

AT YOUR PARISH

Assumption

Fairport — Father John Norris, pastor, will explain the planned columbarium in Assumption of Our Lady Church 11 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 19 in the south meeting room of the church hall. The presentation will be open to non-parishioners.

St. Patrick

Seneca Falls — The Christmas bazaar for St. Patrick's Church will open 5

p.m., Friday, Nov. 16, with a ziti dinner. A magic show featuring Charlie the Magical Clown will start at 7:30 p.m. The festivities continue 9 a.m. the following day. Lunch will be served 10:30 a.m. A firetruck bearing Santa Claus will arrive at 1 p.m. Featured during the days will be baked goods, deli, knit goods, white elephants, ceramics, arts and crafts, gifts, decorations and others.

Christ the King

A Mass for the Charismatic Renewal community will be celebrated 8 p.m., Monday, Nov. 12 at Christ the King Church. Father George Beaune CSB will preside. A collection of dried milk and canned goods for the poor will be taken up. The public is invited.

Lady of Lourdes

Elmira — The Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of

Lourdes Church will hold a pot luck supper for all the women in the parish 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 8 in the meeting rooms. Participants are asked to bring table service and a dish to pass.

Newman Brockport

Brockport — A performance of "Alice in Wonderland," the anti-nuclear arms musical, will be staged by Crossroads, 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11 at SUNY Brockport's Newman Center. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$2 for students and senior citizens; and \$10 family maximum.

St. Joseph

Livonia — The annual roast beef dinner for St. Joseph's Church will be served 1-4 p.m., Nov. 11 in the church hall. Proceeds from the event will be used to install facilities providing access for the handicapped. The cost is \$5 for adults; \$2 for children 6-12; and free to children under 6 with family.

Holy Apostles/Holy Family

The Christmas craft sale for Holy Apostles and Holy Family parishes will run 10

a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17 and 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 18 in the school auditorium, 899 Jay St.

Immaculate

Ithaca — Immaculate Conception Church will hold its first "Renewal and Reconciliation" weekend, beginning 6 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9 in the school. The theme of the weekend is "I am the vine, you are the branches." Parishioners have asked diocesan for their prayers for the success of the program.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Does Purgatory Exist?

Do Catholics still believe in Purgatory? I know a priest who says he does not.

Well, so do I, but few people who know pay much attention to his theological fancies. He is an engaging man who enjoys shocking people, and if he dies before me, I will pray for his soul; and if we die simultaneously I expect to be with him in purgatory. The only things we know about purgatory from the definition of the Church, is that it exists, and that it is a place of some suffering, but also of great joy. By some misreading it was considered a place of fire, but Father Bernard Basset SJ, in his final retreat talk in "A Weekend with Cardinal Newman," declares that the notion of fire is entirely erroneous, and that there is joy as well as suffering of a kind. I wonder if there isn't a parallel between convalescing from an operation, with its concomitant state of well-being and recovering and the love and solicitude from relatives and friends.

But are we not redeemed by the Precious Blood of Christ?

Yes. All salvation is through the Blood of the Lamb, the sacrifice of Our Lord. But when Our Lord said to the woman: "Go and sin no more," I think she died at his feet then and there, so filled with a

perfect love would she be that she would have gone right to heaven, when heaven was opened. But if she was like most of us, as she lived on she probably hugged to her soul certain resentments, selfishnesses, envies, etc., which were not bad enough to merit eternal damnation, but unhappy enough that she would not want to be in the presence of the infinitely Holy God, without some purgation. Do you know of any woman, invited to a swanky banquet, who would be willing to appear with a big tomato soup stain on the bosom of her white dress? So with those who die in God's grace, they would want to stop for a bit a purgation before appearing in the perfection of heaven. Sir Edward Elgar, composer of the famous "Pomp and Circumstance" took this theme from Cardinal Newman's poem, "The Dream of Gerontius" and made it into a beautiful oratorio. The only way one gets to heaven is through the merits of Christ. The only way a soul is lost forever is through complete rejection of God's grace in a heinous way. That's why I don't think there are so many who are lost forever.

I can't find the word Purgatory in the Bible.

So? You can't find the words Blessed Trinity, Mystical Body, Incarnation in the Bible. The Bible is God's word but must be correctly interpreted. Did you know that the four words, "This is My Body" has over 50

interpretations? How would we know what Christ intended if He had not given us the teacher, the Church?

How can intelligent people believe in Purgatory?

My problem is with those who do not. It is because the Church is Christ teaching that so many intellectuals became Catholics during this century: G.K. Chesterton, Sigrid Undset, Evelyn Waugh, Ronald Knox, Bruce Marshall, Arnold Lunn, Henri Gheon, Mauriac, Maritain, Alice Meynell, C.C. Martin-dale. These became Catholics because they discovered Christ had given a teacher to the world, the Church. I marvel at those little popes, making dogmatic declarations about things they are incompetent to declare. With some curiosity I presented these names to a bumptious little pope who was earnestly explaining to me what was wrong with the Catholic Church. The only name he recognized was Chesterton, and that was because of his detective stories. Now that we are at it, how many of these great authors have you read, or even know about? Father Paul Schnacky of Wayland gave me a big, fat book: "The Return to Tradition," edited by Francis Beauchesne Thornton. It has 119 great modern Catholic authors, with a brief biography of each and excerpts from their writings. They range from John Lingard, the great English historian, to Thomas Merton whose "Seven Storey Mountain" of 1948 shook the whole reading United States and produced many vocations to the priesthood. These great minds had no trouble accepting Purgatory, since they recognized the entire Catholic Faith is from God.

Pediatric Center Adds P.M. Hours

Elmira --After studying and surveying the pediatric health care needs of the community, St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatric Health Care Associates is now scheduling evening appointments.

The PHCA currently is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Sunday and holidays. Appointments now will be available from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Monday and Thursdays.

The PHCA is in the Elmira Medical Arts Center on Washington Street. Appointments may be made by telephoning 734-2264.

Parish Fetes Minister Evans

Minister Lawrence Lee Evans was honored by St. Bridget's parish Saturday night for the three years he served the parish as cultural consultant.

As a representative of the First Community Interfaith Institute, he coordinated parish cultural programs until recently when he had to leave to devote more time to other pursuits.

Minister Evans is considered an important influence in Rochester's revival of African and Afro-American culture. An expert in African history and culture, he coordinates many programs for churches and organizations.

Vespers

The Diocesan Music Committee is sponsoring an Evening Prayer (Vespers) Service 4 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 11 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Music for the celebration will be provided by the Polyphonic Choir of St. Stanislaus Church under the direction of Virginia Miller. The public is invited to attend the rites which are designed to offer not only a worship opportunity but a model for celebration in the parish.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

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