

## Parish Notes

### Corning parish schedules Lenten series

**St. Mary, Corning**— The Christian Formation Committee has planned four Lenten programs to help parishioners grow in spirituality. "Share the Word" is the topic for the Sunday-morning sessions, which begin at 10:30 a.m. Discussion will focus on the readings for the following Sunday.

On Monday evenings at 7 p.m., participants will consider "Toward a Deeper Understanding of the Mass." Baby-sitting will be available during the session.

The Thursday-morning "Experience of Prayer" group will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. "Towards a Lasting Treasure" will be the topic for Friday sessions, which take place at 7:30 p.m.

The Friday sessions are being held in the homes of parishioners. All of the other sessions take place in the Brennan Center, adjacent to the church. Pre-registration is required for all four programs. Call the rectory, (607)962-0422.

### Committee presenting enrichment programs

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira**— The Adult Education Committee is offering two opportunities for faith enrichment this Lent. Bible study is being conducted on Sundays at 7:30 p.m. and on Tuesdays at 10:30 p.m. in the parish meeting rooms.

Each Monday of March, Father John Hayes will lecture on "The Writings of St. Paul" at the Dominican Monastery from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. On Thursdays, presentations will be given on "The Basic Doctrines of Our Catholic Traditions." The presentations will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. in the meeting rooms.

### Series to focus on Matthew's gospel

**St. Margaret Mary, Rochester**— The parish is sponsoring a Lenten adult-education program on the practical applications of Jesus' sermons in the gospel of Matthew, which is being used for Sunday readings this year.

The speaker will be Sister Mary Lourdes McCarthy, SSJ, scripture professor emerita at Nazareth College. Her presentations will be on Wednesdays March 25, April 1 and 8, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the parish school. The presentations, which are free and open to the public, will include lecture, refreshments and question period. Pre-registration is requested, but not required. Call (716)342-7114 or 342-2100.

### Parish to host diocesan workshop

**St. Anthony of Padua, Rochester**— The church, 60 Lorimer St., will be the site of a March 25 continuing-education workshop to be conducted by two adjunct faculty members of St. Bernard's Institute.

The workshop, entitled "Pastoral Reflection: An Essential Skill for Ministry in Today's Church," will be conducted by Rebecca Gifford, associate director of the diocesan Division of Urban Services, and Father James Schwartz, director of Becket Hall. It is designed to explore the means and aims of pastoral reflection amid the dynamic practice of contemporary ministry.

Hours for the workshop will be 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. A \$7 fee includes lunch and materials. For registration, contact the diocesan office of continuing education, (716)328-3210.

### Volunteers needed for summer program

**Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester**— Organizers are seeking volunteers for the parish's Summer Fun in the Sun program, which will be conducted afternoons from July 6 through 24. Volunteers may sign up to conduct classes in aerobic exercise, dance, gymnastics, softball, volleyball, arts and crafts, clowning/mime, dramatics, music or other topics of interest to children. A guitar player who is willing to teach singing is also needed.

Volunteers will be working with small groups of children ages 5-12. Prospective volunteers are asked to contact Irene Goodwin, (716)436-3110 by April 3.

### St. Francis Parish sets Lenten events

**St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester**— The parish has scheduled a number of events for this Lenten season. Church doors will be open from 7 to 8 p.m. on Friday evenings March 20 and 27, and April 10 for people who wish to make the Stations of the Cross.

Bible-study groups are meeting on Sundays from 4 to 5 p.m. Penitential rites at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, will open an English-language mission, which will run through March 31. A Spanish-language mission will be conducted at 5 p.m. on April 1, 2 and 3.

Holy Week observances will begin with bi-lingual services at 7 p.m. on Holy Thursday, April 16. Good Friday liturgy will be conducted in English at 3 p.m. and in Spanish at 4 p.m.

### St. Theodore's offering week-long series

**St. Theodore, Gates**— "Word, Worship, Witness" is the theme of a week-long Lenten renewal program being offered by the parish on Monday-Friday, March 23-27.

Each evening's service will consist of readings, prayer and a presentation by a guest speaker.

On Monday, March 23, at 7:15 p.m., Father Anthony Mugavero of St. Theodore's will lead the congregation in a Bible service. Father Kevin McKenna will visit the parish on Tuesday for a 7:30 p.m. penance service. Several English- and Italian-speaking confessors will be present.

St. Theodore's Father Gerald E. Dunn will lead the presentation on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The topic for the evening will be Mary's way of the cross.

The program for Thursday will begin with a sharing supper at 6:15 p.m. The evening will continue with a holy hour and Benediction with Father Robert Werth of St. Bridget's.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will visit St. Theodore's on Friday at 7:30 p.m. to close the week's events with a celebration of the Eucharist.

All services will be interpreted for the hearing impaired. Fellowship will follow the service for each evening except Thursday. The church is accessible to the handicapped.

### Natural law to be topic of lecture series

**Holy Rosary, Rochester**— A series of lectures and discussion on the subject of natural law will be given by Dr. Raphael Waters of Niagara University's philosophy department.

