to Frances Catherine Cosgrove, secretary of the group, adult lessons in Irish country dancing are held 7:30-8:30 p.m. on Mondays for beginners; 8:30-9:30 p.m. Mondays for advanced and intermediate dancers.

Additional information is available by calling 865-0633, or 621-4803.

Pope Lauds K. of C.

Vatican City (NC) — Pope John Paul II praised the Knights of Columbus Oct. 17 for striving "to foster among the laity a better understanding of their irreplaceable role in the church, something so greatly desired by the Second Vatican Council."

The organization was also praised for its pro-life activities.

The pope made his remarks during an audience with the Supreme Board of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic fraternal organization in the United States.

Pope John Paul thanked the organization for its "various projects on behalf of the universal church," and cited the efforts of the Knights to cooperate "with bishops, clergy and other members of the laity in numerous endeavors aimed at building up individual local churches and at aiding some of the most needy and defenseless members of society."

Deadline

Items intended for publication in At Your Parish must be written and at the Courier-Journal offices, 114 South Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607, before noon of Thursday preceding Wednesday publication.

Employee 42 Years Wins Oppy Award

Elmira — Ruth Mace, RN, a St. Joseph's Hospital career employee of 42 years, was awarded the Oppy Award in ceremonies at the hospital cafeteria recently.

She was cited by Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator, for her years of outstanding involvement in the School of Nursing. Miss Mace has served more than 2,000 students since graduation from the school herself and presently is regis-

trar. She has been social director, nursing instructor, health counselor and assistant director.

"Her kindness and concern synonymous with the example of the spirit of St. Joseph" were described as reasons for recognition by her nominator. "She has given and continues to give of herself to all with whom she comes in contact. She could never be adequately be rewarded."



McQuaid Actors Join Navy

U.S. navy men hop to scrub the ship's deck when the Captain in "Mr. Roberts", played by McQuaid actor Armando Columbo, makes his rounds. The play under the direction of Father William O'Malley, and featuring Peter McCarthy as Ensign Pulver and Kevin McCarthy as Mr. Roberts, will be presented at 8 p.m., Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Oct. 27-29 at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

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Pershing II Deployment 'Irrational': Physicist

Oakland, Calif. (NC) — Owen Chamberlain, winner of the 1959 Nobel Prize for physics, told a group of Catholic journalists Oct. 6 that deploying Pershing II nuclear missiles in Europe is "completely irrational."

He was one of three speakers at a discussion, "The Politics of Disarmament," at a Catholic Press Association regional meeting in Oakland Oct. 5-7.

Staff members and editors of 16 West Coast Catholic newspapers listened to Condoleezza Rice of the Center of International Security and Arms Control at Stanford University, Chamberlain, and the 1964 Nobel physics prize winner, Charles Townes.

Chamberlain, who helped develop the first atomic bomb, told the journalists that he opposed the planned deployment of Pershing II missiles in Europe this December.

"This cannot increase and can only decrease the safety of the United States," said Chamberlain, experimental physics group leader at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and professor of physics at the University of California, Berkeley. Chamberlain said he opposes the Pershing II missile for two reasons: its pinpoint accuracy and its speed which enables it to hit Soviet missile silos with only six minutes warning.

"This would force the Soviets to put their defense on a computer launch-on-warning posture," he said.

"With only six minutes warning the burden of deciding retaliation is placed on Soviet computers. The United States' warning systems have already suffered

numerous computer malfunctions that deceived us into thinking that there was an enemy attack," Chamberlain said. "Are we about to launch a new weapon that places the security of the American people on the good behavior of a Soviet computer?"

Townes, a member of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, said he believes that "to be a person of good will, being for arms control is not

enough. We need to work toward no nuclear war."

Townes told the journalists that he would be going to Moscow in a few weeks to participate in informal discussions with Soviet scientists about the arms race.

"We cannot afford to be partisan in this discussion," he said explaining that "people in a position of responsibility find it much more difficult to say what should be done."

Northwest Assembly Topic to Be Peace

Lourdes Perez-Albuerne, diocesan program director, International Justice and Peace Commission, will be the keynote speaker on "The Challenge of Peace" at the Northwest Region Assembly at 7:15 p.m., Friday, Oct. 28, at St. Anthony of Padua, 60 Lorimer St., Rochester.

The program will begin with registration, followed by

prayer at 7:45 and the keynote address at 8 p.m. Those attending will gather in small groups to discuss the issue and feedback is planned.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will offer an evening prayer at 9:30, followed by a social gathering at 10.

Registrations will be accepted at the door.

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For further information, write to:
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