

Prolifers for Survival Forming Unit in Area

Following a June 14 address by Scott Rains, editor of the newspaper for Prolifers for Survival, a unit of that national organization is being formed in the Rochester area.

The June 14 event, sponsored by the diocesan Human Life Commission, the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Presbyterian Council, the Diocesan Sisters Council, and the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of

Mercy, featured a speech by Rains, describing Prolifers for survival, an organization which links the pro-life and peace issues.

The organization, which goes by the acronym P.S., is characterized as a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization of men and women seeking alternatives to nuclear arms and abortion. A diocesan release stated: "P.S. members stress the need for education and conversion regarding these two issues."

The release said, "Rains explained Prolifers for Survival as a means to bridge the pro-life and peace movements. P.S. does not endorse any political candidates or lobby for legislation. Instead, its members actively try to bring people from both sides together, to dialogue and to consider the linkage of the issues."

An organizational meeting is slated for 7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 5 at St. Charles Borromeo Church on Dewey Avenue.

Persons interested in attending the meeting have been asked to call Mary Olley at the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace, (716) 328-6400.

Naples Group Will Discuss Soviet Union

Naples — The Naples Council of Churches will present the second of its 1984 "Judge for Yourself" informational programs on social questions, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 10 at the Naples Firehall.

The theme of the program, to be given by Paul Morris, associate professor of history at Nazareth College of Rochester, and a specialist in Russian history, will be, "The Soviet Union: Myths and Realities."

Kathy Lindehan Riesenberger, a recent graduate of Naples Central School, also will tell of her experiences on a trip to the Soviet Union last year.

A discussion will follow the presentation.

Sarah Child



All in the Family

When a Girl Marries

My niece Annie began it all last July when she married her John.

Then in October my father re-wed, exchanging vows with Mary.

At the end of April, my niece Eve took Tim as her lawful wedded husband.

And this past weekend, Lynette, who, while not exactly related, is family, nevertheless, marched down the aisle with Steve.

(You will kindly notice all the different ways there are of saying that two people were united in marriage. I know about 50 more, having once served a two-year stint as woman's editor of the Bradford Era, during which time I became intimately acquainted with such terms as peau de soie, Chantilly lace, seed pearls, slipper satin, champagne toasts and candlelight services, etc.)

So many elaborate weddings in a short space of time have set me thinking. I have already warned my two daughters that when the time comes they are to elope, taking their father and me with them, of course.

This I feel will eliminate a lot of problems including a parental breakup and parental breakdowns, to say nothing of saving a bundle.

In return for complying, they may have the equivalent amount of money to flee with their new husbands to the south of France for two months or as long as the funds hold out.

I realize this makes me

something of a hypocrite (and coward) since I have never attended a wedding I didn't enjoy, have never seen a bride I didn't think beautiful, never been unable to thrill to the happiness that pervades the scene.

However, heretofore, except for my own nuptials, I have never been anything but an observer and privy, as it so happens, to some of the preparations, machinations and tintinnabulation that often precedes the ritual and attendant festivities.

From what I have been able to gather, the protocol and detail involved in a wedding makes a state dinner for the crowned heads of Europe look like a hot dog roast.

And, since I am notorious for losing my cool in anything more social than handing someone a mug of coffee, I think that in the role of mother of the bride I may be able to find a more suitable scene.

My niece Mary who has attended both her sisters makes a lot of sense, I think. In no hurry to tie the knot, she says that when she does she'll have a simple ceremony followed by a beer blast with peanuts as the main and sole course. And for guests she will, not unlike the host in Luke 14:23, go out in the hedgerows and highways and gather them in.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The View From The Dome

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 16/13-19. (R2) Acts 12/1-11. (R2) 2 Tm. 4/6-8, 17-18.

One of the most thrilling experiences of my trips to Rome has been to take the ascensore (elevator) to the rim of the dome of St. Peter's. Last year, I took a group to view St. Peter's from the rim. The Petrine dome is so high, the smokestacks of Kodak Park (350 feet) would not reach the rim. Michaelangelo thought it a disgrace that the dome of a pagan temple, that of the Pantheon, should be higher than the dome of any true temple of God. So he flung up his mighty dome, dwarfing the Parthenon. So magnificent is it that Christopher Wren modelled his dome of St. Paul's Cathedral on it.

Well, on the walkway around the rim, I generally point out two things of interest. First, the mosaic inscription on the rim of the dome. In gigantic letters of more than six feet each, Michaelangelo has inscribed these words of Christ: "Thou art Peter and on this rock I will build my Church, and the jaws of death shall not prevail against it." Secondly, I ask the group to look down from the dizzying height to the altar beneath the dome, overshadowed by Bernini's bronze canopy (baldachino), weighing 700 tons and 95 feet high. In front of this canopied altar is a stairway leading to the original streets of Rome and to the tomb of Peter himself. "Imagine," I can't help exclaiming, "our Lord's words on the rim, spoken to Peter nearly two thousand years ago, are literally fulfilled. The greatest church of Christendom is built on the very tomb of Peter!"

