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Respect Life Program Opens Oct. 7

Both the national and diocesan Respect Life Program will open Oct. 7. The 12-year-old effort of the U.S. Catholic bishops promotes the Church teaching of the sanctity of life at every stage and fosters wide-ranging efforts for its promotion and protection.

Cardinal Joseph L. Bernardin is the current chairman of the bishops' Committee for Pro-life Activities, under whose auspices the annual Respect Life Program is conducted.

"I am proud to have been involved in (Respect Life's) inauguration and its continued implementation throughout the years on both the national and local levels," Cardinal Bernardin said recently.

"The major goal of the program is the shaping of a consensus in the Church that respect for all human life is

the basic principle inspiring concern and practical efforts on specific issues," he said. "That consensus, then, must be joined to the task of sharing our vision with the wider society."

The Pro-life Committee, as in past years, has developed a series of materials to assist dioceses, parishes, schools, Catholic health facilities and others to implement the program at the local level.

These materials include liturgical suggestions for Respect Life Sunday, fliers, posters, and a comprehensive program manual.

The focus of the program remains unchanged from the days when the bishops invited the entire Catholic community to reflect on the "sanctity of human life and the many threats to human life in the modern world,

including war, violence, hunger and poverty," as it was stated by the bishops in 1972.

Specific issues do vary, however. This year the program focuses on:

- The impact of abortion on men, women, medical personnel and society itself;
- Equality of treatment for handicapped newborns;
- Guidelines concerning life-prolonging treatment for adult patients incompetent to make such decisions;
- Capital punishment in America today;
- The transmission of Christian values to youths;
- Hunger and homelessness in the United States;
- Religious and spiritual needs of disabled persons.

"We talk of the Respect Life Program, but in actuality there are many respect life programs," said Cardinal

Bishop Encourages Peace Parley to Hope

Bishop Matthew H. Clark encouraged more than 350 diocesan to a "Christian hope" which "involves the expectation that the promises God has made through our savior Jesus Christ will come to pass... that God's life-giving promises will be fulfilled — an expectation rooted in faith."

The occasion for the bishop's remarks was the diocesan conference, "Facing the Challenge of Peace... Themes of Hope," an event

to follow up the publication a year and a half ago of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response."

The event drew nearly 600 to Our Lady of Mercy High School on Friday evening, and more than 350 the next day.

The program was sponsored by the Bishop's Steering Committee for "The Challenge of Peace," the diocesan Division of Educa-

tion, and the diocesan Department of Religious Education.

The featured speaker on Friday evening was Father J. Bryan Hehir, executive secretary the USCC Department of Social Development and Peace. He had served as a consultant to the U.S. bishops as they drafted the pastoral letter.

The Saturday program included Bishop Clark's address and a full day of workshops designed for both

parish leaders and individuals.

"If we look to the Bible we can gain some insight into the nature of this hope," Bishop Clark said. "One theme in these biblical stories of hope is that hopelessness always is threatening to overwhelm the people... Secondly, the life-giving promises of God contend with false promises that would lead to death. Thirdly, the expression of hope is manifest in action, action which inevitably involves some risk."

He cited as an example the story of the Exodus. "When Moses led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt, it was with the promise that they were to inherit a land flowing with milk and honey. Yet to reach that Promised Land they had to pass through the desert. There were some during this journey who wanted to return to the security of their previous slavery rather than face the insecurities that wandering in the desert demanded. In this story, as in many other stories, hopelessness competed with God's promises, and many were tempted to succumb to its attraction.

"If they had in fact returned, had given up hope in God's promise, they would have yielded to what appeared to be the comfort of a secure life, but what would have been perpetual slavery.

"To believe in God's promises required great faith, faith that seemed to defy reason, and that had to struggle with and overcome

hopelessness. It also required the Hebrews engage in deeply risky action," the bishop said.

The Gospels, too, are filled with such stories of hope, Bishop Clark noted. "Yet here too hangs the cloud of hopelessness," he said, "that showers us with the temptations to reject God's promises and to accept the false promises of Satan. For while we are offered the promise of life, we are required to lose our lives for Christ's sake in order to enter into that paradise."

"For us to experience the joy of Christian hope, we too must pass through the desert and we too must overcome the temptation to turn back."

The bishop recited a poem on the theme by Archbishop Helder Camara, the recently retired archbishop of Recife in Brazil:

"Hope without risk/ is not hope,/ which is believing/ in risky loving,/ trusting others/ in the dark./ the blind leap/ letting God take over."

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Bishop Ordains Paul Quanz CSB

Wayland — Word was received last week that Bishop Matthew H. Clark ordained Rev. Mr. Paul Quanz CSB to the priesthood of the Basilian Fathers April 28 at St. Joseph's Church here.

Father Quanz said his first Mass April 29 at St. Joseph's. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Quanz graduated from Wayland Central High School in 1973, and took a BS in business management from St. John Fisher College in 1977.

He professed perpetual vows in his congregation in September 1983 and was ordained to the diaconate that same month.

He spent his diaconate year at St. Anna's Parish in Houston, Texas.

He is presently assigned to teach at Andean High School in Merrillville, Ind.



FATHER QUANZ



Rosary Rally Draws 1,000

More than 1,000 attended the Rosary Rally, above, last Saturday night, Sept. 29, at the Rochester Community War Memorial, including an honor guard from the Knights of Columbus. In connection with the rally, right, Father Salem Faddoul receives a proclamation from Mayor Thomas P. Ryan declaring last Saturday a "Day of Peace" for the Rochester area. At left is Father Faddoul's sister, Wadih Maron, and right is Mike Macaluso of Holy Rosary Parish, one of the rally organizers.



St. Felix Rosary Altar Invites Males to Join

Clifton Springs — Men have been invited to join the expanded Rosary and Altar Society of St. Felix Church here.

A report by Dorothy Parmele on the first meeting of the new group Sept. 18, said that men of the parish have also been invited to become active in the society's plans.

The first meeting of the expanded society included a pot luck supper and election of officers.

Carol Banfield was named president; Elizabeth Campbell, secretary; and Sheila Wellman, treasurer. A vice president will be elected at the next meeting. Dues for the

group will be \$3 per person and \$5 per couple.

A discussion on goals for the year was held and upcoming programs were announced.

Among those events are an Arts and Crafts show, Oct. 11-13 at Eastview Mall, for which Ms. Campbell is chairperson, who encouraged the society to contribute both time and talent; the annual election day bake sale, Nov. 6, for which Loretta Steyeart is chairperson; and another pot luck supper, Oct. 9, to which members were encouraged to bring a friend.

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