

'Walk for Life' Planned in Ithaca

Ithaca -- The Coalition for Life is planning a 10-mile Walk for Life to begin at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 9, at The Commons in downtown Ithaca.

The Coalition for Life is a pro-life organization. "The walk will have the dual purpose of raising the consciousness of the community that all human life is precious from the very beginning in the mother's womb and to raise money for the pro-life groups that participate," said Norbert H. Schickel III, coalition president.

Sponsor cards are available from the Coalition for Life, PO Box 6884, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851 or by calling Schickel at (607)273-1711, (607)273-6433.

The organizers suggest that pro-life organizations which participate should get people to sponsor them and retain the proceeds of the walk for their own group and to let local media know of their efforts in order to publicize the event.

"Everyone is invited to join in the walk," Schickel said. "Sponsors are particularly encouraged along with adults and their families. The goal is 1,000 walkers. Posters and signs also are encouraged."

Normile Receives Recognition

Elmira -- St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association had its annual banquet May 5 at the Elmira Downtown Holiday Inn; 262 attended.

The eldest alumna present, Ann Connelly, class of 1924, passed the flame of a nightgale lamp to Susan Graham, president of the graduating class. Members of the class of 1984, introduced to the alumni by Sister Remigia McHenry, were guests and were welcomed into the association by Connie Bergh, president.

Highlight was the Alumni of the Year Award which was received by Mary Normile, class of '53, a patient representative at Binghamton's Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital.

The invocation and benediction were given by Father Michael Bausch, director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministries. Mary Alice Clark and Katherine Lares were co-chairpersons.



Frank Mix, snake owner, visited Mrs. Nancy Trumble's seventh grade science students at St. Patrick's Junior High School in Elmira and demonstrated how a boa constrictor responds to human interest. Joseph Rogan (in back) watches while the boa winds itself around the necks of Kristin Cloke and Kristina Hooley.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Pentecost: An Invitation

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Jn. 20/19-23. (R1) Acts 2/1-11. (E2) 1 cor. 12/3-7, 12-13.

Do you know what everyone of us do 16 times a minute and often are not even aware of it? Unaware, I say, unless we have asthma, a cold, an allergy, emphysema, or live in Los Angeles. It's breathing! We breathe approximately 16 times a minute and we usually do it without a second thought. Sixteen times a minute we inhale oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide in a natural process that started when the doctor whacked us on the back and continues "until we draw our last breath."

What a marvelous thing this is -- breathing! What an apparatus God gives us just to be able to breathe! We can start with that protuberance which is "as plain as the nose on your face." We all have noses, some look good and some look like Cyrano de Bergerac's. As we breathe air, it enters the nose through two openings called nostrils -- separated by a wall of gristle and bone called the septum. On the side walls of the nose are bafflelike protrusions called turbinates, to moisten and warm the air we breathe. Inside the nose are fine hairs, cilia, to filter the air before it reaches the lungs. The lungs, of course, are the basic organs of breathing. Each lung has about 375 million air cells.

Breathing, as you might well imagine, was a deep mystery before science figured things out. When the Bible speaks of God creating the first man, it says, He "blew (breathed) into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being."

Next Sunday is Pentecost. On that wonderful day, the Holy Spirit (Breath) -- the Pneuma --

came into the lives of the apostles and the Church. This Spirit (Breath) in turn came out, was exhaled, in prayer tongues and later in preaching.

The late John Courtney Murray said Pentecost was a conspiracy of God. He was using the word "conspiracy" in its root sense -- "breathing together" (con - with, and spirare - to breathe). Pentecost was a conspiracy, not in the sense of a sinister gathering for dark purposes, but as a breaking down of barriers, a breathing together, a consensus for good. God exhaled the Spirit, so to speak; and the apostles and the Church inhaled Him.

It was this same "breath of fresh air" that Jesus gave to His disciples in the gospel. "He breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit...'" John is almost using a pun here. "He breathed on them" (exhaled) and in turn invited them to breathe in (inhale) the Holy Spirit (the Breath of God) -- "receive the Holy Spirit."

A few weeks ago our kids at St. Mary's, Waterloo, were confirmed. I said to them on that occasion, "How much water you draw from a well will depend on the size of the receptacle you bring to the well. You can bring a thimble, a bucket or a barrel. So what you receive from the Holy Spirit at your Confirmation will depend on your receptivity -- how deeply you breathe in the size of your wants and desires."

Are we short of breath today? Pentecost invites us to take a deep breath and receive the Holy Spirit (Breath of God). "Receive," said Jesus. The Spirit is forced on none. To receive is as easy as taking a deep breathe -- and as vital.

Trout Derby To Aid Camp Good Times

South Bristol -- The third annual Canandaigua Trout Derby has been scheduled for June 9-10 as a benefit for Camp Good Days and Special Times, the annual summer camp for children afflicted with cancer and other chronic diseases.

The derby will take place from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, June 9, and from 5 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, June 10. The weigh station at the Blue Coral marina on Route 21 at Canandaigua Lake will close at 4 p.m., Saturday, and all entries must be in line at that time.

First prize for adults will be \$1,000, second prize \$500. For children 15 and under, first prize will be \$300 in fishing tackle and second prize \$100 in tackle. Entry fees are \$7 for adults and \$4 for children.

Walking With Cause

Elmira -- A three-mile walkathon for the Michael Fund will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, June 2 beginning and ending at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Milton St., Geneva.

The Michael Fund is an international scientific research foundation which is trying to find a cure for birth defects especially Trisomy 21, commonly known as Down's Syndrome or Mongolism.

According to a press release, this is Ontario County's first attempt to raise money for this newly organized foundation and the event will begin with an opening prayer given by Msgr. Gerard Krieg, pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Geneva. The Geneva Knights of Columbus will provide refreshments.

Anyone interest in sponsoring and/or walking should call Suny Bowen at 789-1168 or Kathy Peters, 539-8006.

All money raised will be donated to the Michael Fund International Foundation for Genetic Research headquartered in Pittsburg, PA. Contributions may be sent to The Michael Fund, 400 Penn Center Blvd., Pittsburg, PA, 15235.

A Charming Friend



Appreciated!

James Snyder, president of the Chemung County General Education Board, presents a gift of appreciation to Sister M. Raymond Joseph, RSM, for her 15 years of service to the Elmira area Catholic Schools Music Program. Sister Raymond was honored recently by the school system at the Interparochial Music Concert at Notre Dame High School. She will begin a new ministry as pastoral assistant at St. Vincent Parish in Corning.

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