

# St. Vincent Church Notes 100th Anniversary with Host of Events, Programs

**Churchville** — Parishioners of St. Vincent De Paul Church are celebrating the 100th anniversary of their church building with a host of activities and special events.

A parish Lenten renewal will open with a program on reconciliation led by Father Christopher Heller, director of liturgy for the diocese of Rockville Centre on Long Island.

Father Heller will speak at a special Friday evening liturgy, Feb. 22. Present at the event will be members of



Father Heller

the churches of the Inter-Church Council, who also will babysit parishioners' children. The afternoon following, neighborhood sharing groups will meet for discussion. The day will close with Evening Prayer and the 6 p.m. Mass.

Also speaking in the renewal program will be Father John Dargan, pastor of St. Vincent dePaul Parish in Newport News, Va. Father Dargan will address the topic of mission on March 15 and 16.



Father Dargan

In a different vein, the choir of the parish has commissioned two composers, Michael Joncas and C. Alexander Peloquin, to write music which will be dedicated to the parish in honor of the 100th anniversary.

The composition by Peloquin will be performed for the first time at the Easter Vigil. It is written for choir, congregation, handbells, brass choir and tympani. It will be performed again at a diocesan mass for all neophytes, scheduled for April 21, with Bishop Matthew H. Clark presiding.

Also on the agenda is a music festival July 20 with guest composer and conductor Leon Roberts, music director of St. Augustine's in Washington, D.C.

The parish will celebrate a Homecoming Weekend with a parish picnic, July 21 at Churchville Park.

Plans are also being made to have a Latin Mass at St. Feehans, now located at Genesee Country Museum.

# Rochester Resident Takes Sudan Post

Paul Giannone will trade Rochester's arctic cold for Sahara sand and heat when he begins a six-month position in February as an emergency relief coordinator in Sudan for the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Giannone's work in refugee relief has included service as public health advisor in Vietnam for the 29th Civil Affairs Company of the US Army; as health specialist in Ahwaz, Iran for the University of Teheran; health educator for Project Concern International in North Sulawesi, Indonesia; project director/deputy director for International Catholic Migration Commission in Singapore and Sudan; and refugee resettlement coordinator for Lutheran Services for Refugees in Rochester.

Giannone is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Eaton of Auburn, N. Y.

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### THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

**EDWIN SULEWSKI**  
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

Why is there such an emphasis on death and grief today? There have been great advances in medical science which have removed death from the daily lives of most Americans. Because of this we are generally unfamiliar with death and grief. We are fortunate that our experience with death has lessened, but nevertheless it's important to learn about the things we can do to help ourselves and friends. Making wills and understanding how to help our grieving friends will help us cope better when the stress of a death comes into our lives. Avoiding death by ignoring it, by not making wills or by not going to funerals or visitations is a denial of reality!

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Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

## The Cure Of Leprosy

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 1:40-45. (R1) Lv. 13:1-2, 45-46. (R2) 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1.

One thing that really gets to me is pictures of lepers. The sickening sights distress and sadden me. I find it hard to eat or be happy in the face of such suffering.

Leprosy has always been a dreaded disease. It does two things: ruptures human relationships and ravishes the human body. As far back as the days of Moses, the leper was banished from the fellowship of men — "he shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp." It is a tribute to the approachableness of Jesus that the leper in Sunday's gospel felt he could break the Law and go to Him.

Dr. Kato in "The Leprosy Relief" describes how difficult it was for him to get to the leper colony of babadinka in Senegal, Africa in 1976. Then he noted the frightful ravishes of the disease. Nodular leprosy, for instance, so defaces a man that he looks like a lion or a satyr. "A blind man approached us," he wrote. "In place of his eyes some cloudy spots showed, the results of leprosy or trachoma... When I shook hands, I grasped mutilated hands without fingers... Nearly all the men and women there were limping and a look at their legs showed that most feet were bandaged in leaves or some kind of dirty cloth. All these people were suffering from plantar ulcers so characteristic for leprosy and incapacitating to walk... There was just Hell!"

The Response in Sun-

day's liturgy teaches us to see leprosy as the symbol of sin, and confession of sin as the cure.

The sight of the leper is loathsome, so is sin to God.

The leper himself is tormented with scab, sore, pustule. Sin torments the heart of man. "Many sorrows has the wicked."

Lepers are banished from society. Sin alienates man from other men and from God.

In the Gospel, there was one cure for leprosy — Jesus! "A leper approached Jesus and addressed him: 'If you will do so, you can cure me.'"

Jesus not only touched him, but revealed His feelings about men's diseases. "I do will it — I do not will disease and death. Be cured." The man was, instantly.

This same power of the touch and words of Jesus is present in the words and actions of every sacrament.

When we contract the leprosy of sin, we can turn to Jesus and tell Him we are sorry and He will forgive us. But normally, that is not enough; in addition, we must avail ourselves of the sacrament of reconciliation. Jesus told the leper to go and present himself to the priest.

For the forgiveness of sin, go to God — yes. But it is commanded also by Jesus that we go to confession — auricular, private confession to a priest! "Go off and present yourself to the priest."

Why? Because love is blind; and the blindest of all loves is self-love. And just as one cannot see his own face without a mirror, so we cannot really see ourselves as we are unless we look in the mirror of confession. Who is judged by himself has a fool for a judge.

## Fr. Firpo

Continued from Page 1

Bausch has been appointed as the first executive director of the Genesee Valley Region. Father Bausch is currently executive director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

"Social Ministry" describes the work of believers in the world. Christ has called us to transform this earth through our love, work, celebration and learning. As an explicitly organized community, the Diocese of Rochester is engaged in this ministry through Catholic Charities (human care), Justice and Peace, and pastoral care for institutions (Chaplaincy). The renewal of the Division of Social Ministry will allow the three regions to have common and compatible programs and pastoral planning in each of the three areas.

Working with Father Firpo will be associate directors for each of the three departments — Catholic Charities, Justice and Peace, and Chaplaincy. Each region's administration will also use this model — a regional executive director will work with a regional director for each of the three elements.

Father Firpo, ordained in March 1977, spent four years at St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, and the summer of 1982 at the diocesan mission in Mexico, before attending Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Father Firpo holds Master of Arts degrees in Sacramental Theology and Sociology, and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Sociology. Born and raised in Rochester, his home parish is St. Pius Tenth.

"The roots of the Social Ministry Division in our diocese reach back to the beginning of Catholic Charities in 1917. Since then, many people have played an important role in fashioning the character of the social ministry of the Church. It is my hope that we will continue to create our future in the same responsible, collegial and grace-filled way," said Father Firpo.

## Meeting Scheduled

St. Patrick's Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet for novice instruction at 1:15 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17 at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave. Recitation of the rosary will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Mass at 2 p.m. Visitors are welcome.

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