

## CROSSROADS III

### Bishop's Journey

#### SECOND WEEK OF LENT

March			
3	pm	Bishop Kearney High School	Youth Day
9	3:45 pm	Rochester General Hospital	Celebration of Eucharist

#### Second Week of Lent

Sunday's Readings: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18. Romans 8:31-34. Mark 9:2-10.

The Second Week of Lent opens with the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac. It is a familiar story of fear (to kill one's son), faith (the Lord will care for us), and hope ("I will bless you abundantly and make your descendants as countless as the stars of the sky and the sands of the seashore...") which calls today's faithful to consider its faith in God. Abraham's story encourages today's Church to seek the Lord even in times of hopelessness.

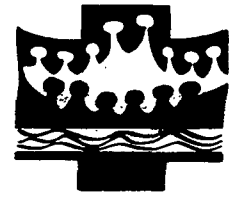
The Gospel story of the transfiguration singles out the "hope for the future" concept. Jesus wishes to give Peter, James and John a taste of what the glory to be revealed would be like. The mystery of the transfiguration, however, can only be revealed when "the Son of Man had risen from the dead." From the darkness of death rises the transfiguring hope.

The Lenten journey challenges faith-filled people to search out people whose lives need to be transfigured. There are many Abrahams in our world who wonder why the Lord is asking them to accept such difficult tasks. Sometimes a listening ear can lift the burden and offer a sign of hope.

#### Project:

1. pray for the "elect" and all who are especially seeking the Lord;
2. call a close friend or neighbor and offer a listening ear;
3. take time to renew your own strength and energy to allow the Lord to enter your space.

#### Insights In Liturgy



By Pam Schaeffer

### Crossroads III: 'Signs Of Hope'

There is an adage that says one can tell if a person is optimistic or pessimistic by the way he/she describes a half-filled vessel. The pessimist will say it is half empty, the optimist that it is half filled. One sees impending depletion, the other sees the potential for completion.

Each of us wants to believe that we fall into the optimistic category. We tend to see ourselves as positive, open people — and at times we are correct to think of ourselves this way. Unfortunately, it must be admitted that this is not always the case — our human sensitivities prevent us from seeing potential and under protective wraps we head in a totally different position. It is times such as this that through God's goodness we are given other people, events and periods of time that grab hold of us to firmly, but gently, nudge us in a new direction. Opened to us is a pathway pointing to possibilities where formerly

only impossibilities seemed to exist. An opportunity for conversion, a "change of heart," is shown to us and placed within our grasp. The choice, of course, is ours to make. Lent is such a time in the lives of Christians.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark's Crossroads III Lenten journey challenges faith-filled people to search out others whose lives need to be nudged in a new direction. The bishop, by his example of seeking out "signs of hope" as he travels throughout the diocese, is setting the direction. All are invited to travel the Crossroads journey. By our acceptance to follow the example shown us by Bishop Clark we do not become imitators, but mirrors. The reflection that is seen is one of baptized Christians living out the mission and ministry of their rebirth in Christ. As members of Christ's Body we are missioned to build up that Body through our day-to-day caring, concern and service to the other members of that same Body. In turn, we allow the other members of the Body to minister to us.

Care-filled seeking and embracing the many hope-

ful signs we encounter along our journey reflects encouragement and gives dignity to those whose lives are touched. In turn, those who journey and seek are given renewed strength and refreshment in the very people who are being supported and encouraged — thus, the journey continues. We, in fact, become "living signs of hope" to those who surround us as we seek to live out our baptismal ministry. Our hope-filled presence sheds light on the troubled, disenchanted ones — those who are "sometimes" missed and/or overlooked. We become strength and refreshment to those in need of evangelization who seek and need further support. Taking notice of one who is alone and despairing nudges them out of the shadows of darkness; they become bearers of hope and light to others. Thus, the journey continues and the journey-ers, though there may be few at the journey's beginning, become many as we travel along.

