

SSJs 'Satisfied' with SCRIS Meeting

The following release was issued last week by the Sisters of St. Joseph:

"On Aug. 6, representatives of the Sisters of St. Joseph, members of the committee working on the constitution, the official document for the institute, met with Sister Mary Linscott, representative for the Sacred Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes (SCRIS). Sister Mary Linscott reviews the constitutions of English speaking countries. As of this date, she has assisted more than 160 congregations of women religious in this task.

"Sister Mary praised the participation of the congregation in developing the document, a fact taken for granted by Church leadership in Rome. She also explained that a commission of three members of SCRIS, as well as two others with canonical and theological expertise, review the document initially. Their observations are returned to the respective religious congregation. After further work is done, including continued dialogue between SCRIS and the congregation, the document is then sent back to Rome. There a Congress, consisting of seven members of SCRIS, do a second review before granting the final decree of approval.

"The committee will soon render a full report of its work back to the members of the Sisters of St. Joseph. Members of

the committee who attended the meeting with Sister Mary in Ipswich, Mass., were Sisters Elizabeth Anne LeValley, Agnes Catherine Battersby, Anne Collins, Rosalma Hayes, Rita Jongen, Mary Lourdes MacCarthy, and Patricia Schoelles. They were in general agreement that it was important for the group to have had this personal sharing with a member of SCRIS. They felt that the discussion contributed to a better mutual understanding both on the realities behind the words and the actual words themselves that clarified the realities. They agreed that the goals they had hoped to achieve at the meeting had been fulfilled.

"Sister Elizabeth Anne LeValley, superior general, spoke of her hopes that, once the decree of approval arrives, signifying a conclusion to the intensive work of renewal called for by Vatican II, the concentration of the congregation can then be given over more fully to the service of people and of the Church. "The experience of the committee with Sister Mary Linscott was encouraging and enlightening," she said. "This woman's knowledge and expertise seemed rooted in integrity, simplicity and wisdom."

Speaking for the committee, she remarked that the experience brought to the committee, "not a sense of forced compliance, but a new sense of freedom."

Biography 'a Fraud'

New York — "God's Broker," a book by Antoni Gronowicz which purports to be a biography of Pope John Paul II, was being withdrawn from circulation in late July by its publisher. "I'm convinced that it's a total fraud," said Julian M. Snyder, president of the publishing company, Richardson and Snyder. Snyder said he first became suspicious of the veracity of the book following many critical reviews and a letter from Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia.

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Word for Sunday

Interior Beauty

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 15/21-28. (R1) Is. 56/1, 6-7. (R2) 11/13-15, 29-32.

Once upon a time there was a mother duck sitting upon her nest in the middle of a barnlot. Few of the other ducks paid her any attention; they were too interested in swimming. Finally her eggs cracked open one by one. The ducklings appeared; that is, except for one egg — the biggest one — that hadn't hatched. The mother duck asked, "How long will it be?" But she continued to sit on it.

An older duck came along and asked, "How's it going?"

"There's just one egg that one break."

"Let's have a look at it," said the older duck. "I'll bet it is a turkey egg. That's how I was bamboozled once. Let's have a look at the egg. Sure, it's a turkey's egg. I'll bet my life on it. Let it be and teach your little ones to swim."

The mother duck, however, said, "I think I'll sit on it just a little while longer."

That's how Hans Christian Andersen's tale of "The Ugly Duckling" begins. You know the rest of the story. The egg hatched and out of it tumbled a large and ugly bird. The mother soon found that it swam and surely was not a turkey. The other ducklings did not accept him. "He's so gawky and peculiar," they said. So they teased him, called him names and made fun of him. The ugly duckling had trouble finding a place to swim. But he could swim with grace and ease.

Finally, we remember, the duckling discovered he was a swan — a beautiful one. And he lived happily ever after — not as a turkey, not as a duck, but as the swan God had created him to be.

All three readings next Sunday touch on the theme of acceptance-rejection. The terrible sin of the Jews after the Babylonian Cap-

tivity was exclusivism — the rejection of all non-Jews.

