

Parish Notes

Mt. Morris series focuses on covenant

St. Patrick, Mt. Morris — "The Ten Commandments: An Invitation To Renew God's Covenant with Us" is the theme of the parish's Lenten mission, which is set for Saturday, April 4, through Friday, April 10. The mission will be conducted by Father Christopher Lynch, a Passionist Missionary who visited the parish last August to speak about his order's missionary activities.

Father Lynch will open the mission by speaking at all Masses on the weekend of April 4 and 5. Services for the 5th through the 10th will be at 7:30 p.m. Father Lynch's topics will be: Monday, April 6, "The Gods of Our World;" Tuesday, April 7, "Worshipping a Personal God" (blessings will be given at the conclusion of the service); Wednesday, April 8, "The Commandment about Violence and Anger;" Thursday, April 9, "Invitation to Intimacy with One Another" (couples will be invited to renew their marriage vows after the service); and Friday, April 10, "A New Commandment: Love Your Neighbor as Yourself" (renewal of faith and blessing follow the service).

Father Lynch will also be available for confessions after each service.

Senior citizens plan to attend musical

Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira — The senior citizens of the parish are sponsoring a bus trip to Rochester on Sunday, April 26, to see the touring Broadway musical "Cats" at the Auditorium Theatre. Following the show, participants will dine at the Maplewood Inn.

The bus will leave the convent parking lot at 10:45 a.m., arriving in Rochester in time for the 2 p.m. show. Participants will return to the parish at about 10 p.m.

The cost of the trip is \$55, which includes bus transportation, theater ticket, dinner, tips and a light snack on the bus. Since only 40 orchestra seats are available, those interested are asked to contact the parish office as soon as possible to make reservations.

Avon parish plans preached retreat

St. Agnes, Avon — Father Simeon Gallagher, OFM Cap., will make his second visit to the parish on Saturday, March 28, to conduct a five-day preached retreat. He will open the retreat by preaching at each Mass the weekend of March 28/29, and will continue with presentations at 9 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Monday through Thursday, March 30-April 2. Father Gallagher's topic will be "Transformation at the Heart of Life." All evening sessions will be sign-interpreted for the deaf.

St. John's gospel is basis for series

Good Shepherd, Henrietta — The theme for this year's Lenten services — scheduled for Monday, March 30, through Wednesday, April 1 — is "I Beckon; Come, Be Freed." The theme is taken from St. John's gospel accounts of the Samaritan woman, the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus.

The mission will consist of three evenings of reflection, prayer and song. Topics and presenters will be: March 30, the Samaritan woman, the Rev. Natalie Hanson, pastor of Genesee Valley United Methodist Church; March 31, the man born blind, Lucy Dechaine of the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry; and April 1, the raising of Lazarus, Father Joseph Hart of St. Bernard's Institute.

Each presentation will be conducted in the chapel from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served after the presentations.

Parish sponsoring Lenten devotions

Most Precious Blood, Rochester — Lenten devotions are being conducted on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. On April 7, the St. James youth group will present a Living Way of the Cross. A Lenten prayer service is set for April 14.

In addition, a discussion group meets in the rectory every Friday afternoon following Mass, and participants are encouraged to bring bag lunches. Weekly Stations of the Cross take place at 1:45.



Father Ramsey, OP



Sister Maier, SND

Dominican family mission scheduled

Holy Name of Jesus, Rochester — The parish is sponsoring a Dominican family mission, which will run from Sunday, March 29, through Thursday, April 2. "God's Love" is the theme for the mission, which will be conducted by Dominican preachers Father Boniface Ramsey, OP, and Sister Edna Maier, SND. The program is designed to help adults, teens and children to deepen their spiritual lives together.

A special mission Mass will be celebrated each morning at 9:30 a.m., followed by Bible study and opportunities for confession. Evening sessions are scheduled from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., and will consist of preaching, prayer and Benediction. School-age children will be given special attention, and babysitting will be available. A priest will be available for confessions each evening.

