

McQuaid Italian Night Slated

McQuaid Jesuit High School will present its third annual Italian Night starting 7:30 p.m., Friday, Jan. 25 at the high school.

The evening will include a cash bar, an "Italian Feast" catered by Pete Costanza, and dancing to the music of Len Hawley and his orchestra.

Tickets, at \$8.50 per person must be reserved. Tickets will not be sold at the door.

Reservations are made by calling Cathy Tocci, 377-8497; or Madeline Colombo, 586-6771, before Jan. 20

Tables may be reserved for groups.

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Pius Tenth

"The Death of the Lord," a three-week adult education series will be presented by Father George P. Heyman, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 5, 12 and 26 at St. Pius Tenth Church. The discussion will focus on the scriptural and theological understandings of the passion and resurrection of Jesus. Registration is accomplished by calling the Religious Education Office, 247-3322. The program is free.

St. Andrew

The Rosary Society of St. Andrew's Church will meet 7:30 p.m., Jan. 22 in the school cafeteria. A pizza party is on the agenda and money earned will be used for church insulation.

St. Agnes

Avon — An information session on a Social Ministry Training Program for St. Agnes Parish will be held 7:30-9:30 p.m., Jan. 17 in the parish center room.

Holy Ghost

The Church of the Holy Ghost last week announced that 22-year parishioners Roger and Pat Waldmiller and their six children have been named by the Town of Ogden as "Family of the Year" for 1984. "Congratulations Waldmillers! Your family is an inspiration to all of us," a parish release stated.

Lady of Lourdes

Elmira — Father Paul Cuddy will direct the Miraculous Medal Novena, Feb. 3-11 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The services include Mass, novena sermon and devotions, 11 a.m.; and novena, sermon, Holy Communion and benediction 7:30 p.m. on the weekdays.

St. Joseph

Penfield — Father Damian O'Connell will preside at a Mass for the Charismatic Renewal community, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 28 at St. Joseph's Church.

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Learning God's Will

Dear Father Hohman, A while ago we had a Sunday homily that disturbed me greatly. I wonder if you could comment on the topic.

Our pastor was talking about a woman (unnamed) who had just found out she had cancer. "She didn't try to fight it, she didn't complain. She just said, 'Jesus, if dying this way is the cross you would have me carry, then I accept it.' What a beautiful example for us all! What a perfect example of resignation to God's will!"

My mother has cancer and so I have read a lot about it. That attitude of resignation is the worst thing that woman could have done! People who fight cancer have a much higher survival rate than those who passively accept it.

My question is: How do we know when something is God's will to be accepted and when it is something to be struggled against?

The difference is not always obvious. Some people would say that poverty or prejudice are evils to be abolished, while other would say they are God's will and are ways of testing us. I knew a woman who was married to an alcoholic who hit her regularly.

She would say, "This is the cross I have to bear in this world. I'll get my reward in the next world." In that situation, I would leave the man; I would not feel that God intended me to live with him as a test. But how can we tell what God's will is?

(Signed) MTA

Dear MTA, Sometimes in preaching without a script we say things which are marginally incorrect or at best not easily explainable. It seems to me from the quote you give from the homily, that the overall intention is to present the idea that when cancer has been diagnosed as terminal and everything possible has been done, that one may indeed say, "Jesus, if dying this way is the cross you would have me carry, then I accept it."

If is the key word and the intention is not to give up on the supposition that God actively wills this but rather that everything has already been done.

Dealing with the will of God and how we are to understand it is not at all an easy task. God's will takes two forms: His active will whereby he chooses to have something happen and his passive will whereby he simply allows something to happen. At the time of creation, God set the world in motion governed by very definite laws. At the time of the creation of man he brought free will into the world and would not take back that gift. Other wise it would be a fiction and a fraud. Therefore in view of the operation of forces set in motion millions of years ago and the free will of man operating within that context, there are many things which God permits which seem to be very evil and yet out of which he can, we believe firmly, bring ultimate good and victory.

The mystery of disease and of natural catastrophes is one which our little minds are simply incapable of understanding. We must simply believe that out of all these happenings God will indeed bring ultimate good and that his love will triumph. In the meantime we are called to deal with those forces and those tragedies as best we can, trying to overcome them. When we come to a point when that is impossible, it is important that we trust ourselves to God and his providence and believe that out of all this he will bring great gifts and final victory.

In reference to the woman who lived with the alcoholic, obviously she could prevent a great deal of evil by leaving him. Therefore he would not only have the right to leave him, but probably the obligation. The assumption is, of course, that she use all available means such as counseling and other efforts of reconciliation to bring the situation to a happy end. The will of God is not codified, but must be arrived at by constant prayer, humble listening, and openness to the spirit of God instructing us.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Believers In Christ Form Family

How do I explain to non-Catholics our devotion to Mary and the saints? That it is not worshipping them as God?

