

# Families of the Head-Injured Forge Links for Medical Care

There are more persons left disabled after head injury in the United States than from any other neurological condition with the exception of strokes.

It is estimated that 50,000 each year are victims of the aftermath of head injuries. And adding an average of three family members who

must care for the victims, the number of those affected amounts to 200,000 people a year.

These statistics are published by a unique organization, the National Head Injury Association, a group with a New York State chapter and active proponents in the diocese.

In fact, one family, parishioners at St. Helen's Church, is helping to spearhead a drive to establish a medical facility dedicated to the care of the head injured in this area.

Four years ago, Kevin Brown, at the age of 18, was in an automobile accident which left him severely brain-injured.

This past Christmas, the son of Jim and Jean Brown was home for the holidays, home from a facility in Austin, Tex., the sole facility the Browns could find capable of dealing with Kevin's difficulties.

Considering the numbers of those traumatized in head injuries, it is a wonder to the Browns and many others that they had to look such a distance for help.

The founder of the organization, Muriel Lezak of the University of Oregon, recently stated, "I've been saddened, distressed and frequently outraged at the lack of facilities and the political insensitivity (for the head-injured).

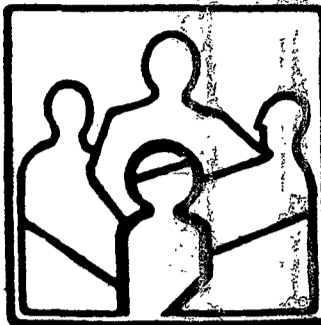
"Once these accident victims leave the hospital, there is often nowhere they can turn to for the specialized rehabilitation they need, and their intellectual handicaps are misinterpreted as laziness or carelessness."

She said that some head-injury victims are placed in psychiatric institutions or schools for the mentally retarded, although their problems require a quite different sort of care.

The association has several goals:

"Get the public and professionals to recognize our unique problems;

"Get help for the head



injured and their families. "Get together for mutual support;

"Develop the skills and services to answer our problems medically, socially and personally."

And in particular, the state chapter wants the "development of a long-term rehabilitation facility and residential center within the state along with community based vocational training, community residences, day programs and the head-injured individual," association literature states.

In Rochester, the association numbers 125 families pledged to raise public awareness of the problems the head-injured and their families face.

The Browns recently remarked that while the area has some eminent neurosurgeons and neuropsychologists, there is no treatment center. It is the hope of the group that by generating public interest and support for the problem, enough leverage will be forthcoming to create such a center.

Further information on the association is available from David and Sharon Hooper, 130 Parma Road, Hilton, N.Y. 14468. The Hoopers are regional directors of the group.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

## Southern Tier Kept The Faith

An invitation to supply at a Southern Tier parish is a special joy to me. The parishes in the Southern Tier never went haywire with Fancy Dan liturgies and doctrinal dubieties after Vatican II. There is a strong Eucharistic devotion, and a great love of Our Lady. There is a genuine loyalty to the Holy Father, a happy contrast to the contestations against the pope and the Holy See by many vocal secularized Catholics. It has an active concern for the poor and needy, with a generous Human Development program. Catholic education has been loyally retained. The people have been little affected by that fake sophistication which tilts the nose at traditional Catholicism, an affectation so thoroughly exposed by Dr. James Hitchcock in his "Decline and Fall of Radical Catholicism," a book I highly recommend.

So when Father Richard Murphy engaged me to supply for him at St. Mary's in Corning for the weekend of Jan. 7-8, I was pleased. He is a man of many gifts besides those of the priesthood: He was graduated from the University of Rochester and was encouraged to the priesthood by the then chaplain, Father John Hedges. He served in parishes as an assistant, chaplain at Notre Dame High School in Elmira, taught in colleges. He was chaplain at Cornell University before succeeding Father Michael Hogan as pastor of St. Mary's. I have been a friend of his mother in Shortsville since supplying there for a month for Father John Wolloch nearly 10 years ago.