Crossroads III asks that we seek out signs of hope — what we learn as we journey along is that we are signs of hope — each for the other. During the remaining Lenten weeks this column will feature other journey-ers, seekers of hope sharing the reflections of their mission and ministry to encourage and refresh us as we travel along — together!

## Parish Lent Programs

### St. John

Spencerport — The annual Lenten Retreat of St. John the Evangelist Parish is underway here with Father Albert Evans SSCC conducting the event, 7:30 p.m. through March 3. Father Evans' homilies include "The Presences of Our Lord," "The Eucharistic Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary," and "Hope." The programs include the celebration of Mass; confessions following the Wednesday and Thursday Mass and at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday. On Friday, exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:45 p.m. The public is invited to the event, as it is to the church's regular observance of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, following the 9 a.m. Mass until 4:45 p.m. each first Friday of the month.

### St. Charles

St. Charles Borromeo parishioners will begin a Parish Lenten Retreat, 7:30 p.m., March 2 through 7. The event is to extend Bishop Matthew H. Clark's Crossroads III journey, a parish release stated. Father Simeon Gallagher OFM Cap will preach at all Masses on the weekend and he will give the following weekday presentations: "Conversion," Monday; "Relationship with God," Tuesday; "Breaking the Covenant," Wednesday; "Reconciliation" (concluding with a Penance Celebration), Friday. Each evening's program will be followed by refreshments and fellowship. Babysitting will be provided.

### Blessed Sacrament

The adult education committee of Blessed Sacrament Church is sponsoring a series of lectures and discussions on the topic of "Prayer and Our Spiritual Lifestyle." Deacon Joseph Holleran will lead the discussions of the works of Father Thomas Greene, Father Henri Nouwen, Thomas Merton and Mother Teresa. His talks will highlight aspects of personal and communal prayer. The program will be run 7:30-9:30 p.m., March 7, 14 and 21 in Room 11 of the school.

### St. Thomas More

Father Timothy Keating CSSR, a staff member of Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua, will lead a four-session course for adults entitled "Prayer and Scripture," 7:30-9 p.m., starting March 18 in the school. The agenda calls for a formal presentation, a brief social break and a question and reaction period. Father Keating's topics and dates are: "Prayer — the Real God Meeting the Real You," March 18; "Prayer — the Real God Meeting the Real You. Who is that Real You?" April 1; "Theory and Practice of Scripture-based Contemplation," April 15; and "Where Do You Go from Here?" April 29. The program is free and open to the public. Further information is available by calling the parish religious education office, 381-0470; or the rectory, 381-4200.

### Assumption

Fairport — Father Robert Ring, associate pastor of Church of the Assumption of Our Lady is leading parishioners through a Bible Study program 7:30 p.m., on the Thursdays of Lent in the parish hall.

### St. Christopher

North Chili — Father Simeon Gallagher OFM cap will lead a Lenten Mission, "Come and See," for parishioners of St. Christopher's Church, 7:30 p.m., March 11 through 14. The evening program includes a prayer service followed by Father Gallagher's talk and ending with refreshments. The Thursday program will begin with celebration of Mass. The public is invited.

### Lady of Lourdes

Elmira — Alice Pempell will present "Contemplation," 8-9 p.m. Tuesday, March 5 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The program is the third in the parish's special Lenten series, "Teach us to Pray." Ms. Pempell's topic was described by the parish: "Contemplation is simply a personal and intimate form of mental prayer which is often a solitary conversation. There is no need to avoid this form of prayer or feel inadequate. St. Teresa of Avila simplified it when she said, 'Think little and love much.'"

### St. Theodore

Parishioners of St. Theodore's Church will participate in a week of Lenten Renewal, 7-9 p.m., March 4 through 8. Father Louis J. Hohman, pastor of St. Louis Church in Pittsford and columnist for the Courier-Journal, will speak Wednesday, March 6, on "Sacramentals." All services will be interpreted for the hearing-impaired and the church is accessible to the handicapped. All sessions are open to the public.