Of course our blessed Lord meant more than this when He promised to build His Church on Peter. His Church was to be His body — an extension of Himself. He was primarily a teacher. So He built a teaching Church: a Church of teachers and disciples, of shepherds and sheep. Two things threaten such a Church: error from within, and persecution from without — "the jaws of death." So He endowed His

Church with infallibility and indefectibility. Peter would never err in teaching matters of faith and morals ex cathedra (officially). For this Jesus prayed: "Simon, Simon... I have prayed for you that your faith may never fail. You in turn must strengthen your brothers."

Nor would he "burial" of the Church by any enemy state sound her death knell. When Napoleon seized Pius VII, the pope excommunicated Napoleon. The "Little Corporal" scoffed saying, "Do you think this excommunication will cause the guns to fall from the arms of my soldiers?" In the Russian campaign shortly after, the guns of Napoleons soldiers fell literally from their frozen hands. Hence the French coined the adage: "Who eats the Pope eats death."

Joseph Stalin mocked Pius XII and said, "Where are your battalions? I can muster e80 at a word." The pope answered, "My son, Joseph, the Church will one day sing the requiem over your dead body. You will be gone, but the Church will go on forever."

On May 13, 1981, an assassin sought the life of John Paul II. On May 13 — the feast of Our Lady of Fatima — 1982, the Holy Father went to Fatima to thank Mary for saving his life, like the angel of the Lord who saved Peter's life from the hands of Herod.

Outside the walls of modern Rome stands the great basilica of St. Paul, for St. Paul was the apostle to the world outside Judaism, the Gentile world.

As two brothers, Romulus (who gave his name to Rome) and Remus, founded pagan Rome, so two brothers in faith — Peter and Paul — brought Rome to God and made it a holy city of priests and prophets, the spiritual capital of the world.

From Rome once marched her phalanx legions to conquer by sword and shield the world for "divine" Caesar; but thanks to Peter and Paul there marched forth from Rome enspirited missionaries to conquer by the sword of the Gospel the world for Christ, truly divine and truly Lord of the world. Pagan Rome brought chains and enslavement; the Rome of Peter and Paul brings freedom and a peace the world cannot give.

Hispanic Mission Scheduled in July

Santa Mision 1984, an evangelization event for the Hispanic communities of Rochester, Geneva and Newark, sponsored by the Office of the Spanish Apostolate will be preached by Puerto Rico's Brother Rocabel Chamorro of the St. John the Evangelist Congregation.

The opening ceremony will take place at 7 p.m., Sunday, July 1, at St. Michael's

Church, 869 N. Clinton Ave.

Other dates of the mission, all 7 to 9 p.m.: July 2-4, St. Francis of Assisi; July 5 to 7, St. Peter and Paul; July 9 to 11, Holy Redeemer; July 12 to 14, St. Michael's; July 16-17, Mt. Carmel; July 18-19, St. Francis Xavier; July 20-21, Corpus Christi.

The closing meeting will take place at 7 p.m., Sunday, July 22, at Mt. Carmel.

Spiritual Direction Theme of Workshop

A workshop, "Spiritual Direction and Growth toward Wholeness," is being sponsored by the Office of Vicar for Religious and the Office of Continuing Education, from 9 a.m. to noon, July 23-27, at the Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

The sessions will be directed by a team composed of Sister Rita Kaufman, RSM, and Sister Margaret Mary Mattle, RSM, spiritual directors at the Mercy Prayer Center; Dr. Stephen Ray, pastic surgeon, Genesee Hospital, and Richard Switzer, psychologist and family counselor, Newark, N.J.

The program will be developed around an interdisciplinary approach to

human growth and healing within a Christian context. The team-led workshop process will involve teaching, group sharing, directed readings and case studies.

The workshop is being directed to experienced pastoral ministers involved in counseling, inner healing and spiritual direction to help people find peace in the midst of peace and conflict.

Anyone interested in registering should contact the Office of Continuing Education, St. Bernard's Institute, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester, N.Y. 14620, submitting name, address, telephone and present ministry. Workshop fee is \$35.

'Double Million' Celebration in Elmira

Elmira --St. Joseph's Hospital auxiliary and volunteer force is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a double million celebration.

The group of more than 750 members has achieved a milestone by completing more than a million hours of volunteer service and more than \$1 million in financial support to the hospital.

The group hit the million mark when Bernadette

Romeo, auxiliary president, presented a check for \$30,000 to Sister Martha Gersbach, hospital administrator. The money is part of a \$300,000 pledge for the hospital's Quest modernization and renovation project under way.

At the group's annual banquet at the Elmira Country Club, 71 members were honored for more than 90,000 hours of service. Mrs. Lil Hanmore of Elmira and Mrs. Matalyn Rustin of Horseheads were singled out for the Sister Ann Loretta Award presented for the first time this year — each contributed more than 1,360 hours of service during the past year.

Deadline

The editorial deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon, preceding Wednesday publication. Copy should be sent to 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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