

Interfaith Shelters To Close April 15

Three shelters for the homeless in Rochester developed by the Interfaith Shelter Committee and sponsored by diocesan Catholic Charities will close April 15 for the season.

The shelters, located at Blessed Sacrament, St. Augustine, and St. Bridget churches will have provided more than 4,000 evenings of care to approximately 200 persons since last November.

The project has been sustained through "generous financial and human resources," said Eileen Early, coordinator of the program. She said major financial support came from the Catholic, Episcopal, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, and the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation.

Ecumenical volunteer support of the shelters also has been "outstanding," Ms. Early said. More than 250 persons from Rochester urban and suburban parishes have staffed the shelters each night and have provided food donations for snacks and breakfasts.

She also noted that "many individuals apart from parish groups called to offer staffing, donations and food support."

Hilton Choirs Slate Concert

Hilton — For the fifth year in a row, the Lutheran, Catholic, Methodist and Baptist churches here will join their choirs for a concert, 7 p.m., May 20 in the Hilton High School Auditorium.

The program of sacred music, entitled, "Praise and Love," will consist of songs from throughout the Church calendar.

More than 300 voices and bell-ringers will perform.

Leading the performance, and their church affiliations, are: Joanne Nordhausen (adult director), Barbara Coyle, (youth director), Wanda Callahan (bell director), David Hurlbutt (accompanist), St. Paul's Lutheran Church;

Marie Herbert (adult director and accompanist), Mary Ann Hubbell (bell director), Kathy Pawlaczyk and Kathy Osterberg (children's choir directors), St. Leo's Church;

Ed Mizma (adult director) Ann Searls, (bell director), Joan Blair (children's director), Pat Johnson (accompanist), Hilton Baptist Church;

Margaret Colucci (adult and youth director), Tina Sigl (bell director), Laura Loggi (accompanist), United Methodist Church.

The concert is free. A free-will donation will be accepted. Refreshments will be served following the program.

M. Teresa Denies Woman Priest Report

New Delhi, India (NC) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Mother Teresa has denied a news report which quoted her as saying women could make better priests than men.

The 73-year-old founder of the Missionary Sisters of Charity was quoted by the United News of India as saying, in a March 31 interview, that women were more compassionate and better equipped to be priests.

When contacted by telephone, Mother Teresa told Associated Press April 2 that she did not make the statement.

Another member of Mother Teresa's congregation in New Delhi, identified by Associated Press as Sister Tarcisia, said Mother Teresa "is always annoyed when people talk about women being priests."

The nun added, "She (Mother Teresa) is against the idea of women being priests because she strongly believes women have other things to do. Women have more loving

Women's Retreat

A women's retreat, "The Good News of Reconciliation — being at peace with the Lord, with yourself, with others," is scheduled the weekends of May 11-13 and June 8-10 at the Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, N. Y. For information and reservations write P.O. Box 342, Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424 or call (716) 394-5700.

Vatican Aide Defends Loan to Holding Company

Vatican City (NC) — The president of the Vatican bank, U.S. Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, has defended as normal banking practice a loan tied to the value of the Swiss franc for which the bank is under investigation by an Italian court.

The loan was made in 1972 to an Italian holding company, Italmobiliare, and repaid in 1979.

Associated Press quoted an Italian prosecutor in Milan, Maurizio Grigo, as saying Archbishop Marcinkus had been sent a judicial communique, an advisory putting someone on notice that an investigation is being launched to see whether the person may have acted illegally. The judicial communique is not an accusation.

Judicial communications were also sent to two other officials of the Vatican bank, Luigi Mennini and Pellegrino de Strobel, AP quoted Grigo as saying. Grigo did not discuss the details of the case, but AP quoted judicial sources as saying it concerned the Italmobiliare loan.

The action was taken after an Italmobiliare stockholder complained that the Vatican bank may have profited excessively from the 1972 loan. The loan to Italmobiliare, headed by financier Carlo Pesenti, had been for 50 billion lire while the repayment in 1979 was 160 billion lire.

Archbishop Marcinkus told NC News April 3 that the repayment of the loan had been indexed by mutual agreement to the value of the Swiss franc. The archbishop defended the indexing to a

stable currency as "normal business practice" in international banking and called it "perfectly legal and legitimate."

The Swiss franc nearly doubled in value against the lira during the course of the loan. This coupled with a 7.7 percent annual interest rate resulted in the 160 billion lire repayment figure. In 1972 a Swiss franc equalled 152 lire.

In 1979 a Swiss franc equalled 287 lire.

(The dollar equivalents of the lire amounts were approximately \$85 million in 1972 and \$193 million in 1979.)

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Consecrate The World To Mary?

Dear Father Hohman,

I read in the Courier-Journal a letter from a writer who took exception to the action of Pope John Paul II in consecrating the world to Mary. He considered it a step backward.

I tend to agree with him in the sense that I cannot see where the world could be consecrated to Mary if one uses the word consecration to mean totally set apart for. There is obviously no way in which the world can be totally set apart for Mary. The world can be totally set apart only for God. If the Holy Father is using the word in another way, I am not sure what that way is. Could you enlighten us as to possible meanings of the word?

I also believe that the whole thing is very counterproductive to any kind of ecumenical activity in view of the fact our Protestant brothers and sisters are so definite about there being only one mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ. Why would such a thing be done, especially at this time in history?

course which tries to come together with other churches in all the areas that we are able to come together, and to look for ways of overcoming obvious gaps.

From these two statements, certain conclusions are forced upon us:

- The Holy Father in no way meant to separate us from our Protestant brethren by moving away from the doctrine of the sole mediatorship of Jesus Christ;

- The Holy Father is not using the word consecrate in the same sense in which you and the Courier-Journal letter writer are using it.

What sense can we give to it then?

I think, the whole thing has to be seen in the context of the Holy Father's deep devotion to Mary, especially as the patron of his native land. Mary is seen as a patroness and protector, not in the sense that she is able to do anything of herself, but that she presents herself before her divine son as intercessor.

Therefore, the Holy Father would be using the word consecrate in the sense of devotion to Mary and intercessor for the whole world.

Mary is "Our tainted nature's solitary boast," as Wordsworth described her; and as such she stands before God: not as our mediator but as the prototype of what God can do in a human life if one gives one's self wholeheartedly to the Lord. In that sense, consecration to Mary is a consecration to what was accomplished by God in her life and not a consecration to her personally. It is an alignment of ourselves with her in her "fiat" ("Thy will be done") and therefore the fullness of grace she received from God. It's a way of saying that what the world needs now is more people who will say, "Behold the servant of the Lord. Be it done to me according to your word."

School Registration

St. Rita School, Webster, is registering students for the 1984-85 school year. For

further information on tuition and registration contact Sister Katherine Ann Rappl, 671-3132.



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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Can children benefit from funerals?

Children are sensitive and emotional when a death in the family occurs. Children can benefit from a chance to attend the funeral and say their good byes. Like adults, children need some time to adjust and understand what has taken place. Seeing the deceased and understanding that death is different than life helps children avoid myths that suggest the deceased has only gone away or gone to sleep. Children who loved the deceased will gain from the chance to be a part of a meaningful ceremony. They should be told that the ceremony and viewing are special ways to remember the deceased. Naturally, children should only participate if they wish.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL 2100 St. Paul St. HOME 342-3400

Now is the time to help friends and families.



Now is the time to give to THE UNITED WAY/RED CROSS CAMPAIGN April 6th to May 17th