



Father Hunt in action.

St. Jerome's Slates 'Mission for Today'

East Rochester — Precious Blood Father Robert Hunt will preach his "Mission for Today," 7:30-9:30 p.m., March 25-27 at St. Jerome's Church. In addition, Father Hunt will preach at all Masses March 23 and 24.

"Mission for Today" is a four-year-old program which was designed by Father Hunt and is given by him. A press-release stated that its intended audience is

"everyone... young, elderly, middle age, high school and upper grade school students, Catholics and non-Catholics. The Mission for Today is to give Christ to the people of today."

Father Hunt's Monday talk is entitled, "Intimacy with Self, Family and Friends;" on Tuesday, he will speak on "Intimacy with Death;" and Wednesday, "Intimacy with God."

St. John's Lutheran Runs Family Series

Hamlin — A new film series featuring family expert James C. Dobson is being shown 7 p.m., on the Sundays of Lent at St. John Lutheran Church, 1107 Lake Road.

Entitled, "Focus on the Family," the series includes such topics as, "Shaping the Will without Breaking the

Spirit," "Christian Fathering," "Preparing for Adolescence," and "What Wives Wish Husbands Knew about Women."

Child care will be provided during the film presentation, and a discussion and coffee hour will follow each film.

Pastor Timothy Nickel has invited the interested public.

POPE

Open Hearts to Christ

Vatican City (NC) — Here is the Vatican text of Pope John Paul II's English-language remarks at his weekly general audience Feb. 20.

Dear brothers and sisters,

Today is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. By imposing ashes, the church wishes to remind us that we are sinners, weakened by original sin and inclined towards committing personal sins against God and our neighbor. The liturgy recalls our sinful human condition, not so that we may live in despair, but so that we may courageously use the means that Christ offers to us, in order to regain our lost dignity as creatures, "made in the image and likeness of God."



It is necessary for us first of all to recognize our own sinfulness before God. We must acknowledge that sin exists and that each of us can contribute to eliminating this evil in ourselves and in our world. As I pointed out in my apostolic exhortation on reconciliation and penance, at the heart of every situation of sin are always sinful people. Sin, in the proper sense of the term, is always a personal act since it is a free act on the part of an individual person. The act of conversion is also a personal act — an act of turning toward God, with sorrow for sin. An important part of conversion is the struggle against sin. By constantly struggling to overcome the temptation to sin and by striving more and more to love God and our neighbor, we follow the path marked out for us by the church.

During this Lenten season let us open our hearts to Christ, our redeemer. Let us follow the way of penance and conversion, so that we may more worthily celebrate the paschal mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation.

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Annunciation

Annunciation School will hold new student registration 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Sunday March 10 in the school. The facility has pre-school through eighth grade. Registration procedures require copies of birth certificates and immunization records for each child, and baptismal certificates if the child is Catholic. Further information is available from the school office, 342-8390.

St. Jerome

East Rochester — Registration for the 1986-86 season at St. Jerome's School will be 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday, March 4 through 8 at the school, 501 S. Garfield St. An open house will be held 7-9 p.m., Tuesday, March 5. The school's kindergarten will become a full-day program next September. The school covers pre-school through

eighth grade, and features a computer education program for kindergartners through eighth graders, and a staffed learning center resource room, among its attractions. Further information is available by calling the school, 586-4200. Sister Joseph Gilmary Russell SSJ is principal.

Nativity

Brockport — Registration for the 1985-86 season at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School will be 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday, March 3; and 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Monday, March 4 at the school on Holley and Utica streets. The school teaches pre-kindergartners through sixth graders. It features a computer literacy curriculum, and music, foreign language and physical education instruction among its attractions. Sister Mary Ann Laurer SSJ is principal.



Gift Presented

Donald Holmes, acting faithful navigator of the Bishop James E. Kearney fourth degree assembly of the Knights of Columbus presents a check for \$500 to Sister Seraphine Herbst SSJ, principal of the School of the Holy Childhood. Another check, for \$300 was later presented to the Sister by Ralph Handley, grand knight of the Pope John XXIII Council in Spencerport during the knight's annual Lincoln Day Dinner.

Members, Donations Up, NFP Reports

Membership in Natural Family Planning Education of Rochester continues to grow, according to the seventh annual report issued recently by the organization.

