

St. Theodore Pupils Take First In County-Wide Library Bowl

St. Theodore's Library Bowl team emerged victorious against 84 other fifth and sixth graders — making up 12 teams — in the county-wide finals held at the Rundel Library Nov. 17.

The Library Bowl was sponsored by the Monroe County Library System to commemorate the city's sesquicentennial.

Every team that participated was ready a winner in regional competition.

Students answered toss-up and bonus questions about the 70 books they were assigned to read within the last few months.

The program was modeled after the "College Bowl" television program, and was designed to encourage students to read some outstanding books, use the public library and to win recognition for their schools.



County champions are (left to right): front row, Yvette Vargas, Mario Fallone, Paula Blackburn; second row, Christine Phillips, Jeffrey Welch, Sandra Crane, Thomas Monagan, John Landers.

St. Theodore's team was awarded a trophy for its

excellent performance in answering questions to win points before the sound of the bell of their opposing team.

Sandra Crane, team captain, said the "teamwork" was the key in winning the

championship.

Other participants in the final round included: Mario Fallone, Tom Monagan, Christine Phillips, Paula Blackburn, Yvette Vargas, Jeffrey Welch, and John Landers as substitute.

New 'Baby Doe' Safeguards Aired

Washington (NC) — The federal Department of Health and Human Services Dec. 10 unveiled new proposed regulations demanding medical treatment for seriously ill infants.

The regulations are designed to prevent denial of medical treatment and other necessities, including food, to handicapped newborns or other babies with life-threatening medical conditions.

Exemptions to the requirement for medical treatment would be made only in cases when the infants are irreversibly comatose, the treatment would merely prolong dying or otherwise be ineffective, and the treatment, because of its futility, would itself be inhumane to the child.

The regulations follow passage by the 98th Congress of the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984, extending protection against denial of medical treatment to handicapped newborns and other seriously ill children, usually younger than age 1.

The new proposed regulations are similar to those drafted by the federal government after the much-publicized "Baby Doe" case in Indiana in which a newborn handicapped baby died after being denied medical treatment. Those earlier regulations were struck down by a federal court in June.

Under the new draft regulations, states seeking federal funds are to set up programs for responding to reports of infants suffering medical neglect, including denial of nutrition and medications as well as medical procedures. State agencies running the programs are also charged

with the responsibility of responding to all complaints of medical neglect of infants.

Hospitals are encouraged to set up infant care review committees to develop policies and guidelines for treating severely ill babies.

The proposed regulations also say that a physician's "reasonable medical judgment" concerning treatment for such children "is not to be based on subjective 'quality of life' or other abstract concepts," apparently rejecting arguments that medical treatment could be denied severely ill babies because the expectation for their "quality of life" in the future is not good.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

Annunciation Marks Height Of Advent

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Lk. 1/26-38. (R1) 2 Sm. 7/1-5, 8-11, 16. (R2) Rom. 15/25-27.

The Advent Season climaxes with the story of the Annunciation. No better preparation for Christmas can be made than to meditate on this familiar, but magnificent story.

Luke in a single sentence gives the time, place and persons of this epochal drama. In the sixth month after Elizabeth conceived John, the angel Gabriel was sent from God (as always, God initiates salvation) to a town of Galilee named Nazareth (such a backwater village that Nathaniel asked if anything good could come from Nazareth), to a virgin named Mary. "Angel" means "one sent" to deliver a message. Gabriel begins his message with the words, "Rejoice, O highly favored daughter!" In the old translation, the words were, "Hail, full of grace." The new translation is more accurate. It reflects the words of the prophet Zephaniah. He foretold that the coming of the Messiah would be an event of great joy. So it was fitting that the angel's first words to Mary should be "rejoice!"

Secondly, "highly favored daughter" is better than "full of grace." For "full of grace" puts the focus on Mary; whereas the incarnation is the work of God. All grace, all salvation, begins with God, not man.

The angel was telling Mary what God intended to do. He was going to send His Son and, because He was, He favored her in a unique way: He filled her with grace — so that she was immaculately conceived to provide a worthy dwelling place for the Son — so that she was blessed among women and the Lord was to be with her.

The normal reaction to the message was fear. So the angel calms her fear and then goes on to tell her that the promise God made to David through the prophet Nathan, that He would build Him a house (a dynasty) that would endure forever, was now going to be fulfilled: Mary would bear a Son; His name will be Jesus; His throne that of David, his father; and His reign would be without end.

To Mary's "How?" the angel answered that His birth would be miraculous, done by the Holy Spirit through whom all the great works of God are done. Thus when the world began, the Spirit hovered over the waters; when Jesus began His public life, the Spirit hovered over His head at the baptism; when the Church began her apostolic work, the Spirit came down upon her at Pentecost; and when the Word of God became man, it was because the Spirit of God overshadowed the virgin Mary.

How beautiful the obedience of Mary to God's coming. She did not pray, "Thy will be changed!" Rather she said, "May whatever God wants be done." In the Greek the verb is in the Optative Mood "May," not "Let" it be done. The Alleluia verse has caught this: "May his will for me be done."

How thankful we should be to Mary. Redemption hinged on her consent. We too often take this for granted. Had Mary not been able to say "No," there would have been no point in sending Gabriel. How many mothers today prevent the birth of geniuses by abortions! However, Mary said "Yes" to the angel, because she loved not only God, but also each one of us. How strange to think that honor to the Mother detracts from honor due the Son! No one can honor Mary ever as much as God the Father has: He made her the Mother of His Son.

A Mary Christmas to you all!

RSMs Slate Retreat As Vocation Review

The Sisters of Mercy are sponsoring a retreat Jan. 11-13 for women wishing to deepen their knowledge of the call to religious life.

The event will take place at High Acres in Geneva. The theme will be discernment.

Presenting the program will be Sister Sheila Stevenson, Faith Sharing Program coordinator and vocation director for the congregation; and Mrs. Judy Clark, a professional collaborator with the Sisters of Mercy Prayer Center.

The retreat is an activity of the Faith Sharing Program which introduces women to the spirit of religious life.

Women interested in taking part or desiring further information are asked to call Sister Sheila, (716) 244-2175.

Liturgy Office Sets Workshops On Budgeting

Workshops dealing with budget preparation have been scheduled by the diocesan Liturgy Office for parish liturgy committees during January.

Whether a liturgy committee prepares and submits a budget or not, the workshops are deemed important by the Liturgy Office for chairpersons and members of such committees.

The workshops will cover planning for 1985-86, accountability to the parish, the proper relation between the committee and the parish council, parish staff and parish community, as well as discussion of a budget preparation process.

The workshop is scheduled Jan. 14 (note change from Liturgy Office calendar) at St. Boniface School, 300 Gregory St., Rochester; Jan. 21 at St. Patrick's School, 254 Denison Pkwy. E., Corning, and Jan. 22 at St. Patrick's Rectory, 97 Bayard St., Seneca Falls.

Registration 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 date of the workshop; fee is \$2.



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