

Parish Notes

Genesee Valley

St. Patrick's series to focus on gifts

St. Patrick, Victor — The parish has scheduled a series of Lenten programs for adults and high school students. On Monday, March 16, Father T. Paul Murley, pastor, will teach on "The Gift of Baptism." Father Murley's talk, which will begin at 7 p.m., will consider the dignity, responsibilities and mission of the baptized.

Father Thomas Mull, director of the diocesan office of Liturgy, will visit the parish on Sunday, March 22, to reflect on the Christian vision and the role of the people of God. His presentation, which is entitled "The Gift of Hope," will begin at 3:30 p.m.

On the weekend of April 3 and 4, a team from St. Mary's, Canandaigua, and St. Bridget's, East Bloomfield, will conduct an "R-and-R" weekend retreat. The theme for the retreat is "The Gift of New Life."

The series will conclude on Sunday, April 11, at 3:30 p.m., as participants discuss the meaning of Christian relationships and community. "The Gift of Each Other" will be presented by Mike Haugh, a teacher at Cardinal Mooney High School and a member of the Bread of Life Community.

Each of the programs is open to the public and will take place at the St. Patrick's School of Religion on High Street. For information, contact Sheila Cody at (716)924-3833, or Meg Delaney at 924-4659.

Parish event stems from Sicilian legend

Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester — The parish has set a program entitled "St. Joseph's Table" for Sunday, March 22, in the basement of the school, 681 Brown St. The program stems from a Sicilian legend about a famine ending as a result of the intercession of St. Joseph. When the famine ended, the people held a special feast of thanksgiving for the saint's help.

A special homily during the 10:45 a.m. Mass will begin the commemoration, which will continue with the dinner from noon to 3 p.m. As they begin their 75th year, parishioners and staff members will give thanks for all the help they have received in maintaining their soup kitchen and clothes closet.

Pioneer of marriage enrichment to talk

St. Mary, Canandaigua — Father Chuck Gallagher, founder of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement and the Parish Renewal Weekend, will present a series of talks at the parish on the weekend of March 13. His presentations will focus on the importance and responsibility of married couples in our Church and society. The talks will be presented on Friday and Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m., and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$50 per couple, which includes dinner on Saturday.

Married couples, priests and religious interested in participating in the program should contact Leo and Meg Lynch at (716)293-2706.

Southern Tier

Elmira parish announces healing Masses

Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira — Father Matthew Swizdor, a Franciscan priest, will conduct five healing Masses. On Sunday, March 22, the Mass will begin at 7 p.m. For the remainder of the series, services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Father Swizdor has written two successful books, *God in Me* (1959) and *Lay Hands on the Sick* (1983). Currently, he is working full-time in the healing ministry.

Series to consider post-conciliar liturgy

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Painted Post — Father Stephen Kraus will conduct a five-part series on liturgical changes that have occurred since Vatican II. The series — which will run five consecutive Thursdays, March 12 through April 9 — will take place between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. The fee for the course is \$10, and participants may register by contacting Anna Black.

Center to conduct discernment day for youth

St. Joseph, Wayland — On Monday, March 16, staff members at the Mercy Prayer Center will conduct a special Day of Discernment especially for young people of the parish.

The students will be guided through a quiet, prayerful day designed to help them discern God's will for their vocations in life. There is no fee, but students must bring their own lunches. Transportation will be provided by the parish. Call the rectory, (716)728-2228, for details.

CROSSROADS '87

By Deacon Claude Lester
Director, Office of Parish Services

The gospel of the second Sunday of Lent relates the story of the transfiguration of Jesus on Mount Tabor. The words of God spoken from the cloud were the same words spoken at Jesus' baptism: "This is my beloved Son on whom my favor rests. Listen to Him."

It seems Matthew is drawing a parallel between Jesus at baptism, as He begins His missionary journey, and Jesus in the transfiguration, as He journeys toward Jerusalem. The first reading develops the concept of the journey with the story of Abraham, as he is called by God and sent forth into the promised land.

St. Paul links the second reading with the first, as he writes to Timothy: "Jesus has robbed death of its power and brought life and immortality into clear light through the Gospel."

A reality of our baptism is that we are transformed. We not only await the fulfillment of God's promise in heaven; we enjoy the grace of that promise in this world — to teach, to preach, to care for the forsaken and to reach out to those in need. There is a real challenge in this second week of Lent to see our role in "transfiguring" the world.

The role of catalyst in bringing the world closer to God belongs to everyone who has been baptized. Lay people as well as ordained people have a responsibility to serve Jesus in very definitive ways. These ways, which have been evolving in our Church history, seem most evident to us since the Second Vatican Council. The people of God are named as the Church in the document on "The Church in the Modern World." During the past 21 years, this principle has been put into effect in our daily Church experience.

Pope John Paul II has called a special synod on the laity, to be held in Rome in the fall of this year, and has asked that consultation be done prior to the synod, within national episcopal conferences as well as local dioceses. Next week, we begin the first of three forums designed to elicit information from the laity of our diocese; this information will be used as input for the upcoming synod.

Bishop Clark has placed these forums in his Crossroads journey, not because he will be present, but because he feels that the experience



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Sister Mary Savior places ashes on the forehead of Ethel Bragg, during the Ash Wednesday service at St. Ann's Home.

of the baptized of our diocesan Church must be put into words and that message must be conveyed to our delegates at the synod.

The dates and locations of these Crossroads sessions are Wednesday, March 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Casimir Library, Elmira; Wednesday, March 25, 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Patrick's rectory, Seneca Falls; and Saturday, March 28, 1-3:30 p.m., St. Theresa, 14 Mark Street, Rochester.

Parishes have also been invited to explore other programs and techniques for gathering information at the local level. Those who wish to participate yet are unable to attend any of the three March sessions may respond directly to Deacon Claude Lester, Director of Parish Services, Diocese of

Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. All data will be forwarded to synod organizers on April 8.

Each two-hour session will focus on the following questions:

- How do you experience God in your family? in your workplace? in your friendships? in your leisure? in the institutions of society? in your parish?

- How has your parish community supported you in your work, home life and civic responsibilities?

- Do you see a lay person's spiritual life as different from that of a priest or religious? How?

- What is your dream for the laity in the American Church by the year 2000? What is needed to effect this?

Change in format

Beginning this week, we will be refining the format of several of our standing features. To the left, you will notice that we have condensed the Parish Notes column, moving as many notices as possible to the Calendar, which appears on page 7. We hope the new extended Calendar will provide readers with "one-stop shopping" for upcoming events.

We have also attempted to consolidate the commentary of the Courier-Journal — as expressed by both its publisher and editor — by moving Bishop Matthew H. Clark's "Along the Way" column from page 3 to the editorial page. Vic Bartolotta's "A Closer Look" now appears on page 12, opposite Father Albert Shamon's "A Word for Sunday."

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