

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Acts 2:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13; John 20: 19-23.

The Easter season concludes on Pentecost Sunday. The traditional story from the Acts of the Apostles gives Sunday's liturgy its focus; filled with the Spirit, the apostles begin to preach fearlessly.

St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians speaks of the variety of gifts with which the followers of Jesus have been blessed. These gifts find their source in the power of the Spirit, which calls forth an equal sharing of gifts to activate the fullness of the Body of Christ, the Church.

The gospel reading describes the giving of the Spirit as the gifting of the power of reconciliation to Jesus' followers: peace, understanding and forgiveness.

The highlights of this day should center around the gathered community. It is the community, sharing its gifts and love, which best exemplifies the power of the Spirit

still alive in the world today. This can be accentuated through the witness of various community members — speaking of the various outreach programs in which the parish is involved; inviting quiet reflection at the beginning of today's liturgy to think of the gifts we bring; an attempt to meet someone new; involving the five senses in the experience of today's liturgy. There are as many other creative ideas that express what is felt and meant by today's liturgy as there are members of each of the assemblies that gather.

As the completion of a Lenten season of penance and personal reconciliation and of an Easter season of joy and reconciliation, today's feast involves a joyful reflection of the past and a firm commitment to ongoing reconciliation in the future. The responsorial psalm sums it up: "Lord, send out your Spirit and renew the face of the earth"



CROSSROADS IV

Parish endeavors to renovate by consensus

Should St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester be remodeled? If so, what changes should be made?

These are the questions parishioners at St. Mary's are addressing in a series of open parish meetings this month and next. On May 6 and 7, more than 100 parishioners met with consultant Bill Brown to consider which, if any, modifications should be made to the church's interior. Brown will conduct four additional open meetings — May 20 and 21, and June 3 and 4 — guiding the parish through a consensus model for decision making.

Brown is an architectural consultant from South Bend, Ind. He was hired by the parish's 21-member Worship Space Committee, which has been meeting since February, 1985. Brown, who says he enjoys working "with a committee of 500," will

assist the parish in its decision-making task.

St. Mary's is one of only a handful of parishes throughout the country to choose the consensus model to bring about decisions on church renovation. Through the process, all members of the parish community will have an equal voice, and each individual will share in the decisions that are ultimately made.

During the parish meetings, community members will come to decisions on improving space utilization, means of refurbishing the historic building and how to enhance celebration of the sacraments through a carefully studied and balanced redesign of the worship space.

Two changes being considered are widening the aisles and moving the baptismal font. No decisions have been made to date, however, nor will they be made until the final meetings on June 3 and 4.

Annual S/D/W/R conference scheduled at Wells College

The 11th annual New York State (Region II) Conference for the Separated, Divorced, Widowed and Remarried will be June 6, 7 and 8 at Wells College in Aurora.

The conference, entitled "Come to the Water," is for men and women of all faiths, as well as clergy, pastoral assistants, counselors and others who want to reach a better understanding of the needs and problems of those who have experienced a loss.

The ministry program provides a network of peer support groups which help individuals to regain a sense of belonging to the Church

and create an awareness that their anguish can become a beginning of their personal and spiritual growth.

The conference is hosted by the Diocese of Rochester under the sponsorship of Region II (New York State) of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics.

Call (607) 739-4502, evenings, or (716) 385-6750, ext. 265, days, for information.

Wells College is located on the eastern shoreline of Cayuga Lake in the Finger Lakes region of central New York. Detailed directions will be provided upon registration.

Support group plans meeting for local Lutheran church

The sixth annual meeting of the Families and Friends of the Mentally Ill and Emotionally Disturbed will be on Monday, May 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 111 N. Chestnut St.,

Rochester. The self-help support group, which serves the Rochester area, will show a movie on mental illness and present by-laws for voting members. For information, contact Christine Statts at (716)334-5095.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Along the Way

During this Easter season we have had the opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of the early Church. This prayerful contact with our mothers and fathers in faith — especially through the Acts of the Apostles — is a rich source of understanding of how the early communities first shaped their lives.

