

# Sister Diana Dolce Gets National Palm

Sister Diana Dolce SSJ, a teacher at Nazareth Academy High School, has won the Outstanding Service Award from the National Catholic Education Association. The award, which will be presented in April, is based on Sister Diana's contributions and service to Catholic secondary education.

In a letter from Dr. Michael Guerra, executive director of the NCEA, Sister Diana was cited for her "outstanding service deserving of national recognition."

Sister Diana has headed

Nazareth's Fundamental Learning Skills (FLS) program for seven years, and was one of the persons responsible for the design and introduction of the program into the school. The program is unique to Nazareth, for it is designed to enable students who would be unlikely to succeed in high school to complete the approved New York State course of study.

Through the technique of mastery learning and a highly affective classroom environment, the FLS program emphasizes study skills and remediation of learning



SISTER DIANA

gaps in a small-group setting. Sister Diana has given workshops and in-service training throughout the area.

# Parishes Aid VOA

Parishioners at St. Pius Tenth and St. Helen churches will assist "Santa Claus" to

deliver more than 300 Christmas packages to residents of the Volunteers of

America Adult Home in downtown Rochester.

The home is a non-profit supervised residence for dependent adults.

In October, VOA residents provided St. Pius parishioners with lists of items they wanted for Christmas. The school children printed these lists, with the residents' names, on tags for a large Christmas tree in the church.

During the holiday season, congregation members pick tags from the tree, purchase the appropriate gift, wrap it and place it back under the tree.

"It's really a heart-warming sight to see," said Sister Ann Michelle McGill of the parish human development committee. "After Mass each Sunday, the tree is stripped of more and more tags. Then the gifts begin to appear under the tree."

Glen Van Putte, a VOA social worker will play Santa Claus for the adult home. Residents will also have a Christmas party featuring live music.

Because the project is so large, St. Pius' neighboring parish, St. Helen, is joining in the gift-giving this year.

# Madrigalia Concert Scheduled

Madrigalia will present its Christmas concert at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 22, at Kilbourn Hall, Eastman School of Music.

The singers will be joined by an ensemble of professional musicians -- lutenist, consort of viols, and modern string quartet.

According to a press release, the program "will display the influence of early European composers on the distinctive sounds of 18th and 19th century American Christmas music."

Tickets are \$6 general admission, \$5 for senior citizens and students. They may be purchased by calling Peter Dundas, 422-4558, or Judith Van Ness, 271-4457, or by writing to: Madrigalia, 5 Buchanan Road, Pittsford, 14534.

# Parents Group Organizes

The Dreikurs Association of Rochester, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to understanding and improving adult-child relationships, offers family membership for \$10 for the upcoming year.

The primary objective of the group is the education of parents in principles introduced by Dr. Rudolf Dreikurs -- stressing human dignity and individual responsibility.

Membership in the association includes a reduced fee on all study groups, the annual Fall Conference at a reduced fee, the association newsletter, free family enrichment programs, and the annual membership meeting and celebration.

Anyone wishing further information should contact Barbara Amering, publicity chairman, at 671-4583.



# Essay Winners

Winners of the Statue of Liberty Essay Contest, sponsored by Pope John XXIII Council 7707, Knights of Columbus, Spencerport, receive their prizes from Philip Somers, Youth Activities chairman. First prize trophy and a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond went to Mary Liz Grieco of St. John the Evangelist School, Spencerport, second from left. Winners of second and third prizes, from left, were Beth Reither of St. Pius X School, Chili, and Tevla Mastarz of Nativity School, Brockport. Honorable Mention certificates were won by Christopher Arnold, Rachel DeFazio, Amy Hogan, Thomas Rogers, Brian Sweeney, Sally Gilson, Catherine Lloyd, Brian Meyer, Gregory Pelletier, Christine Ryan, Kelly San Filippo, Denise Schaffner, Eileen Watt, Katie Crowley, Stephen Divito, Jeanne Englert, Stacey Hopkins, Cindy Lipke, Melody Macomber, Michelle Minoia, Kerry Monfalcone, Gregory Paro, Matthew Rizzo, Suzie Siertz, Beth Sigmund, David Strassner, Julie White and Shane Yost.

