

Encounter Program Planned for Inmates

Auburn -- The Residents Encounter Christ program has been scheduled for the fourth time in two years Sept. 28-30 at Auburn Correctional Facility.

The three-day experience will be conducted by a team of 20 laypersons, two priests and two deacons recruited from parishes throughout the diocese. The goal is to con-

front inmates with the truth that Jesus died so that they might be free and to prompt the inmates to re-examine relationships with Christ, according to Anthony Rocchi of Elmira, weekend rector. The theme is "Come to the Water."

"Prisoners tell us that after they make REC they're at

peace for the first time in years," Rocchi said. "Some are moved to seek reconciliation with their parents and families while others commit themselves to emulating Christ out in the prison yard."

Also scheduled is a hootenanny, Sept. 29, in which members of the outside Christian community visit the prison to pray and sing with the prisoners. A prayer service at 3:30 p.m. precedes the hootenanny.

"We encourage as many visitors as possible to participate in the hootenanny," Rocchi said. "Anyone planning to attend, however, must be at least 18 years old and must be pre-registered by Sept. 20."

Registration may be made with any of the following: Anthony Rocchi, Elmira (607) 733-5193; Dave Lortscher, Dansville, (716) 367-3365; Joe Amoia, Auburn, (315) 252-0223; Fritz Palleschi, Port Byron, (315) 776-4161; Bob Bacher, Fairport, (716) 377-3219.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Forgiveness Is Imperative

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 18/21-35. (R1) Sir. 27/30-28/7. (r2) Rom. 14/7-9.

Some weekends it is sort of hard to unearth the main message of the Scripture readings. Not so this weekend. The message is neon clear, consistent and forceful: **be forgiving as the Lord is forgiving.**

Anger is a very common and powerful human emotion. There can be just anger, like that of Jesus when driving out the moneychangers from the Temple. "Anger in its time and place/ Can assume a kind of grace./ But it must have reason in it./ And not last beyond a minute." Generally, however, anger that leads to holding a grudge or not forgiving has no grace in it.

Holding a grudge is often

a sin that brings its own punishment. A person who cannot forgive often becomes bitter, cynical, suspicious, ill-at-ease and generally miserable. Like acid, vengeance hurts the avenger more than the object of revenge.

Jesus never says it is easy to forgive. Yet forgiveness is the heart of Jesus' gospel message. He taught parables of forgiveness, like the one in next Sunday's gospel. He taught us to pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The night before He died, He spoke of spilling His blood for the many "for the forgiveness of sins." After his resurrection He instituted the sacrament of forgiveness of sins. All of which proves that "The Lord is kind and merciful; slow to anger, and rich in compassion" (Response).

Grudge-holding is often so terrible and painful,

because many times it is against a person once dearly loved and highly respected by us — a husband or wife, brother or sister, friend or business partner.

To forgive does not necessarily mean we have to like that person or again be as close as friends. To forgive means to accept what happened as being, in some mysterious way, a part of God's plan for us. To accept this without seeking revenge or getting even in any way, no matter how deep the hurt!

Nor does to forgive mean to condone or approve the injury another has done to us. It means accepting the hurt and not retaliating. And, believe you me, that's tough!

That is why prayer is so necessary. Without the help of God, who can really and truly forgive others? Without prayer, how can we muster help from God? Prayer is the fulcrum, but the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Love, is the lever. The Eucharist, coupled with prayer, can move any heart. About going to Holy Communion, Louis Evely has written, "You cannot swallow Christ if you cannot swallow your neighbor."

College Gets Cash From Area Friends

Father Frank E. Lioi, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, now a development officer for the American College at the University of Louvain in Belgium, is a man with many friends in Rochester.

Indicative of that point is a benefit luncheon and card party thrown in his honor, to raise funds for the college, according to Mrs. Dominic Capone, spokesperson for the event.

The donation went toward scholarship assistance at the institution.

Mrs. Capone and Mrs. Betty Gutmann coordinated the program with the help of Mrs. Leo Beattie, Mrs. Carmen Cantaben, Mrs. Rita Corder, Mrs. Giorgio DeRosa, Mrs. Kathryn Dunn, Mrs. George Fox, Mrs. Roger Robach, Mrs. Dorothy Turiano and Ms. Marie Wiesner.

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