



Friends

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, right, jokes with Father Charles B. Connell at a special party Sept. 23 marking the retirement of the former pastor of St. Philip Neri Church. Nearly 500 friends, parishioners and family members of Father Connell attended the event. Below, Father Vincent Panepinto, pastor of St. Michael's Church, regales the crowd as (left to right) Grace G. Staffaroni, chairperson of the event, Father Connell and Bishop Hickey chuckle. Photos by Doreen Bonadio.



CERT Programs Listed

The diocese announced this week the times of Continuing Education for Religion Teachers (CERT) programs. All series take a total of 10 hours.

In the Southern Tier, Christian Moral Life and Social Justice will open 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13 at St. Mary our Mother in Horseheads.

In Monroe County:

- Scripture, 8:30-11:30 a.m., today, Oct. 10 at Father Kelly's School of Religion in Fairport;
- Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13 at St. Christopher in North Chili;
- Basic Doctrine, 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, St. Monica in Rochester
- Sacraments, 9:30-11:30 a.m., today, Oct. 13, Father Kelly's School of Religion in Fairport.

• Scripture, 9 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 13, St. Monica in Rochester

In addition, programs in Scripture and Sacraments started yesterday at St. Cecilia in Rochester.

Further information is available by calling the Office of Religious Education, in Rochester (716) 328-3210; in the Southern Tier, (607) 732-3862.

More Opinions

Lib Theology Repudiated

EDITOR:

The Holy Father's forthright repudiation of Marxist "Liberation Theology" is welcomed by all who have recognized the tactics, strategy and ultimate disastrous consequence of this "perversion of the Christian message." It brings to mind Article 8 in the papal encyclical on "Atheistic Communism": "The communism of today more emphatically than similar movements in the past conceals in itself a false messianic idea. A pseudo-ideal of justice ... impregnates all its doctrine and activity with a deceptive mysticism which communicates a zealous and contagious enthusiasm to the multitudes entrapped by delusive promises."

The Cardinal Mindszenty Foundation issued an analysis on the origin of liberation theology in 1980. This report quoted comments by several of our council members who were in the mission field which was

targeted by leaders of the movement. These comments exposed the "man-centered, not God-centered" basis of this new theology which would become a Trojan Horse in the City of God.

The June 1984 foundation report details the progress of liberation theology, the forces involved in its promotion and those which resist it.

It would be my pleasure to provide, free, copies of these documents. A stamped No. 10 envelope, pre-addressed, would be appreciated.

Gertrude Newberry
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Rochester, N.Y. 14620

DPC Change Urged

EDITOR:

We would like to give additional information to Courier readers concerning the proposed constitutional change for the Diocesan Pastoral Council. This information was available to DPC members in our written proposal.

One of the major points is that while currently dis-

allowing elected married couples, the constitution allows for couples to be appointed by the bishop to serve as a single representative for special ministries. In fact, the bishop has recently appointed a couple to replace a previously appointed couple as a representative for Renewal Groups. We hope the DPC will agree with the wisdom of the bishop in this matter and remove this contradiction that we are questioning.

We thank the Courier for its accurate reporting of the Sept. 15 meeting.

We think the DPC is an important sign of Christian community and the constitutional change would be a way of expressing concern for married couples.

Ron and Martha Jodoin
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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.

CYO Hosts 5th Annual Youth Day

The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) will sponsor the fifth annual Youth Day from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3 at St. Monica's School, 841 Genesee St.

The event is titled "Youth Day -- A Celebration," and will feature 15 workshops designed for teens and youth groups. According to a CYO press release, included will be "New Games, songs, entertainment, and ecumenical worship."

CYO began sponsoring the Youth Day event in 1980 in conjunction with the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

According to a CYO press release, the organization's purpose in offering the event is "to provide an opportunity to bring individuals of all faiths together to meet new people, share common interest, and have a day of fun."

For further information, contact Debbie Cummings-Brown at 454-2030.

35 Attend Therapy Workshop

Hornell -- Thirty-five nurses, physicians and allied health professionals associated in the care of psychiatric patients, attended a day-long "Group Psychotherapy: Theory and Practice" workshop recently at DeSales Hall.

The workshop was sponsored by St. James Mercy Hospital in cooperation with Medical Media Associates.

Guest speaker was Dr. Suzanne Lego, a psychotherapist in private practice in New York City. Dr. Lego is also editor of the American Handbook of Psychiatric Nursing.

Among topics discussed were "Goals of Group Psychotherapy"; "Phases of Group Development"; and "Problems of Beginning Group Therapists."

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Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Invitation And Judgment

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mt. 22/1-14. (R1) Is. 25/6-10. (R2) 4/12-14, 19-20.

Sunday's gospel consists of two parables joined as one. The first parable speaks of God's generous invitation to everyone: the parable of the open door! God, so to speak, opens wide the doors of His Kingdom to everyone. But then there is the perplexing climax: the severe fate of the guest without proper attire -- the Parable of the Judgment.

The explanation is probably this. The early Church opened its doors to everyone, but everyone who accepted the invitation did not change. God's generosity to sinners led some to believe that good or evil mattered not. Did not God's chosen people begin to think salvation was theirs just because they were His chosen people, sons of Abraham? Likewise early converts to Christianity -- and many Catholics today -- also began to believe salvation was theirs, just because they were Catholics.

The parable was meant to set everyone straight regarding this error. It teaches that to accept the invitation requires a change, not of garments, but of life. Once Jesus' invitation is accepted no one can go on living the same life as one lived before accepting the invitation. Yes, the door is opened to everyone -- to sinners -- the sinners may come in, but the sinners must not remain sinners, but rather strive to become saints, to put on the wedding garment.

second time to accept Him. They refuse. As a result, the invitation is given to those in the highways and byways, the sinners and Gentiles. Matthew, who wrote his gospel around 80-85 A.D., and so after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D., added a line to our Lord's parable as to what happens to those who reject Jesus' invitation: "The King sent an army to destroy those murderers and burn their city."

Our Lord, of course, did not mention this punishment. He did not want us to focus on the punishment so much as on the joy we miss if we do not accept His way. The real tragedy of rejecting Christ is not the pain that will follow, but the joy that will be missed. "Of all sad words of tongue and pen/ The saddest are these: it might have been."

As regards the invitation itself. First, God's invitation is to a feast -- to joy, like that of a wedding banquet. For the Incarnation is the wedding of divinity to humanity; and the Church is the Bride of Christ. Hence Christianity is a religion of joy. Her message is "good news;" her Christ is goodness personified.

Secondly, what makes one deaf to Christianity is not necessarily something bad. In the parable one went to his farm, another to his business, neither went on a spree. It is easy to let our busy-ness crowd out the essentials of life, to settle for the second best instead of the best. One can be so busy making a living as to forget to make a life.

Lastly, in the parable, no one deserved the invitation. It was given freely. That is what grace means: a free, undeserved gift. Infant baptism is meant to teach us all that faith and salvation are free gifts of God. Hence one of the postures of the true Christian is gratitude, thanksgiving, Eucharist!

USE YOUR PULL

NOTICE:
LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

You may register in person:
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
NOON TO 9 P.M.
ANY CITY LIBRARY OR TOWN HALL

If you move between October 14 and October 27, you may register centrally at the Board of Elections by October 26th.

For information call:
428-4550