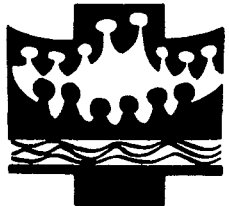
# Budget Preparation Topic of Workshops

The diocesan Liturgy Office has scheduled workshops on budget preparation for parish liturgy committees during January.

Whether a parish liturgy committee has to prepare a budget or not, the Liturgy Office sees the workshops as useful to chairpersons and committee members. They will include planning for 1985-86, accountability to the parish, the proper relation between the committee and the parish council, the parish staff and the parish community as well as discussion of a budget preparation process.

The workshop will be offered three times: Jan. 4 (note date change from Liturgy Office calendar) at St. Boniface School, 300 Gregory St., Rochester; Jan. 21, St. Patrick's School, 254 Denison Parkway East, Corning, and Jan. 22, St. Patrick's rectory, 97 Bayard St., Seneca Falls. Registration fee is \$2. Registrations must be made through the Liturgy Office, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, (716) 328-3210. Registration deadline is five working days before the particular workshop.

## Insights In Liturgy



By Father Thomas Nellis

### Projecting Ahead: Epiphany

As I write this column, Advent is about to begin and, Thanksgiving over, America has already begun its countdown to Christmas. The pace of holiday preparations will quicken until DEC. 25 becomes a huge vortex, drawing all of life into it. This column, "Projecting Ahead: Epiphany," could well be subtitled, "Is there life after Christmas?"

To appreciate this structure and dynamism of the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season we must appreciate something of its pagan substructure as well as its place within the whole liturgical year. By pagan, I mean the religious sentiments derived, not from revealed religion, but from the cycles of nature. The winter solstice was and is a time for those in northern latitudes to celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another. The shortening days give us an experience of descent into darkness (death, despair), then the nadir is reached and the days begin to lengthen again (new life, hope). Nature itself provides a paschal rhythm for this season.

Easter is the primary celebration of our rebirth to eternal life through union with Jesus' death and resurrection. The Church year would be complete with only the Lent-Easter-Pentecost cycle and the weekly Lord's Day assembly. But the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season enriches the Church year three ways:

- It adds an explicit commemoration of the Incarnation of the Son of God, implicit in the Easter celebration;

- By commemorating Jesus' first coming, it acts as a fitting prelude to the Easter festival; by anticipating Jesus' second coming, it acts as a fitting

conclusion to the ordinary Sundays of the year;

- It sanctifies our experience of the winter solstice and gives a Christian dimension to an otherwise secular celebration of the new year.

What does epiphany have to do with all of this? In what sense should we, during Advent, be looking past Christmas to Epiphany?

In the Western Church, epiphany focuses on the adoration of the magi which, in turn symbolizes the universality of the Church and the restoration of all things in Christ. Just as Pentecost concludes the Easter season by celebrating the presence of the risen Jesus in His Church through the Holy Spirit, so Epiphany concludes the Christmas season by celebrating our identity as the people of God, ennobled by the grace of Christ. "Rise up in splendor, Jerusalem! Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you" (Is. 60:1, Old Testament reading for Epiphany).

In the Eastern churches, where Epiphany originated, the feast focuses on the baptism and first miracles of Jesus as manifestations of his identity and mission. "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am pleased, upon whom I have put my spirit; he shall bring forth justice to the nations" (Is. 42:1, Old Testament reading for the feast of the Baptism of the Lord). This aspect of Epiphany, celebrated by us on the Sundays immediately after Epiphany, functions as a transition between the festival of the Incarnation and the annual celebration of the pasch.

Epiphany is not only the closing solemnity of the Christmas season but also an anticipation of Easter joy. We have descended into darkness, yet LIGHT has prevailed. We shall descend into death, but LIFE will be victorious. Alleluia!

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