

St. Charles Borromeo Church To Host 'Four Chaplains' Rite

St. Charles Borromeo Church will host a major observance of "Four Chaplains Day" with a Mass, 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 5.

Father Elmer Heindl, Monroe County chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and chaplain of the county United Veterans Association, will be the celebrant.

Father Heindl, associate pastor of St. Charles, served 41 months as chaplain in front line service in the Southwest Pacific during World War II. One of the most highly decorated chaplains in the country, he was admitted into the Legion of Valor of the United States of America and cited for gallantry in action at Bilibid Prison in Manila.

Since his return to the diocese, he has maintained an

active ministry to armed forces personnel, serving as chaplain to the 98th Division Reserve, the American Legion, and the VFW, in addition to his parochial and diocesan duties.

Four Chaplains Day commemorates the heroism of four chaplains of different religions who died saving the lives of others Feb. 3, 1943.

Early that morning the U.S. troop transport Dorchester was torpedoed off the coast of Greenland.

The chaplains distributed the life jackets to the men aboard; and when the supply was exhausted, gave up their own life jackets and put them on four young GIs.

Twenty five minutes later, the Dorchester went down. The chaplains had helped save 200 of the men aboard.

The last anyone saw of them, the chaplains were standing on the slanting deck, their arms linked, in prayer.

They were First Lts. Clark V. Poling (Reformed Church of America), Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), John P. Wellington (Catholic), George L. Fox (Methodist).

Also taking part in the rites Feb. 5 will be Rev. William Solomog, Rabbi Aaron Solomon, and Dr. Robert Fisher, each of whom will take an active role in the Liturgy of the Word and who will give tribute to the appropriate member of the Four Chaplains.

Colors will be posted by various Post representatives; a proclamation will be issued by County Manager Lucien Morin; the gifts will be

brought to the altar by auxiliary representatives; and the hymns will include "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "America the Beautiful," and "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

The observance will be particularly significant this year, Father Heindl said, in light of the recent publication of "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on war and peace.

Public attention on other topics in that letter tended to obscure a major point, that of the Church's abiding interest in, and advocacy of, the welfare of armed services personnel, he said.

He recently noted: "The pastoral is not against the veteran. It states that 'We are



Father Heindl will celebrate the Mass on Four Chaplains Day.

grateful for the sacrifice that so many in the military service must make today and for the services of many offered in the past by veterans."

"Like all veterans who sacrificed positively and practically for peace, the pastoral prays for peace in a diverse way. May it help us all to obtain that true and lasting peace for which we

have all striven, we all want, and for which we all pray."

Father Heindl cited the words of poet Joseph Auslander in describing the ministry of the Four Chaplains: "Bound by a passion for Liberty/And a burning Faith that keeps men free/In the bond of human brotherhood."

Return to Brooklyn

(Several months ago, the Courier-Journal, published an account of life in Brooklyn — not New York — but the slum outside Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Recently, Father M. Basil Pennington, a Brooklyn, N.Y. native, now Trappist monk of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass. submitted the following view of that same community.)

By Father M. Basil Pennington, OSCO

A few months ago I flew to Port-au-Prince. That evening the little group I was with went up into the hills to see the poor gardeners who eke a livelihood out of the poor soil and hike for miles through the hills twice a week to a fair to sell a few dollars worth of vegetables, hardly enough to buy the most needed staples.

The next morning Father Lawrence Bohnen picked us up in his well-worn van and we were soon in Brooklyn — Brooklyn, Haiti, perhaps a half million people (no one records the births and deaths) crowded into a space less than 1/20 the size of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Like its namesake, it too is lapped by ocean waters, but they first come through a foul swamp, or rather Brooklyn itself is in the swamp.

Many of the streets are three feet wide, half of which is an open drain. Except Main Street, it is about eight feet wide, with a large open sewage drain running down the middle. I won't talk about the smells or the sights. I will only recall that until Father Bohnen dug a few wells at his main schools, the thirsty children drank out of the open drains, adding to the very high infant mortality rate.

The one similarity to Brooklyn, N.Y. is the presence of fine new street signs — perhaps they are better than any in Brooklyn, N.Y. They probably cost more than any of the metal huts on the streets they mark. One wonders how they ever got there.

How did Brooklyn, Haiti come about?

More than a decade ago "Papa Doc" Duvalier decided he wanted to spruce up Port-au-Prince to make it more attractive to tourists, especially from the United States.

The poorest were herded out into the swamps beyond La Saline, the existing slum, while their hovels were burned and bulldozed to make room for wide new streets in downtown Port-au-Prince. The deportees were given ten-by-ten metal huts, flat-roofed, with a door, but no windows.

These were set in streets, as I have said, only three feet wide in many places, with barely a few inches between neighboring houses. There was no work out in the swamps for these poor people. Some are lucky enough to be able to find something in the city. There were no schools in the new "town." There was no water supply or sewage control, just open drains dug in the streets. A single train track ran through the town.

The people themselves christened this new suburb Brooklyn — just as other deportees have baptized their slums Boston and Tokyo. Many of these slum dwellers have relatives or know of Haitians in that far-away mythical place called Brooklyn, N.Y. where they hear everyone has enough to eat and to wear, everyone has running water and windows in their homes, and all the children can go to school.

