

Elmira Parish Plans Census

Elmira -- St. Mary's Southside is preparing for a parishwide count to begin on "Census Sunday," March 18.

According to Father James E. Boyle, pastor, "This will be the first such endeavor since 1976. It becomes necessary that the census be accomplished at this time for

several reasons. In order to plan our parish efforts, it is incumbent upon us to be as aware as humanly possible of the parish profile."

More than 1,500 families comprise the parish which extends from the Chemung River on the north to the Pennsylvania border on the south.

"The needs of our church community are the same as in the past, but need to be addressed in today's environment," Father Boyle said. "It is hoped that through completion of the census cards, we will be better able to identify those needs. The results will also allow us to evaluate those services presently ordered, as well as personally discuss them with those who may be unaware."

The 300-person census undertaking will be headed by Fritz Clark, chairman of the Parish Council, and Father Boyle. Volunteers will visit every parish home between March 18 and April 15.

Non-Catholic churches in the Southside and other county Catholic churches will be alerted to the census as the canvass will take place from door to door in order to reach Catholics newly moved into the parish.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Faith, Beauty, Transfiguration

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 17:1-9. (R2) 2 Tm. 1:8-10. (R1) Gn. 12:1-4.

Sunday's first reading tells us that God calls each of us as He did Abraham. St. Paul states that although this call is based on no merits of our own, it entails hardships. But these should in no way deter our response, for the call is to immortality, like that of Moses and Elijah, and to a transfigured glory such as ecstasized Peter in the Gospel.

The incident of the Transfiguration is so familiar to all of us that it needs little commentary. Some affirmations of the Transfiguration are:

Jesus is true God and true man.

Heaven is a reality. The just live forever in glory.

Saints, like Moses and Elijah, are concerned about earthly events.

Jesus' death came as no surprise.

His words dispel fear. At the Transfiguration, out of a cloud (symbol of God the Father) came a voice which said, "listen to him." This command is addressed to all of us. For, like the Twelve, we too would like to take the cross out of living. It cannot be. No cross, no crown! Jesus taught it. "Listen to Him."

The Transfiguration, moreover, was only a passing experience. Peter was not permitted to erect three booths on the mountain. The experience was meant to sustain him through the "scandal" of the cross. So most religious experiences are ephemeral. God would have us glimpse a tiny wisp of glory even here on earth. But His touches or our "tasting and seeing" as, for instance, at a prayer meeting, are meant to convert the sinner or to deepen a life already religious or to encourage one over some Calvary period. A man's reach should exceed his grasp, else what's Heaven for?

A final point about Jesus' Transfiguration: it was a vision of beauty unparalleled. Sometimes one hears the charge made, "Why doesn't the Church sell her art treasures and feed the poor?" First of all, she does feed the poor. Consider Mother Teresa of India. In his "Memoirs," Cardinal Mindszenty notes the massive aid Pope Pius XII gave to the starving of Budapest in 1945. Furthermore, the wealth amassed from the

sale of all the Vatican art treasures wouldn't feed the world for a single day, nor keep the NASA program going for one week.

Had she ever done this, consider the terrible loss to future generations. Suppose these art treasures had fallen into iconoclastic hands. Do you not think that there are others like the man who tried to smash the Pieta? Even an American president did not hesitate to bomb Monte Cassino.

I saw countless statues in Spain defaced by the godless soldiery of the French Revolution. Suppose the Communists got their hands on the Vatican art treasures? We can well imagine what would happen to religious art in the hands of those who call religion the opium of the people and who use churches for barracks and stables. It is not well that she who inspired Christian art, who endures for all ages, should be its custodian?

Still, how generous and free the Church as been with her art wealth. Iran would not allow a jeweled snuff box (valued at \$5 million, imagine, and that was just one tiny item of the crown jewels to be sent to France for viewing. But the Vatican shipped the Pieta to the World Fair in America. She allowed Life magazine to photograph the entire Sistine Chapel. So prodigal has she been with her art wealth that Michaelangelo, Raphael, Botticelli are household words.

But what has all this got to do with the Transfiguration? Plenty. Religious faith inspires beauty and beauty transfigures life. Was not this why God put beauty into nature? Why He ordered His temple to be of gold and marble and incorruptible wood? Beauty thrills the heart. "If eyes were made for seeing, then beauty is its own excuse for being." But beauty bred by religious faith uplifts the soul. Does not the world have enough of buildings of granite and stone-scraping the sky but leaving the heart cold and gray? Does not materialism need to be counterbalanced by the "things of the spirit?"

On the mountain, Jesus let three glimpse real beauty, real truth, real goodness. They need to see it to carry them through life in the valley. And so do we! Christian art is the cultural expression of the Christian Faith, as cult is its liturgical expression. Together they spell civilization—Christian civilization.

DeSales Starts Drive

Geneva -- DeSales High School has launched its Annual Support Campaign. This year the goal is a minimum of \$85,000. According to Sam Boncaro, president of the DeSales School Board, \$75,000 of the money raised this year will go into the school's operating budget. In addition to the DeSales alumni, parents and friends, most local business, professional and financial leaders in Geneva, Waterloo and Seneca Falls area also will be solicited.

This year's appeal is under the leadership of Dan Gordon, Dr. Edgar Prindle and Joanne Van De Mortel of Geneva and Robert Oyler of Waterloo.