Topics for future sessions are: April 10, *Natural Law and the Family*; May 8, *Natural Law and Civil Society*; and June 12, *Natural Law and the Economic Order*.

Each lecture will be preceded by a Mass, which will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the church. For information, contact Helen Ann Wagner at (716)254-1881.

### Parishioners invited to Lenten soup suppers

**Sacred Heart, Perkinsville, St. Pius V, Cohocton**— Parishioners in Perkinsville are invited to share in soup suppers on Tuesdays of Lent at 6 p.m. in the community center. Soup suppers in Cohocton will take place on Wednesdays in Sturmer Hall, also at 6 p.m.

### Prayer Line seeks new members

**Northern Cayuga Cluster, Cayuga County**— Since the spring of 1982, the Altar and Rosary Society and the clergy of St. Joseph's in Weedsport have operated an active prayer line, which comprises 64 people. The prayer line is now being reconstructed, and organizers are seeking new members for this spiritual endeavor.

Those who wish to join may call Barbara Ridgeway, (315)834-6731, or Alma Cowden, 834-9476 to learn how the prayer line works. Those who would like prayer line participants to pray for their intentions may call Pearl DeMoors, 834-9449, or Mary Landers, 834-9700.

By Father  
Thomas P. Mull  
Director,  
Office of Liturgy

The *Crossroads* journey continues this week, as Bishop Matthew H. Clark travels to our sister diocese of Tabasco, Mexico. Upon his return, he will join with the Diocesan Pastoral Council and later spend an afternoon with adults who are preparing to be confirmed at the Easter Vigil. These journeys give the bishop the opportunity to be with the people of our diocese and our sister diocese, in order to share parts of the life journeys of others.

This coming week's gospel seems to indicate that Jesus' ministry was also one of joining in the life journeys of others.

The gospel story of the woman at the well dominates this Sunday's readings. It is the familiar story of Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob. We hear of "life-giving waters" in the gospel, as well as in the first reading from Exodus. Jesus gives water; Moses calls forth water from the rock. In both instances, the water is deeply symbolic.

By relating this story of Jesus, the evangelist John offers a commentary on baptism. Moses allowed the people to be refreshed as they moved on toward the permanent refreshment of freedom in the promised land. This freedom is expressed in the second reading, as St. Paul says: "...while we were still sinners,

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Christ died for us."

John's commentary revolves around all of these concepts. It is the living water of Jesus that invites all who receive it to a new relationship with God. It is an ongoing nature of the Church's sacramental process that gives sustenance to this relationship. The Church's communion reminds her member of the salvation that has been won for them. It is the Ministry of this community that carries the effects of this salvation to the world.

This week, we enter into the meaning of the initiation sacraments. We are prayerfully aware of the catechumens who are spiritually renewing themselves for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist. We are also aware of those who seek admission into the Roman Catholic Church and who will be admitted to our community through the sacraments of confirmation and Eucharist at the



Easter Vigil.

But what of ourselves? Have we confirmed our faith? What does it mean to share wholeheartedly in the Eucharist? How does one proclaim by word and deed the wonderful freedom that was prefigured in the Old Testament and brought to fulfillment in Jesus? Bishop Joseph L. Hogan likes to remind the parents and sponsors of those being confirmed of the second-most-

powerful confirming power: the power of human example.

Last Sunday, I spoke with a woman who is a sponsor in her parish's Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. She told me about the new sense of life her partner has, now that the partner has journeyed into our community of faith. But the sponsor's life has changed as well.

"Things which had little meaning (now) mean so much more," she told me. "And

people are so much more important to me. I can't explain it, but ever since this young woman asked me to be her sponsor, I have a different outlook on the world, and it feels like the world is looking differently at me."

When we find that our faith is more than a creed, more than church attendance, more than words on a page, we become very much like the Samaritan woman. We want to run off and tell our friends and neighbors. We want them to "come and see." We want them to recite our creed and feel its meaning, to come to our churches and know their strength, to become one of us.

This dynamic is the foundation of evangelization. The Church and the reality of God become so important that we want to share this importance with others. The more we give witness to our faith, the deeper our faith grows. As the faith grows deeper, it appears to captivate all that we say and do, and we become "taken over" by God. Our deeds and our actions are not done separately from the Source of Life but in conjunction with the Source. We truly become God's people.

Many have been alienated or cut off from the community for a variety of reasons. Can we bring this Good News to these people? Can you open your heart and let this Lenten time be a time of invitation and of hope? What can you say about the "living water" of your own baptism?

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## Diocesan Appointments



Father Paul Brennan from pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, to pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Auburn, and Saint Ann's Church Society, Owasco, effective June 30, 1987.

Father Lawrence Dolan, CSSR, from temporary parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory/Saint Joseph Parish, Rochester, to St. Alphonsus College, Suffield, CT, effective March 2, 1987.

Father Patrick Sheridan, CSSR, from hospital chaplaincy in the Archdiocese of Boston to parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph Parish, Rochester, effective March 2, 1987.