En route to Corning is Livonia, where my friend, Father Robert Kress is retired and in residence, though expectedly very active. The pastor is Father Jerome Schifferli. So I phoned: "I can go to Corning Friday, and will stop for supper."

"We don't have a cook on Fridays, but we can go out for a fish fry." I had never been in Livonia, and was edified by the fine church, the Haggerty Catechetical Center and the homey rectory — and

a parish bustling with activity. We went to Maxim's restaurant in the village. Many people came to our table to greet Father Schifferli, who has been pastor in Livonia for 11 years, and evidently is greatly regarded by the people. In contrast to the funny priests presented by Father Andrew Greeley and "The Thorn Birds," etc., it was good to realize that people see what the real priesthood is. And they hold it in respect and love.

The Corning assignment was a happy one. Father Thomas Brennan, pastor emeritus, was a gracious host. Father Murphy had given me the pulpit. I spoke on prayer and sold more than 600 copies of "Treasury of Prayers." The congregations, totalling about 900 souls, were devout. The choir was exceptional, and even sang two beautiful Latin hymns.

The folk group was also good. Deacon Ray DeFendorf soldiered me around competently at the last Mass; and Sister Mary George Burns, a fellow Auburnian, presently the pastoral assistant, was my agent for the sale of the prayer books.

Significant of the religious spirit of the people is the interior of the church. It is large and beautiful, with a long history. A few years ago, the then pastor, Father Hogan, planned with the parish council to redecorate the interior. The people enthusiastically subscribed more than the amount needed. The interior decorations show a respect for the feeling of the people and the theology of the Church regarding the Communion of the Saints, for the devotional statues remain, reverent reminders of the family in heaven.

The Blessed Sacrament was not shunted to the side, to a gawky chapel which destroys the symmetry of the architecture and detracts from the devotions, but remains on the high altar where the devout eyes can gaze and make the acts of love and adoration to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

It was a good weekend, and super-good because more than 600 little prayer books are planted in the parish, to produce great spiritual fruit for a long time to come.

Thanks be to God.

## Presbyterians Fund GEM Action Project

A grant of \$8,000 has been awarded the Neighborhood Action Project of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and the Judicial Process Commission by United Presbyterian Women, an organization in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

The Rochester project was one of 78 around the world which received a funding commitment from the Presbyterian Women's Opportunity Fund.

The grant will enable the project "to work with unemployed young people in an

### Special 'Focus'

Focus on the Eucharist will have a special observance of the Feast of the Presentation, offering religious men and women the opportunity to renew their vows or promises before the Blessed Sacrament, and to sign a statement of support for Pope John Paul II, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 2 at St. Salome's Church. The evening includes Evening Prayer, recitation of the rosary, Mass, silent adoration and benediction.

### ME Information

Ithaca — A Marriage Encounter information night will take place at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7, at the Women's Community Building, 100 W. Seneca St. Anyone interested is welcome.

## Pope on Baptism

Vatican City (NC) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's remarks in English at his weekly general audience Jan. 11.

Dear brothers and sisters, I offer a very cordial welcome to the English-speaking visitors who are present at the audience today. In the peace of Christ our savior I greet you all.

A few days ago, we celebrated the feast of the baptism of Jesus, a feast which shows us the humility of our savior as he submits to being baptized by John in the Jordan River.

Even though he is absolutely sinless, Christ receives this baptism of penance and conversion in order to take upon himself the sins of all humanity.

By descending into the waters, he shows his willingness to offer his life in sacrifice for the redemption of all mankind.

The baptism of Jesus is also the foundation of the sacrament of Christian baptism, for in this sacrament the fruits of the sacrifice of Christ are given to each new member of the church.

In our baptism, we are redeemed from sin and given a share in the very life of God.

May our Lord and redeemer be with you all.

### Adoration

The monthly adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at noon on the Feast of the Presentation, Feb. 2, at Blessed Sacrament Church. Rosary will be recited at 12:15 p.m.; and benediction will be celebrated at 5 p.m.

preceding the regular 5:20 p.m. Mass. The intention for the month, according to Wilma Higgs, the organizer of the afternoon, is "that penance and reparation will save our country."

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