So Isaiah reminded the Jews, "The foreigners... I will bring to my holy mountain." In the Response refrain we pray, "O God, let all the nations (not just Israel) praise you." Paul calls himself "the apostle of the Gentiles." And our blessed Lord, sent to the lost sheep of Israel, helps the daughter of a Canaanite woman.

One of the tendencies of all of us is to banish and exclude the outsider, the misfit, the foreigner, the awkward, the different, the ugly duckling. Like the older duck, acting out of her own limited experience, we so often think we have the answer. "It's a turkey's egg. I know the type. Let it be. Go look after the others." It was an easy answer, an obvious one, but a wrong one! She didn't have time nor did she take time to see what the truth was.

The Christian way is far different from the human way. Like the mother duck, the Christian is willing to wait it out, accept rather than reject, give the benefit of doubt in hope that the turkey in time will turn out to be a beautiful swan.

Edwin Markham wrote: He drew a circle that shut me out — Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout, But love and I had the wit to win: We drew a circle that took him in!

A circle is an intriguing device that can include or exclude people. Those in our circle are insiders — the "we-s" — the ones to share the goodies of life. Those outside the circle are outsiders — the "theys" — the ones who eat the leavings that fall from the masters' tables.

All of us live in circles based on common language, common culture, common political outlook, and so on. The question is, "How wide is our circle? Does it include everybody? A Christian circle should!

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Bernard

Scipio Center — Father Paul Cloonan has announced that Father Matthew Swidor will conduct a Spiritual Renewal, Sept. 3-7 at St. Bernard's Church here. The event is open to all those in the dual parish of St. Bernard and St. Isaac Jogues in Fleming.

Lady of Lourdes

Elmira — "Journey to a Deeper Faith," a series of instructions in the Roman Catholic Faith for all interested and especially those who are considering joining the Catholic Church, has been slated to begin in late September at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Interested persons are asked to call Father Paul McCabe, 733-5023; or Deacon George Welch, 732-5023.

St. Patrick

Corning — A call for volunteers was issued last week by St. Patrick's Church for two parish duties. Persons who could oversee the cleaning of the priest's Mass vestments one hour a month are asked to contact Sister Margot, 937-6814. Also, a call was issued for five persons to help prepare bags of groceries and maintain pantry hours at St. Patrick's Pantry. The volume of recipients has lately increased to more than 100 people a month, the parish noted. Volunteers are asked to contact Mary Corcoran, 936-4342; or the rectory, 962-6814.

Guardian Angels

Henrietta — The Queen of the Americas Guild of Guardian Angels Church holds a perpetual novena in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe 7:30 p.m. each Monday. The public is invited.

Man Charged In Shooting

Chicago (NC) — Police have charged Ronald O'Neil, 23, with the July 25 shooting of a statue of the Blessed Virgin at St. John of God Church in Chicago.

The statue had gained notoriety and brought additional worshippers to the church after witnesses said it cried on four occasions in May.

A gunman fired three shots at the statue July 25, hitting it once. Witnesses said the gunman laughed as he fled.

Police arrested O'Neil Aug. 3 in Chicago. He has a history of mental problems and was being treated by the Illinois State Psychiatric Department, said Cmdr. John Stibich of Chicago's Detective Division Area 3.

St. John

Port Byron — A chicken and pork chop barbecue will be served by St. John Church, starting at noon, Sunday, Aug. 19. Take out service will be available.

St. Ambrose

Parishioners of St. Ambrose Parish were advised last week of activities of the St. Thomas More Club, a singles group for those over 18. The group will travel to Watkins Glen, Saturday, Aug. 18, to see the laser light show, "Timespell." Further information is available by calling Doreen Sherman, 544-1472; Katie Muldoon, 254-0263.

Assumption

Fairport — The annual parish picnic for the Church of the Assumption of Our Lady will begin at 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 2 in the church parking lot. A call for volunteers to assist the effort has been issued. Interested persons are asked to call 385-1960, during the day; 112-1260, after 5 p.m. Margaret Trenchard is chairperson for the event.

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Blood Screening

Free blood pressure screening will be held 6-9 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 15 at

Marketplace Mall. The program is a part of Rochester Health Network's "Health Works" campaign.