If we think that life in the Church of Today is a little more exciting than we'd like it to be, it's helpful to remember some of the challenges, questions and struggles that the first communities had to face.

For example, they wrestled with the question of how inclusive the new community would be. Would they preach the Good News to the whole world or would they confine their preaching to the synagogue communities of which they were already a part?

They decided for the former or more inclusive path, and that decision led them to another set of questions. Must those who accept the preaching first submit to circumcision before they can be baptized? And after their baptism will they be held to the dietary laws governing the community of the synagogue?

Once again, they opted for the less-restrictive path. They decided to expand their preaching as much as they could and to be as lenient as they could in their requirements for admission to the community.

Questions of entry into the community are not all they faced. They dealt with the issue of replacing Judas, and elected Matthias to make their number 12 again. When the apostles found they were too much occupied with tasks and too little with prayer, they elected seven others to tend to works of charity. Tensions were not foreign to them; there were leadership questions to be settled and a matter of different treatment for different groups of widows.

While they tended to the organization of the community at Jerusalem, they

began to reach out to other cities and to the lands bordering the Mediterranean.

In all places they preached fearlessly and faithfully the Good News of the Risen Lord and called those who heard them to follow this wonderful new way. Leaders emerged in local communities and when they did, people like Paul and Barnabas and their associates moved on to new places, often keeping in touch by letter or messenger with the communities they established.

There was no organized plan for all of this. Our early friends dealt with real issues in very human ways, but they did so with a powerful sense of the leading of the Holy Spirit. ("It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us...") In the several communities of which we read in the Christian scriptures, we note different modes of organization and leadership, a variety of problems and several ways of relating to both.

Some common notes among them were their call to baptism, their coming together in community, the memorial meal or Eucharist, care for those in need in their own and other churches, a sense that the Lord was to return very soon.

If you and I returned to those days, we would be at home. We would find many links to our present-day faith and note that a sense of communion, worship and service even then were marks of the faith community.

It would not take us long either to note that our friends struggled as we do. They experienced disputes and factions, uncertainty and suffering. Trust was betrayed, and misunderstandings abounded. The Church did not start in perfect form and run downhill to our day. The Church is ever called to new life. It has always been holy because it is touched by the Spirit of God, but it has always been touched by sin because it is made up of men and women like you and me.

Peace to all.

Handicapped camp planned for youth in Southern Tier

The Southern Tier Rotary Clubs announced that Camp Star, Rotary's camp for handicapped children, will be held at Watson Homestead from August 10 to August 16.

At Camp Star, kids will enjoy a camping experience tailored to their special needs. The camp is free to eligible specially handicapped young people from seven to 14 years of age.

Camp Star is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Bath, Big Flats, Canisteo, Corning, Elmira, Elmira Heights, Hammondspoint, Hornell, Horseheads, Prattsburgh and Watkins/Montour.

If you think that your child may be eligible for Camp Star, please contact director Dan Hurley, Camp Star, 175 Scotch Pine Ln., Erin, N.Y., 14838.



The administration and staff of the Courier-Journal and the student coordinators of Echo wish to extend their sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of Colleen Gullen who died Wednesday, May 7, 1986.



Footnotes

by Dr. Joseph G. DiPrima

- Q. I have pain in my heel when waking up in the morning and standing for long period of time. What is it? What can be done to relieve the pain?—C.A.
- A. This type of pain is usually caused by a heel spur or bursitis in the heel. These conditions can be caused by flat feet, overweight and certain types of arthritis. Treatment usually consists of reducing the inflammation with anti-inflammatory drugs, injections and physiotherapy. You might then need a device worn in your shoe to take the pressure off the heel and support the arch of your foot. Occasionally, the spur must be surgically removed.

Have Any Questions? Please write

Dr. Joseph G. DiPrima

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