



St. Theodore, Gates

Our Pilgrimage Churches

Holy Year 1983-84

By Father Robert F. McNamara

St. Theodore's Parish was established on Dec. 6, 1924. Bishop Thomas F. Hickey named, as founding pastor, Father John J. Baier, assistant pastor of Holy Family for the previous 12 years. Father Baier honored the beloved pastor of Holy Family, Father Dietrich (Theodore) Laurenzis by picking St. Theodore as the patron of the new Gates church. The first church was a simple temporary frame structure with three classrooms attached. Frank Frey was the architect. Erected at a cost of \$20,000, the new church was blessed on Oct. 25, 1925, by Bishop Hickey.

It was originally intended to eventually use the second and present St. Theodore's as a church hall. Edward M. Lorscheider was the architect of this and the attached school. Bishop James E. Kearney blessed it on Nov. 9, 1957. A complete interior renovation in 1982, according to the directives of Vatican II, turned this pro tem church into a permanent one. The Rochester architectural firm of Starks-Wurzer-Patterson-Romeo designed the remodeling. In this design

there is a special side-shrine for the Blessed Sacrament. The main, fixed altar is of rich hardwood. Behind the altar hangs a "Risen Christ" wrought in steel by local sculptor Carl Zollo.

After the retirement in 1961 of Father Raymond Epping, the second pastor (and builder of the second church and school), Msgr. Dennis W. Hickey was appointed pastor. In 1968, Pope Paul VI named Msgr. Hickey auxiliary bishop of Rochester -- a role which he still fulfills.

The present pastor, Father Gerald E. Dunn succeeded Bishop Hickey. He is well-known not only for renovating the church but for undertaking the construction, on the back of the ample church property, of two fine residences for senior citizens: Dunn Tower Apartments I and II.

Larger pilgrimages may wish to gather at the east end of the parking lot and proceed, in a devotional manner, led by a crossbearer, to the front entrance of the church. To arrange for the reception of your group, please call the rectory in advance -- 458-7846. St. Theodore's is at 168 Spencerport Road, Town of Gates (Rt. 31).



Infusion Workshop

Sister Joan Hart, O.S.U., of New York, leads a group of 30 parish representatives in an Infusion Curriculum Training Workshop sponsored by the diocesan education department last Thursday, Dec. 1 at the Cenacle. The workshop is an approach to education for Peace and Justice within the existing school curriculum. The participants will, in turn, train the staff in their own schools and parishes. The workshop will be repeated March 8-9 in Skaneateles.

Religious Invited To Special Jubilee As Part of Holy Year

Vatican City (NC) -- Religious from around the world have been invited to send representatives to the Vatican for a Feb. 2 Jubilee Day for Religious, a celebration aimed at emphasizing the obligation of Religious personally to obey Pope John Paul II as their superior.

The celebration, one of a series of events marking the Holy Year of Redemption, will be highlighted by a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica celebrated by Pope John Paul at which men and women Religious will renew their vows, according to the Vatican's Central Committee for the Holy Year.

Plans for the celebration were presented to religious communities through correspondence from the holy year committee.

Preparatory materials include an Aug. 30 letter to Religious announcing the celebration and the Nov. 13 edition of L'Osservatore Romano, which published a 16-page study of religious life prepared by the holy year committee.

The materials stress the obligation of Religious to obey the pope.

The Aug. 30 letter says that the Feb. 2 Mass includes renewal of vows "into the hands of the holy father."

The 16-page study stresses the new Code of Canon Law, especially Canon 590, which states that individual members of a religious community "are bound to obey the supreme pontiff as their highest superior, by reason also of their sacred bond of obedience."

The study also stresses that religious life exists within the church not side by side with it.

"The religious state is by its nature in the church and exists because of the church," the study says. "It is not seen vis a vis the church, confronting it and dialoguing with it as a stranger or as an equal."

The study adds that to talk about dialogue with the church "is absurd," whether such dialogue is by an institution or by an individual.

The study emphasizes the obligation of Religious to follow the new Code of Canon Law which was promulgated Nov. 27 and says that currently religious life is "in crisis." It suggests that the new code, which it describes as the "word of God mediated through a law of the church," will define religious life and end the crisis.