### St. Paul

Honeoye Falls — St. Paul of the Cross Church is sponsoring a Lenten Family Ministry Seminar, given by the Catholic Family Life Office, 7:30 p.m., March 17 through 24 at the parish hall. Margaret DeMeo will speak on "Communication in Your Family," March 17; Deacon Daniel and Sheila Kinsky, "Parenting Our Catholic Values," March 18; Angela Gallo, "Lifestyle Changes — What It Can Mean to the Church (with a focus on separation and divorce)" March 19; Jim and Donna Fitch, "Celebrating Our Sacrament of Marriage," March 20; and "Family Ministry — It's Going on in Your Family and We Are Reaching out to Serve Others in the Community," March 21. The program is free and open to the public.

### Holy Name

The Church of the Holy Name will conduct its eighth renewal mission March 3 through 10. Following are speakers and themes for the event: March 3, Father David Simon on "Analysis of Personal Life Goals," March 4, Sister Elizabeth Hughes, "Who is Jesus?" March 5, Deacon Raymond Datz, "Who is the Church?" March 6, Father William Darling, "What is Prayer and the Word?" March 7, Sister Marie Brown, "Sacraments," March 8, Father Robert Gaudio, "Memory Healing," March 9, Remo D'Ortenzio, "Living in God's Presence." The closing will be celebrated with a shared dinner and Mass. Registration for the program will be held following the Sunday liturgies. Further information is available by calling the rectory, 621-4040.

### St. Margaret Mary

Apalachin — "A Week with the Lord Jesus," is slated for March 10 through March 17 at St. Margaret March Church. The program is the second renewal mission for the parish. The mission opens 7 p.m. each day except for the final Sunday, which will begin with a 4 p.m. dinner in the hall. Featured speakers include Father David Mura, Father Tom Catucchi, Father David Simon, pastor; John and Kathy Colligan, Kaahleen Hartnett Ross and Remo D'Ortenzio. Among the topics are "Analyzing Personal Life Goals," "Who is Jesus?" "Who is Church?" "What is Prayer and the Work?" "Sacraments," "Christian Family," "Single Parenting," and "Living in God's Presence." Pre-registration will be held at the church following the weekend liturgies. Babysitting will be available on request.

### St. Vincent

Churchville — Father Robert Kennedy, former diocesan director of the Office of Liturgy, will speak during St. Vincent DePaul Church's special centenary Lenten program March 1 and 2. Father Kennedy will address the topic "We Area All Called" following the 7:30 p.m. celebration of Evening Prayer, Friday, March 1. A coffee hour social will follow his presentation. The next day, neighborhood groups will discuss the topic during the afternoon. At 5:15 p.m. Evening Prayer will be celebrated, followed by a 6 p.m. Mass at which Father Kennedy will preach. Father Dominic Mockevicius, pastor, will preach on "Call," at all the Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist, 8, 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

### Perpetual Help

Lenten devotions, a half-hour service of stations of the cross, meditations and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament will be celebrated 7 p.m., Mondays, Feb. 25 through March 25 at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, 1089 Joseph Ave.

### SE Region Sets Evening Prayer Rites

The Southeast Region will celebrate Crossroads III: "Signs of Hope" at an Evening Prayer service, 7:30 p.m., Monday, March 4 at Corpus Christi Church. Father Otto Vogt, coordinator of the Southeast Region said last week that Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will preside at the rites, that Father Daniel Tormey will preach; and that various members of the region will offer a reflection on signs of hope in the region.

Among those region members will be representatives of the deaf community, the elderly, the homeless and hungry, those politically oppressed, the Hispanic community, the black community and ex-offenders.

Present also will be representatives of the region's oldest parish, St. Mary's downtown, and its newest, Transfiguration.

Sylvia Kostin of Corpus Christi is coordinator. Michael Aha will direct the music and Todd Flowerday will oversee the prayer program.

# Crossroads III 'Signs of Hope'