Notre Dame Plans 1984 Appeal Drive

Elmira -- Ralph Meyer, president of the Notre Dame High School board of governors, has announced that the school's Second Annual Support Campaign has a goal of \$65,000 in contributions and pledges to be collected during the period of March 27 through April 12.

Meyer pointed out that only 46 percent of the cost to educate a student at the school is currently being met through tuition charges.

He said that \$20,000 of the total goal has already been budgeted to meet operational costs for this year. Other financial needs to be addressed include a new gym roof, driveway repairs and minor capital improvement to the school buildings.

Sister Mary Walter Hickey, RSM, school principal, added that recent im-

provements and additions to the school included a new school bus, a new kiln for the art department and new electronic typewriters for the business department.

Sister Hickey added that funds from this year's appeal could be channeled into computer, audio-visual, tapes and other equipment plus replacements of some classroom desks and cafeteria tables.

Leaders of this year's appeal are co-chairpersons Mary Pat Cicciariello, J. Peter Fennell Sr., and G. Thomas Tranter Sr.

Plans for the campaign call for the solicitation of all Notre Dame and Elmira Catholic High School alumni, and the business, financial, professional and other leaders of the community.

N.C. College Honors Episcopal Priest

Father Thomas L. Hanson, priest-in-charge of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Holcomb, and a Catholic Family Center marriage and family counselor, has received the Distinguished Service Award at the Founders Day ceremony of St. Augustine's College, a predominantly black Episcopal institution in Raleigh, N.C.

The award was presented by Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, president of the college, citing Father Hanson as a "remarkable priest and man of compassion." The citation listed Father Hanson's many positions and said, "Your

special concerns are expressed by providing counseling with marriage, divorce, family and single life. We recognize you for the character, ability and integrity that you have brought to Christian service in your community and the institutional support through your wife's commitment as a trust to this institution."

A member of the Commission on Ministry for the Rochester Episcopal diocese, Father Hanson received his Doctor of Ministry in 1982 from Colgate-Rochester. The Hansons live in Pittsford.

Exhibit Sign-up

The prospectus for artists submitting works for the 1984 Rochester-Finger Lakes Exhibition is available at the Memorial Art Gallery. This year cash awards to artists with works of outstanding merit will total \$5,400. Competition judge is Robert M. Murdock, chief curator, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For further information call 275-4755 or 275-3081.

Montessori

The Greece Montessori School, 200 Alcott Road, is accepting applications for the 1984-85 school year, beginning in September. Places are available for children 2½-6 years old.

Father Hayes to Be Dominican Chaplain

Elmira -- Father John S. Hayes, rector emeritus of Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester and present pastor of St. Patrick's in Aurora and St. Michael's in Union Springs and chaplain at Wells College, has been named chaplain to the Dominican Nuns of the Monastery of Mary the Queen. The appointment was tendered in the name of the community by Sister David Marie, OP, prioress, and by her recently elected successor, Sister Miriam, OP.



FATHER HAYES

Father Hayes is completing 44 years of service to the diocese. He has an MA from the University of Rochester, including studies at Oxford University in England. He also has a Master of Divinity from St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Hayes has taught in teacher-training sessions in Religious Education programs in Auburn and Seneca Falls. Last year, Bishop Matthew H. Clark appointed him to the Tribunal as defender of the bond and judge.

Father Hayes served previously in Elmira; from 1958 to 1966, he was pastor of St. Patrick's. Under his direction, the parish hall was built and the school remodeled. He inaugurated the custom of a Pontifical Mass on St. Patrick's Day. In those years, he was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and of the finance committee of the NAACP.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, one of three bishops he served as Cathedral rector, was the subject of a memoir written by Father Hayes. The new chaplain recently returned from a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome where he celebrated Mass with Pope John Paul II.

A major in the Army, Father Hayes served in World War II with Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army. Decorated for

heroism, he received a letter of commendation from Patton for writing a history of the 183rd Field Artillery Group.

"I am delighted to return to Elmira," Father Hayes said, "where I worked so happily in the past. I look forward to sharing the intensive prayer life of the Dominican sisters, following such distinguished predecessors as Msgr. Leo Schwab, Father Edward Golden and so many others."

Archbishop Thomas C. Kelly, OP, of Louisville, another native of the Rochester diocese, will install Father Hayes as a member of the Third Order of St. Dominic on May 5. He will become resident chaplain Aug. 1.

Abortion Film Scheduled

Waterloo -- Seneca County Right to Life will show the movie "A Matter of Choice" at 8:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21 at St. Mary's School, 35 Center St.

The film discusses the pros and cons of abortion from the points of view of various doctors, counselors, and women who have both had abortions and decided to carry their babies to term.

The film will be followed by a presentation from Dr. Ken Berkes of Penn Yan, a surgeon who will relate his personal experiences with abortion.

For more information, call Mary Ann Connolly, 315/539-3768.

Take Time to Renew Yourself This LENT

"Create a pure heart within me O God. Put a new and loyal spirit in me." (Psalm 51:10)

SUGGESTED READING

- HE IS RISEN By Thomas Merton
- THE LAST DAY OF JESUS By Gerhard Lohfink
- LENT BEGINS AT HOME By Pat and Rosemary Ryan
- QUIET PLACES WITH JESUS By Rev. Isaias Powers C.P.
- "Precious Moments" Figurines—now available.
- HOURS: Mon., Tues., Wed.; Sat: 10-5 Thurs., Fri.: 10-8

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