Mrs. Therese M. Petracca, NFP executive director, that membership increased in 1984 and that "we plan a big push on it in 1985."

A cover letter with the annual report, issued jointly by Mrs. Petracca and Timothy F. Parsons, president, states that membership contributions increased from \$5,912 in 1982 to \$6,219 in 1983 to \$9,712 in 1984.

NFP also reported that instructors donated 2,410 hours and provided 286 sessions teaching 153 new women/couples and completing 385 followups.

In addition, 87 informational sessions took place reaching 2,543 individuals.

Among achievements listed for 1984 were the acceptance of NFP's application for direct United Way funding, a survey of Menopausal women by the Medical Resource Committee, collection of

data concerning membership and clientele, completion of an independent study module on Fertility Awareness and Natural Family Planning which is being piloted in two college nursing programs, the initiation of Fertility Awareness classes for women, a conference for health care professionals, training of two more couples to teach NFP, the design and distribution of a new brochure and posters, the commissioning of a medical artist to design a new set of instructional slides and continued involvement and leadership in the state NFP.

"Much still needs to be done," the cover letter states. "We need to teach more couples, expand our awareness and acceptance in the community, increase our committed membership, and train additional instructors."

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news for the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication.

Faith Enrichment Programs Slated

The diocese announced last week that two Adult Faith Enrichment Programs are scheduled in Rochester.

Sister Anne Marie Ferenbach SSJ will present, "Voices of Hope (Prophets)" 7-9 p.m., March 4, 11, 18 and 26 at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 165 Rhinecliff Dr.

Marie Venaglia will give "Christology: Jesus Today, Yesterday, Forever," 7 p.m., March 7, 14, 21, 28 at St. Lawrence Parish, 1000 N. Greece Road.

The fee for each program is \$10. Registration and further information is available by calling Charlotte Richardson, (716) 328-3210.

Fr. Albert Shamon



Word for Sunday

The Me-Focus Of Our Age

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mk. 9/2-10, (R1) Gn. 22/1-2, 9-13, 15-18. (R2) Rom. 8/31-34.

This question was asked by a roving reporter: "What does Lent mean to you and how will you observe it?"

One said, "I'll observe it like any other day. I don't know what it means."

Another, "Lent is a time to renew one's relationship with the Lord."

"Lent is a time of personal spiritual renewal, which affects my relationship with others."

"Lent is not so much a giving up but doing something positive to deepen my relationship with God... I will spend more time in prayer... sacrifice"

With the exception of the first response, I enjoyed the insights given. However, what struck me, in this age of otherness, was the me-focus of all the answers.

Everyone answered in substance, "I'm going to try to deepen my relationship with God and fellowman."

To me that should be the endeavor of everyday life. Lent should give an added dimension. To me Lent is a time of sacrifice: it culminates in the cross and resurrection. The season starts with death (Ash Wednesday) and ends in life (Easter). Lent is a journey from death to life. Most of us have made this journey.

But what about those who have not?

Sister Lucia in her gospel-like memoirs, "Fatima in Lucia's Own Words," narrates this incident:

"One day, I was asked of Our Lady had told us to pray for sinners, and I said she had not. At the first opportunity, while people were questioning Jacinta, he (Francesco) called me aside and said: 'You lied just now! How could you say that Our Lady didn't tell us to pray for sinners? Didn't she ask us to pray for sinners, then?'"

"For sinners, no! She told us to pray for peace, for the war to end. But for sinners, she told us to make sacrifices."

"Ah! That's true. I was beginning to think you had lied."

Note that Our Lady was asking us to make sacrifices, not so much for self-mastery, as for the conversion of sinners. She wanted us to imitate her own Son. Jesus did not avoid sacrifice. He came, in fact, for sacrifice. And His sacrifice was offered, not for Himself, but for the conversion of sinners.

I think we have lost this vital concept.

In the July apparition at Fatima (1917), Our Lady showed the children a vision of hell. And she pointed out that souls were falling into hell more numerous than the leaves falling from the trees in autumn. The reason: "because no one makes sacrifices for sinners."

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Those who wish to have arrangements carried out in accordance with the ideals of their faith can rely upon the funeral directors listed to perform their duties with sympathetic care and attention.



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