"Confessors will no longer be able to say to you that you are too good but they will have to control with a little bit more seriousness what it is you are doing before the expressed will of the church," the study says. It adds that if confessors do not know what canon law demands of Religious, then Religious are obliged to tell them.

"Who does not live this law is lukewarm and is no longer someone who has a few defects. Who does not accept this law is mediocre and has decided to be so consciously because that person knows what the church is asking," the study says.

The stress on obedience

also runs throughout other recent documents, such as the April 3 guidelines sent to the U.S. bishops by the Vatican Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes when the Vatican announced the formulation of a commission, headed by Archbishop John Quinn of San Francisco, to examine religious life in the United States.

"The Religious is pledged to obey the directives of lawful superiors according to the constitutions of the institute," said the congregation, "and further accepts a particular obedience to the holy father in virtue of the vow of obedience."

Vatican sources say it is no accident that the Holy See is stressing obedience.

"There's a strong stress on

CMSM: We Can't Make It

Silver Spring, Md. (NC) -- The president and officers of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men will not attend the Feb. 2 Jubilee Day for Religious at the Vatican "because of other commitments," the conference's administrative assistant said.

However, the conference will have a special Mass to "unite in spirit with all the Religious" gathering in Rome to renew their vows, said Divine Savior Father Keith Brennan.

Men Religious working in Rome will represent the CMSM, Father Brennan said, and the conference will send a special cable to the pope as an "expression of solidarity."

An Aug. 30 letter sent to the CMSM and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious invited U.S. Religious to participate in the Jubilee Day as part of the Holy Year of Redemption celebration. The LCWR president was not available for comment.

Conditions at Attica 'Worsened Steadily' According to Report

Buffalo -- Prisoners' Legal Services of New York, a statewide organization which assists prison inmates, released its report, "Attica: A Report on Conditions, 1983" at a press conference here last Tuesday, Nov. 22.

The report describes in detail the deplorable conditions at Attica Correctional Facility which led to a peaceful general protest by an overwhelming majority of inmates in mid-September this year.

"The conditions (at Attica Correctional Facility) have been worsening steadily over the last few years," states the report, and efforts by administrators to address the serious problems at Attica "have failed miserably."

Ellen Yacknin, managing attorney of the Buffalo office of Prisoners' Legal Services which has represented inmates at Attica since 1976, noted, "While the peaceful general strike conducted by

obedience now and I think that it is justified," said one official of the Vatican Curia, the church's central administration. "The pope is aware of what's happening in some areas, for example in the United States, where a lot of people have tuned out the pope and the Holy See. The pope is emphasizing the unity which should exist in the church."

The official added that the concept of dialogue promoted by many Religious is not accepted by the Holy See and referred to objections of some Religious in the United States that they were not consulted before the pope commissioned the study of U.S. religious life.

"If something is going to come out from Rome, the Holy See does not have to sit down and dialogue about it before the pope sends a letter. That's crazy," the official said.

"When the U.S. Senate does an investigation it does not consult people beforehand. It announces its investigation and then seeks information from all the persons involved. That is what the Vatican is doing," the official added.

Resolve Social

Resolve for Rochester will have a holiday social, 8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9 at the home of Keith and Melissa Goggin, 55 W. Main St. Honeoye Falls. The program is open to couples experiencing infertility. Further information is available by calling Resolve, 385-1628.

Court Forum

"You and the Criminal Courts," a day-long program sponsored by the task force on courts of Church Women United will run 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 12 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 S. Fitzhugh St. Further information available by calling 454-1813.

the inmates may have ended, the inexcusable conditions which led to the strike still exist. The administration at Attica and the Department of Correctional Services must be held accountable for these conditions, and cannot be permitted to allow them to continue."

The report also stated that overcrowding is not the major source of the problems at Attica. "Instead, the most severe conditions existing at Attica seem to stem from either the negative attitude exhibited by Attica officials toward the inmates and/or the failure of the administration to provide sufficient resources to the inmates."

The influence of the prison officials' negative attitude is "felt most strongly" in the areas of racism, administrative indifference, prisoner idleness, visitation, medical care, and prohibited use of the law library.