Well, if you are dealing with the Born Again Bible folk, Witnesses of Jehovah, Seventh Day Adventists, save your breath. These people have their minds stuck in a mental morass. They twist the English language, they chant of the inspired but difficult Book: "The Bible says, the Bible says, the Bible says..." They seem incapable of comprehending an elementary law of logic, viz. that two contradictories cannot both be true at the same time and under the same aspect. These muddled people chant: "The Bible says, the Bible says..." Then one says that the Bible says Jesus is God; another says the Bible says He is not; another says read the Bible and the Holy Spirit will guide you -- and you, unguided, end up in a religious swamp. Just commend these stultified people to the God of Truth, and thank Him that we have the inspired Book, and the interpreter of the Bible which Christ gave us, i.e. the Catholic Church.

If any one in this day and age does not know the difference between worshipping and honoring, he has a problem: with no understanding of the value of words, of dictionaries, of language, of history. I think the normal non-Catholics, like the Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Baptists, would not believe today that Catholics adore Mary. In fact, many non-Catholics today, away from Reformation polemics, are seeing the mother of God in the true light: "He who is mighty has done great things to me, and holy is His Name: He has regarded the humility of His handmaid: for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." (Lk. 1:46)

From the beginning Christians believed that all believers in Christ form a family: the saints in heaven and in purgatory, and the faithful on earth. The

Apostles Creed, the most ancient of the declarations of Christian belief states: "I believe in the Communion of saints," i.e. the family of which Christ is the Head. It would be a strange family if we did not call on one another for help.

A Catholic matron from Assumption Parish in Fairport sent me a pamphlet peddled by two zealous Bible Baptist women, who came to her home to persuade her to leave the Catholic Church. The pamphlet was a testament of Pastor Chiniquy, a fallen away priest who alleged he left the Church because of its intolerance. Talk about an "oldie!" Chiniquy was expelled from the Church in 1851 by the Bishop of Montreal because of his immorality. He pretended to repent and promised to behave, and persuaded another bishop to accept his services. He was expelled again in 1856, again for immorality. He migrated to the States and set up his own church. The great Irish satirist, Dean Swift, author of Gulliver's Travels, who was very good to the poor Irish in Dublin, said, "I wish when the Pope weeded his garden, he wouldn't throw the weeds over the fence into our grounds."

What kind of mentality have these two women, peddling ludicrous canards in the name of Jesus and the Bible Baptist Church? And there is a legion of such "The Bible says" people, propagating lies against the Catholic Church -- in the Name of Jesus. This is blasphemy. A valuable classic on bigotry and misrepresentation is "The Present Position of Catholics in England" by Cardinal John Henry Newman, author of "Lead Kindly Light." It is over a hundred years old, but the same mean lies of which he wrote are still afloat a hundred years later, thanks to the aberrant minds of self-righteous zealots who think in hating the Catholic Church, and misrepresenting her, they do great things for Jesus. You should be able to get the book through any good public library. It might not have the book in stock, excepting big libraries like Rochester Rundel Library, but an efficient librarian can get it for you.

St. Andrew's Hosts 'EPIC' Workshops

Effective Parenting Information for Children, "EPIC," a primary prevention program to alleviate problems of child abuse and neglect, teen pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse and juvenile crime, will be given 9-11 a.m., Jan. 22, Feb. 5 and 19 and March 4; and 7-9 p.m., Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12 and 19 at St. Andrew's School.

According to promotional literature, the program "supports the development and enfusion of parenting education programs in the school for children and coordinates workshops for their parents or guardians. The goal is to help children develop skills which encourage

responsible personhood and parenting."

The parent workshops will use "Growing and Learning Together," a program handbook for parents.

Further information is available by calling Pat Mikols, 467-9201.

Stress Program

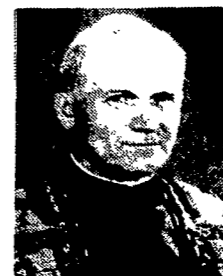
Newark — A film entitled "Living with Stress" will be shown at the next meeting of Make Today Count, 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 23 at the Newark Wayne Community Hospital conference room 2. Further information is available from the United Cancer Council, 331-4147.

HOLY HOUR

A Holy Hour has been scheduled by the Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League beginning at 7:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Infirmary. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will be the leader.

Advisory

Correspondents are advised the Courier-Journal is restricted by law from publishing any notice of games of chance, the prizes won in such games or the winners of such prizes.



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