

Diocesan Festival Choir Presents 'Easter' Messiah

The Passion and Resurrection sections of Handel's "The Messiah" will be presented by the Diocesan Festival Choir, under the direction of Sister Virginia Hogan, SSJ, 4 p.m., April 1 in the motherhouse chapel of the Sisters of St. Joseph, 4095 East Ave.

The concert will also mark

the 75-voice choir's tenth anniversary.

The choir will be accompanied by the Perinton Community Orchestra.

Soloists for the event will be Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, soprano; Sister Mary Ellen Campbell, SSJ, alto; John Harris, tenor; and Alan Mosher, bass.

Founded in 1974 to provide a means for performing sacred music works too elaborate for local parishes, the choir today has members from 25 area churches.

Tickets for the event are \$3 for adults and \$2 for senior citizens and students. They are available from any choir member, by calling 223-9006, and at the door.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Anointing: Choice and Enablement

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 9/1-41. (R1) 1 Sm. 16/1, 6-7, 10-13. (R2) Eph. 5/8-14.

Two of this week's readings speak of anointing. There is anointing of David in the Old Testament, and in the gospel a blind man is healed by smearing (anointing) his eyes with mud.

What was the purpose of anointing? We ought to know, for at least twice we are anointed: at Baptism, Confirmation, the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Orders.

Anointing signifies two things: choice by God and enablement by the Holy Spirit. God commands Samuel to anoint the king the one He has chosen. He rebukes Samuel's easy assumption that his own judgment coincides with God's. "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearance but the Lord looks into the heart."

And Jesus remarks that the man was born blind, "to let God's works show forth in him." So both are chosen for a reason, and because they are, anointing is an enablement.

For David, he is enabled to do God's will through the Holy Spirit. "Then Samuel... anointed him; and from that day on, the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David." As for the blind man, "Jesus smeared (anointed) the man's eyes with mud... (he) washed, and came back able to see."

Anointing, therefore, symbolizes choice and enablement by making a person whole through the power of the Holy Spirit. David's anointing made him whole, the kind of a person able to embrace the awesome task of being king over Israel. Jesus' anointing of the blind man made him whole, able to see.

How often today we hear that holiness is wholeness. The word "whole" is from the Anglo-Saxon word "hale;" and the word "holiness" comes from the same root, "hal." Wholeness means complete in all its parts, and so hale and healthy — physically, psychologically and spiritually.

say, "That's not My Department." Jacques Maritain wrote that the greatest specialists in the world are animals. What engineer can construct a web like a spider; or a honeycomb like a bee?

Yet human persons are not parts. Marshall McLuhan reduces this tendency to view a person as parts to absurdity. Persons are not legs in department stores draped with hosiery, nor are they behavior, inheritance or socialization. They are all of these things and more — and all at the same time. To understand human nature, one must run counter to the fashion of specialization. Cardinal Newman in his "Idea of a University," brilliantly defended a liberal arts education over a specialized education in the practical sciences. Only by understanding all that goes into being human, can the wonderful complexity of human nature be discovered in its wholeness.

Paul Tournier, the internationally renowned Swiss physician and psychiatrist, wrote two best-selling books: "The Meaning of Persons," and "The Whole Person in a Broken World." In the second book, he tells of his own anointing with the Spirit at the age of 38. At that time he gave himself completely to Christ and began to see a radical change in his life and work. His childhood Christianity, which had been cold and ritualistic, became vibrant and meaningful. Patients who had previously been treated as "disease entities" suddenly became persons in need of love and attention. The aloof, cold, impersonal medical manner gave way to warm concern and caring for others. Before long, Tournier began to realize that his fellow human beings were "whole persons," with physical bodies, spiritual needs and psychological characteristics. To treat one part of the personality, while ignoring the other parts was, Tournier concluded, bad medicine and unbalanced Christianity. Before long, Tournier was talking about "the medicine of the whole person" and writing about "whole persons in a broken world." But he did this after his own anointing.

Jesus anointed to make whole: "Thy faith hath made thee whole." We are chosen at Baptism and Confirmation and empowered by the anointing of the Holy Spirit to bring the Good News to others, to make them whole and holy.



SISTER VIRGINIA

Advisory Group Asks for Input

The diocesan advisory committee, Ministry with Persons with Disabilities, has asked all interested persons to attend an open meeting of the committee, 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, March 31 at Monroe Community Hospital, Room 2C 21.

