

Continuing Education Programs Offered by St. Bernard's Institute

The diocesan Office of Continuing Education at St. Bernard's Institute last week announced four series in adult continuing education, covering the topics: "The Myth and Challenge of Growing Older," "Conflict Resolution," "The New Code of Canon Law," and "Jesus Speaks the Words of Eternal Life."

Dr. Nathan Kollar will speak on "The Myth and Challenge of Growing Older," 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 16 at St. Cecilia Church, 2732 Culver Road. SBI literature states, "This presentation examines the many stereotypes and false stories about what happens after middle age, and offers suggestions to parents and their children about growing older gracefully."

A fee of \$4 and registration is sent to Office of Continuing Education, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester, N.Y. 14620, before Jan. 8.

John Engels and James Ramerman will speak on

"Conflict Resolution" techniques based on the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at two separate locations: Feb. 14 at St. Anne Hall, 1600 Mt. Hope Ave, Rochester; or Feb. 16 at St. John the Baptist Hall, 325 Lake St., Elmira.

Participants are asked to read the pastoral letter in advance and to bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be provided.

A \$5 fee and registration is sent to the Office of Continuing Education by Feb. 1. A limited number of copies of the pastoral letter are also available from the office.

A three-part program on "The New Code of Canon Law" will also be held in two locations. The course will explore the new code as it affects: the ministry of the Church through all its people; the role of the catechist with emphasis on sacramental preparation; and divine worship, liturgy, and the

administrative aspects of Church life.

The program will be 7:30-9:30 p.m., March 28, May 9 and June 6. Father Donald J. Curtis, diocesan vice official will present the program at St. John the Evangelist Church, 549 Humboldt St., Rochester. Father Douglas Hoffman, chaplain at Cornell University, will present the program at St. Mary's Church, 155 State St., Corning.

Fees are \$4 per lecture or \$10 for the series and should be sent with registration before March 15 to the Office of Continuing Education.

"Jesus Speaks the Words of Eternal Life," is the title of a five-part, series to be given in four locations. SBI literature states, "Jesus spoke to teach us how to know God better, to love him more, and to serve our brother and sister in love. This five-part series specifically centers on the words of Jesus spoken to: teach; sanctify; liberate, energize and enable; and offer eternal life."

Participants are asked to bring bibles.

Times and dates for the programs are 3-5 p.m., March 13, 20 and 27, and April 3 and 10. The Elmira programs are 3:30-5:30 p.m. on the same dates.

Father Robert Werth will give the program at Scutari Hall, Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Rochester; Sister Mary Augustine Malley, RSM, St. Ann's Church, Hornell; Father Paul Tomasso, St. Stephen's Church, Geneva; and Sister Mary George Burns, RSM, Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira.

A \$10 fee is sent with registration, by March 1 to Office of Continuing Education.

Pope Praises Struggle Against Mafia

Vatican City (NC) -- Pope John Paul II praised the efforts of Sicilian bishops to fight the Mafia and decried the "barbarous violence" which continues on the Italian island of Sicily despite strong criticism by the church.

"Certain acts of barbarous violence, which provoke sorrow, astonishment and dismay, offend human dignity," the pope said in a Dec. 12 speech to 1,500 Sicilians on pilgrimage to the Vatican for the Holy Year of Redemption.

The pope called on the people of Sicily to assume a position "of love in the face of hatred and violence" and to "have an authentic mobilization of conscience" in order to oppose the Mafia.

The bishops of Sicily also have been speaking strongly against the Mafia. In 1982 Cardinal Salvatore Pappalardo of Palermo criticized government officials for not curbing the Mafia. Following his criticism the Sicilian bishops issued a statement warning that people associated with the Mafia could incur automatic excommunication for some of their illegal acts.

The pope, who did not mention the Mafia by name, praised Cardinal Pappalardo for his "tireless, intrepid, and evangelical pastoral actions."

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album for loan at these Libraries: Rundel, Brighton, Chili, Gates, Greece, Irondequoit, Webster, also Auburn, Corning, Elmira, Ithaca

Kolping Unit Slates Mass

The traditional German Christmas Mass, sponsored by the Rochester Kolping Society, will be celebrated 1:30 p.m., Jan. 8 at St. Boniface Church, 330 Gregory St.

The event features the use of the German language in all

of the celebration and the singing of German Christmas carols.

Following the Mass, the public is invited to coffee and kuchen in the school hall. Maria Bors is president of the local group.

Camp Reunion Scheduled

Albany -- Alumni of Marian Lodge, Camp Tekawitha, and Pyramid Lake Camp, the present Albany diocesan camp, are invited to the second annual reunion from 1-4 p.m., on Saturday, Jan. 7, at the College of St. Rose Activities Building on Western Avenue here.

Planned activities will include swimming in the college pool, games in the gymnasium, and a chance to view slides, pictures and a videotape of camp reminiscences.

For more information contact Sister Peg Sullivan, Pyramid Lake Camp, 39 Philip Street, Albany, 12207; or call 518/463-4411.

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Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Why We Insist on Consensus

Dear Father Hohman, You said that the second reason for the failure of parish councils is the failure to use consensus as the method of reaching decisions and policies. The democratic process of following Roberts Rules of Order and then voting seems to work for every organization I have known. Why shouldn't it be good enough for parish councils? It seems to me that consensus is unwieldy and for all practical purposes unworkable. How can you ever get 15 to 20 people to agree on anything of importance?

J.F.
Dear J.F. The first thing to be remembered is that consensus is NOT getting unanimous agreement on every proposition or issue. We realize that would be a virtual impossibility. However, I think there would be more problems getting agreement on matters of lesser importance or matters of taste than there would be on major issues affecting the whole parish. Secondly, consensus is an ideal to be striven for, and so it might not, in view of human limitations, work in every single instance. Allow me to set forth the major reasons why I feel the normal political process of voting is not the best for parish councils and eventually would lead to their dissolution. Politicking and voting involve of necessity, adversary relationships and winners and losers. Power of one sort or

another is the instrument by which victory is achieved and hostility is difficult to avoid especially in situations where the outcome has importance to the participants.

I hope it is not pushing the point too far to remember that the Hebrew word for adversary is "satan." God is not an adversary. He is against no one. He is against only evil.

Rather than facing off against one another, marshalling arguments for their position and refuting the arguments of the other, the Christian must be striving for the truth in Christ and therefore seeking whatever of truth can be found in the position of the other.

The stance of Christians in a decision-making or direction-finding process is to discern God's will by discerning what is best alongside the other participants rather than over against them.

Our perception of what is best for the community has become expanded and modified by sharing the perceptions of the others. Christ is the capstone and we are all looking toward him rather than dealing with one another as adversaries.

Consensus is more than anything a shared attitude toward how a problem should be solved. It is not easy, nor is it a panacea. But I do believe it is what will make parish councils truly Christian and distinguish them from other organizations.

In his book, "Making All Things New," Father Henri Nouwen says, "In true community, we are windows constantly offering each other new views on the mystery of God's presence in our lives."

A TAX DEDUCTION FOR '83

Help the needy with a tax deductible gift of clothing, furniture, appliances or an auto. We will pick up your contributions.

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Saturday, January 7, 1984 at 8:30 A.M.

for applications and information call 473-1130

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