What does it do to the dignity of a young man of ten or twelve to have to go naked much of the time to save his one T-shirt and shorts for school? To have to stand every day in a long line to await a handout to keep from starving? To sleep on a mud floor — wet with the overflow from the drains in a rainy season — packed in with 20 or so others of all ages where bodies are used and abused? I would rather not go on.

I mentioned Father Bohnen, my guide. Father is one of God's remarkable servants. To look at him you would never suspect this brisk, energetic Salesian is 70 plus. He arrived in Port-au-Prince 28 years ago to administer the Salesian trade school. He was struck by the fact that although the school bordered on the slum area, there were very few poor children in the school. The fathers explained

to him that very few of the poor could ever get the elementary education necessary to begin studies at the trade school.

Father Bohnen set about remedying this by setting up small grammar schools right in the slums. When Brooklyn came into being, he adopted it.

Today in its crowded streets there are 125 grammar schools with some 12,000 pupils. It is at his central schools that one finds the only safe and clean water supply in the "town." Each day his thousands of school children line up to receive a meager meal, their only sustenance in most cases.

The day I was there I was invited to help distribute the food. Have you ever passed out food to 3,000 children non-stop? Exhausted? Yes! Uplifted? Yes! Depressed? Terribly!

We started with some beans and rice (Father Bohnen's name in his native Holland means "bean," and he has an organization there called "Beans for Father Bean," which helps feed his 12,000 children), a roll and a container of milk.

We ran out of beans and rice, so then each got only a roll and milk. Then we ran out of milk and each got a roll. Then we ran out of rolls.

Father broke open some tins of army biscuits dated 1968. Each little one received three army biscuits as his ration for the day. I would have wept if it were not for the big innocent eyes that looked up at me and the bungling efforts of these little Haitians to say "thank you." Continual malnourishment has left these little ones much littler, some hardly up to my knees.

(One of Father Pennington's intentions in submitting this essay is to draw attention to the organization Food for the Poor, directed by Ferdinand Mahfood, 1301, W. Copans Road, Pompano Beach, Fla., 33064. The organization is a tax-exempt, charitable trust, which helps feed the starving of Haiti and Jamaica.)

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Agnes

Avon — The Rosary Society of St. Agnes Church will host a reception to welcome Fathers John Duffy and Daniel Hogan, and to wish "bon voyage" to Father Charles Bennett as he prepares to leave for studies in Rome, following the 11 a.m. Mass, Feb. 5 in the rectory.

Winter Fun Planned

There will be a skiing party, sponsored by The Rochester International Friendship Council for international students on area campuses, from 3 p.m. until midnight on Saturday, Feb. 11 at Bristol Mountain. Cost is \$15 per person and includes transportation, lift ticket, rental, and lesson.

Trips are open to all international students and members. Further information is available from Jeanne Marie Liebigott at 467-2309 or the RIFC Office, 262-3482.

St. John, City

Dr. Dennis Boike will present the second program in a four-session workshop for parents of teenagers and adolescents, "Communication with Teenagers," 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 1, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt St. A fee of \$3 per session is payable at the door. The remaining topics are "Discipline of Teens," Feb. 8; and "Adolescent Sexuality," Feb. 15. Teenagers are welcome with their parents.

St. Thomas Apostle

A "Fifties Dance," sponsored by the St. Thomas the Apostle Home-School Association, will be 8 p.m.-midnight, Friday, Feb. 10 at the School, 41 Colerbrook Drive. Tickets, for those over 19 only, are available for \$2.50 in advance, and \$3 at the door. Beverages will be sold separately. Tickets are available from Shari Haight, 544-8385; Marlene Mura, 544-9916; Donna Schlaefter, 342-2379.

St. Cecilia

The Sacrament of Reconciliation was recently celebrated by 50 children from St. Cecilia's Parish. The 30 third graders in the school and 20 children in the parish CCD program attended a workshop conducted by Bob Bly, religious education coordinator, then went to church where they were met by their families and friends. Father Walter Cushing, pastor, conducted the service, assisted by Father Robert Hammond. Following the service, the children, their families and friends attended a party in their honor.

St. Philip Neri

The St. Philip Neri Women's Club card party will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 7 in the school hall. Donation is \$1.50 per person. Chairing the event are Santa Meloni and Josephine De Frank. Tickets are available by calling Ms. Meloni, 482-9991; or the rectory, 482-2400.

Special Advisory

The Courier-Journal is prohibited by law to publish notices of gambling games, including Bingo, lotteries, raffles. It is further prohibited to publish announcements of prizes won by such activity. The Courier-Journal deadline is noon on Thursday, for publication the following Wednesday. Items for At Your Parish must be submitted in writing. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St. Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

St. Helen

The Altar Rosary Society has scheduled a card party for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the parish center. Refreshments will be served and admission is \$2 a ticket. All are welcome.

St. John, Greece

The Women's Guild of St. John the Evangelist in Greece will have a card and board game party, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 15 in the Parish Center, 2400 Ridge Road W. The public is invited to the event. Admission is \$1.50.

Holy Family

The Rosary Society of Holy Family Parish will meet 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8 in the Pine Room. A Valentine Party will follow a business meeting. Hostess for the evening will be Mrs. Anthony Mastrella.

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FATIMA DEVOTIONS

Honor Our Lady's request at Fatima by attending 1st Saturday Devotions at Guardian Angels Church, 2061 East Henrietta Road, Henrietta, on February 4, 1984 after 9 A.M. Mass. Sponsored by the Queen of the Americas Guild.