The group has asked for input for direction of this ministry for the following year.

NFP Slates Info Sessions

Natural Family Planning information sessions are scheduled from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Monday, April 2, at St. Mary's Hospital; from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 3, at Wood Library, 134 N. Main St., Canandaigua, and from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, April 13, at Rochester General Hospital.

Pre-registration is required. Anyone wishing further information and a free brochure should contact NFP Education at (716)464-8705.

Young Adults Session Planned

The diocesan Commission on Young Adult Ministry is sponsoring an evening of Lenten celebration for adults from 18 to their 30s to begin at 7 p.m., Friday, April 6, at the Blessed Sacrament parish meeting room, first floor of the school.

A prayer service will be followed by refreshments. Karen Rinefield, diocesan coordinator of Young Adult Ministry, says that although the program is slanted toward young adults, all others are also welcome. Anyone wishing further information should contact Ms. Rinefield at 586-1919.

Adoration

Rites of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at noon, Thursday, April 5 at Blessed Sacrament Church. A rosary is recited at 12:15 p.m., and Benediction is celebrated at 5 p.m., preceding the regular 5:20 p.m. Mass. The intention of this month's adoration is "Unity of Christians in the Cross."



Guests sample the foods at the St. Thomas More Church celebration of St. Joseph's Table.

Hundreds Note St. Joseph's Feast

Across the diocese the ancient Italian custom of St. Joseph's Table was observed by hundreds of people.

In Auburn, more than 400 took part in religious ceremonies and partying in honor of the saint.

Father John Nacca, pastor of St. Francis Church, presided at a sung Mass in Italian and later blessed the breads at the St. Joseph's Table in the Church.

Following that more than 250 gathered in Syracuse for a dinner-dance.

More than 350 gathered for similar rites at St. Thomas More Church.

There, Fathers Richard St. Charles Hosts Holy Year Fest

A Holy Year celebration of music, art, poetry and dance entitled "Renewed in God's Love: Making the Ordinary Extraordinary" is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, April 1 at St. Charles Borromeo Church.

This program is being sponsored by the Diocesan Holy Year Committee, and is coordinated by the Office of Liturgy.

Among the participants will be the Hosanna Sacred Dance Group under the direction of Sister Mary Kay Ryan, the St. Vincent DePaul Choir under the direction of Helen Halligan, and a folk ensemble directed by Todd Flowerday, pastoral musician at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish. The public is invited.

Pilgrimage

A bus pilgrimage to Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawana, the site of the shrine of Father Baker, is being organized for April 29 by Stella Masuzzo, leader of the area's Queen of the Americas Guild, a group of Marian devotees dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. According to Mrs. Masuzzo, two buses will be chartered for the trip to the burial site of Father Baker, builder of the basilica, now being considered for the canonization process. Persons wishing to join the pilgrimage are asked to contact Mrs. Masuzzo, 334-5516.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

Beligotti, Robert Beligotti, Salem Faddoul and Sebastian Falcone, led the rites, co-sponsored by the Friends of St. Joseph and Attenzione, the Italian club of St. John Fisher college.

According to Tracey Bouthilier of St. John Fisher, "The tradition of the St. Joseph Table began in Sicily. There was a great famine across the land. Many people died of starvation. The Sicilians prayed to St. Joseph and a fantastic harvest was the answer. The people held a

grand feast in his honor to feed the poor and starving.

"In keeping with this legend, two tables containing the traditional foods were served to guests attending St. John Fisher's "Travola de San Giuseppe (St. Joseph's Table)". These included sculptured breads, sfingi (cream puffs), spaghetti and other Italian foods and delicacies."

A feature of the Rochester event was a collection which will be given to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

How long does grief last?

It is not possible to give an absolute answer to this question. Every individual reacts to loss a bit differently. We can expect intense grief during the first few weeks after a loss. In the following three or four months our feelings of grief may be strong as we encounter many reminders of the death. After that we will begin doing new things for ourselves, yet continue to miss our loved one. We may become frustrated as we attempt to do things the deceased once did for us. As a second year without the deceased begins we may find our feelings of loneliness and sadness have lessened. As we develop new relationships and do more things for ourselves our grief will diminish and we will be able to restore hope and happiness to our lives. Our grief, however, may never completely disappear as our memories linger.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL
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