



League Officers

Joseph Polvino, center, has been elected the first president of the Nazareth League, a volunteer service group of friends and alumni of Nazareth College. Amy Ogden, left, has been elected secretary; and Doris Morgan has been elected vice-president. The organization counts 1,500 members.



Whopper!

John Kernan, left and Robert LaVaque, both members of St. Joseph's Church in Penfield, clown with an enormous cake to advertise their town's 175th Anniversary Dance, slated for March 22 at the Hospitality House. The evening includes a cash bar at 6:30 p.m., dinner and a brief program, and dancing to the music of the Penfield Rotary Band. Reservations, at \$15 per person are limited to 300, and are made by sending a check payable to Penfield 175th Anniversary Ball and a stamped self-addressed envelope to Penfield Recreation Department, 1 Linear Park, Penfield, N.Y. 14526. Mr. and Mrs. Kernan and Mr. and Mrs. LaVaque are well known for their parish association. The two couples are hosting the dance.

Hospital Celebrates 95 Years of Service

St. James Mercy Hospital began celebrating its 95th year of continuous service to the Hornell area on Feb. 13, the anniversary date of the hospital's founding. The observance began with an anniversary Ecumenical service of thanksgiving followed by birthday parties and tent trays featured on patients' trays. According to a hospital release, the first

baby born in the hospital during the anniversary celebration will be presented a gift by the activities committee. During the anniversary year, the booklet "The First 95 Years" and a cookbook of employees favorite recipes will be published. Also planned for the year is a dance, a talent display and a food fair.

St. Patrick
Seneca Falls — St. Patrick's School boys basketball team will participate in the diocesan tournament March 9 and 10.

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Cardinal Ratzinger: General Absolution No Confession Substitute

Vatican City (NC) -- General absolution cannot be a substitute for individual confession because there is no church provision for absolving serious sin through collective absolution, said Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

"Whoever affirms that the church can absolve even serious sins in a collective absolution should demonstrate where this law comes from," he said in a front-page article published Feb. 26 in L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper.

"Until now, no one has put forward and no one can ever put forward a demonstration that such a law exists in the church," he added.

The cardinal defined general absolution as "the anticipation of sacramental absolution before confession of sins which is given to a group of people who, because of urgent necessity, do not have the opportunity for confession but have the intention to confess and have need of absolution."

He cited the example of soldiers being given general absolution before going off to battle.

The new Code of Canon Law promulgated in 1983 allows general absolution in exceptional circumstances, but says those who receive it must "intend to confess individually the serious sins which at present cannot be so confessed."

The cardinal's article was a commentary on the Pope John Paul II's apostolic exhortation on reconciliation and penance, based on the conclusions of the 1983 world Synod of Bishops. During the synod, several bishops asked the church to allow greater use of general absolution.

The fact that canon law provides for general absolution in certain circumstances "has induced some people to no longer see it as an anticipation of absolution" in an emergency, but as an autonomous form of the sacrament "which has already been placed as a full right alongside the classical form of personal confession," said the cardinal.

This view is a misunderstanding of general absolution, he said.

Cardinal Ratzinger said that confession has a communitarian aspect which is supplied by the priest who acts in the name of the church community.

"The priest to whom you reveal your sin is not an individual, a private person, but represents the church," he said.

Cardinal Ratzinger added that a balance must be struck between the communal and personal aspects of penance.

"If general absolution would become a normal form of the sacrament, the relationship between the two would be upset. In other words what should be primarily personal -- confession and absolution -- would become collectivized," he said.

Knights To Perform For Vets

Knights of Columbus Council #178 of Rochester will mark its 50th anniversary of entertaining area veterans when they stage two variety performances starting at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 3, at Bath Veterans Hospital.

Dinner will follow the shows with over 200 expected to attend.

For more information, contact Patrick J. Murphy, Grand Knight, at 247-2594.

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The Art of Judging

Dr. Roger Adams, chairman of the Nazareth College Art Department and Luvon Sheppard, assistant professor of art at Roccchester Institute of Technology, jury the third annual Art for Black History Month Exhibit that will run through March 3 at the Nazareth Arts Center.

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NOTICE:

Fr. Dick Moran's
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— a Mission-Renewal Program — is coming to the Rochester Diocese
MAR. 17 thru MAR. 29

People in Boston have said about it:

- "I feel more of an inner peace." (age: 34 yrs.)
- "I feel better about myself." (age: 36 yrs.)
- "I enjoyed each step to the utmost." (age: 64 yrs.)
- "My husband and I are closer." (age: 52 yrs.)
- "I was especially touched by the Reconciliation service." (age: 37)



Fr. Dick Moran C.Ss.R.

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Time of services:
9:30 AM (Mon.-Fri.)
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*Formerly from the Notre Dame Retreat House in Canandaigua but now living and working in Boston, Ma.