

Neighbors



Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, principal, and students at Blessed Trinity, Auburn, watch seven balloons they released disappear after a ceremony in memory of the crew of the space shuttle Challenger.

Second-graders at Blessed Trinity School in Auburn celebrated a Mass recently in memory of the teacher and six astronauts who died aboard the space shuttle Challenger.

Parents and students from Blessed Trinity gathered at St. Alphonsus Church for Mass. Included was a reading of seven short biographies written by second-grader Racheal Price.

Afterward, students released seven balloons, one named for each astronaut. A postcard with the school's address and a description of the ceremony was attached to each balloon. Students hope the postcards will be found and returned with the names and addresses of those who find them.



St. Pius X Junior High School's 12 cheerleaders captured first place in their division at the annual diocesan cheerleading competition last month.

They are: captain Leslie Burst and co-captain Michele Townsend, both eighth graders; and seventh graders Danielle Dell'Anno, Jeannine Drexel, Lorie Dudek, Aimie Erwin, Stacy Hopkins, Kim Mason, Kerry Monfalcone, Jill Moscicki, Suzanne Sierk and Racheal Zambito.

Advising this year's squad were head coach Mary Ellen Caster, choreographer Julie Monfalcone, and assistant coach Carrie Dunning.

Kimberly Billingsley, a senior at Cardinal Mooney High School, has been awarded a secretarial scholarship to the Bryant & Stratton Business Institute worth more than \$3,500.

Nineteen scouters and two priests were honored at the Rochester Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting's 39th Annual Bishop's Report Dinner, April 20. The dinner was hosted by the Sullivan Trail Council at the Common Center of Elmira College. Awards were presented by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey.

In recognition of their outstanding service to Catholic scouting in the diocese, nine lay persons received the St. George Emblem. They were: Gordon "Sandy" McLaren of Newark; the Hon. John P. Callanan of Watkins Glen; Walter Jacobus of Horseheads; Robert Alsen of Painted Post; Joseph A. Ippolito Jr. of Avon; Mary "Kitty" Metz, Ray Nary Jr., Theron "Ted" E. Bartlett and Rosemary Varga of Rochester.

Father Timothy E. Horan, parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Parish, and Father Joseph B. Dorsey, CSB, professor and retired administrator of St. John Fisher College, were honored with the Bronze Pelican Award for clergy and religious.

Certificates of merit were also presented for the first time this year to 10 scouters. Nearly 200 attended the dinner, chaired by Margaret Falcone and Raphael Specchio Jr.

Close to 300 Catholic school parents, teachers and administrators were introduced to a "new agenda" in Binghamton April 18-20 at the the Third Annual Parents' Convention. The convention was sponsored by the Syracuse Chapter of the New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents.

Sister Clare Fitzgerald, a Boston College administrator, was the guest speaker. She defined the new agenda for Catholic schools as teaching children to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and become peacemakers, even if in doing so they offend certain authorities.

Two Catholic school mathematics teachers, Carol Gillis of Nazareth Academy and Mary Lou Knapp of the Aquinas Institute have been chosen to receive Excellence in Secondary School Teaching Awards from the University of Rochester.



Carol Gillis

The annual award recognizes secondary school teachers who demonstrate thorough knowledge of their subject, give well-organized and creative lessons and create an atmosphere of learning in the classroom.

Gillis taught at a variety of academic levels before coming to Nazareth in 1976. She holds a bachelor's degree from Walsh

Victor Bartolotta Jr.

A Closer Look



I think I've finally figured out what St. Paul was talking about when he said to the Philippians, "work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation" (2:12). He was talking to parents, telling them that in the process of raising their kids, they were saving themselves.

Of course it is faith in Jesus that actually saves us, and of course St. Paul was talking to more than just parents. But I think I've hit upon a point.

Is it so ridiculous to think that the work that parents do, however unglamorous, is a tremendously important work that really brings about their salvation? Maybe not.

Forget for a moment about how holy celibacy and religious life are supposed to be. Think instead about the holiness of raising God's children. I think that through the work of parenthood, we learn how to become holy and, in that sense, prepare for heaven. For what better way is there to learn how to love, how to be patient, how — in public and without anyone's noticing — to subtly convince a recalcitrant child that it's in his or her best interest to mind, than by raising children. Perhaps not so amazingly, love, patience and other virtues are taught and learned in the small things we do in life.

Consider, for example, how the virtue of patience is learned and taught in the following scenario between my four-year-old daughter, Lynn, and me.

Scene: A typical weekday morning at home.

Dad: Lynn, honey, could you please hurry and get dressed so that you can eat your breakfast? We don't want to be late for Montessori school.

Lynn: (no answer).

Dad: C'mon, love, or you won't have time for breakfast. We have to go.

Lynn: (playing, no answer).

Twenty minutes later.

Dad: Lynn, now I'm not going to say it again. If you don't hurry and get dressed, you'll be making a decision not to eat breakfast because there won't be time.

Lynn: But Daddy, I'm busy. I have

to do this.

Fifteen minutes later, Dad dresses Lynn and drags her out the door crying.

Fortunately, these scenes are rare. But I think that if you, the reader, are a parent or if you have had parenting experience with brothers, sisters, neighbors or friends, you can relate to my little weekday morning scene. Perhaps from your experience you can think of a better example of how childrearing teaches patience.

It is obvious, then, that parents and others who work with children are made holy in the process of parenting. Holiness is achieved, I contend, in the small, seemingly insignificant things we do for our kids. I also believe that God is the connection between our small actions and holiness.

Consider, for example, how important it is that our children go to school with their hair brushed or with their clothes clean. We know the ridicule a child suffers if even the smallest aspect of his or her appearance is not just right.

To carry this point further is to say that many seemingly insignificant aspects of life could have potentially life-determining ramifications. Perhaps, for example, we remember how important the last words were we spoke to a dying loved one. Or we remember how important, small events led to larger ones.

Small things in life are important to our children, to us and to God. Small things are important to us parents because they are the work that God intends for us to do and, in that sense, these things are good for our souls.

Is it possible that we as parents work out our salvation by getting up in the middle of the night to comfort a child, by straightening a crooked barrette, by cutting the toenails on our child's feet? Yes, it is indeed possible that is how we get saved. And, consequently, it is also possible that the unglamorous work that God gives us as parents or as child-care providers is very important to our God who has shown himself to be a sensitive God.

College in Ohio and a master's degree from SUNY Geneseo.

Knapp came to Aquinas four years ago and has since served with the school's folk group and as vocal director for the production of *Godspell*. She has also been accepted as one of 27 participants in the Professional Institute for Mathematics Teachers at SUNY Brockport this summer.

On Saturday, May 3, Edward Zemelko will be ordained a priest in the Congregation of St. Basil at Holy Trinity Church, Gary, Ind. During the 1980/81 school year, shortly before he entered the Basilian novitiate, Zemelko taught at the Aquinas Institute in Rochester.

Father Zemelko will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving Sunday, May 4, with family, friends and members of his home parish in Gary.

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