Father Ramsey is the author of several books and articles, and has given retreats and presentations throughout the world. Sister Maier is associated with the Family Mission Preachers and serves in several Philadelphia parishes, directing days of recollection, Bible study and retreats in people's homes.

For information or to arrange transportation, call the rectory at (716)621-4040.

CROSSROADS '87

By Father Thomas P. Mull
Director, Office of Liturgy

Bishop Clark's Lenten journey continues. Next Sunday, he will visit the parishes of the Northern Cayuga Cluster. He will preside at liturgy, homilize and share in an open meeting with the people of that cluster. Later in the week, he plans to travel to Genesee to visit one of the client residences of Craig Developmental Center. He will also celebrate Evening Prayer with the people of the Tompkins/Tioga Region on Wednesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Margaret Mary's Church, Apalachin. At the end of the week, he'll visit with the residents of St. John's Home in Rochester, where he will celebrate the Eucharist. In each of these places, the bishop will make the light of the gospel a little clearer, through his words and actions.

The readings for this Sunday focus on light and darkness. The gospel reading tells the story of the man born blind, who sits by the wayside, totally dependent on the charity of others. Jesus' cure gives testimony to His role of bringing us salvation through the eyes of faith.

The first reading describes the call and anointing of David as King of Israel. The Israelites acknowledge their dependence on God and their willingness to follow the boy-king as God's representative. The Letter to the Ephe-

sians, this Sunday's second reading, beautifully connects these readings by proclaiming: "There was a time when you were in darkness, but now you are light in the Lord."

It is a challenge to be light in the darkness. Yet that is just what baptism calls us to be. To be light, one must also be aware of darkness. This means that we may have to challenge a system that is unjust to the poor, and that we may have to shine light on the darkness of racism, sexism and materialism.

Lenten renewal is not just a personal change, but a change that must be extended beyond the person into the community serving as that person's support. Initiation into the community means bearing one another's burdens and living out the promises made at baptism. The "growing experience" of one who lives within



the Church is what we call "conversion." This week is a good opportunity to evaluate our growth in the conversion process.

How have you grown on a personal level since your baptism? Are there moral questions you would prefer not to address because they are "too hard?" Are there areas of your life that you have not, as yet, challenged? Do you see the Church as the Church of your baptism, or can you see that the Church must also grow and continue to evolve?

On a community level, can you see emerging ministries as healthy? In the last 20 years, in the area of liturgy alone, many advances have been made. Many people share in the privilege of proclaiming God's Word. Lay people have also been invited to share as ministers of the Eucharist. All of us know that a large number of people can receive Holy Commun-

ion regularly now because of the generosity of priests and lay people working together. Many have experienced a sense of ownership in the liturgy because of their involvement and participation. Beyond what has already come to pass, however, more seems to be emerging. Clustered communities are learning to deal with a broadened sense of community. The reduced numbers of priests invite a growth in new ministry, which doesn't serve simply to replace priests, however. The ministry of the baptized person is an invitation to serve in dramatically new ways.

On an even broader level, the Church has been called upon to face issues never before considered. Scientific technology and cultural advancement present whole new areas of questions that morality must address.

The light must continue to dispel the darkness. We must recognize the cause of the darkness and respond to it, in order to allow the light to shine. This Lenten season gives us an opportunity, as Christians, to see the darkness that surrounds us, to be aware of the light that the Church offers to dispel that darkness and to join in the light of faith, so that we may continue our conversion experience as we continue to convert the world.

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Black church is focus of local conference

A three-day conference on the economic missions of black churches is currently underway at Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley Hall/Crozer Theological Seminary, 100 S. Goodman St., Rochester. The 10th-annual Mordecai Wyatt Johnson Institute of Religion, sponsored by the program of Black Church Studies and the Black Student Caucus of the divinity schools, began Wednesday, March 25 and will continue through Friday, March 27.

A day-long symposium on Friday will feature speakers and panel discussions. Bishop John Hurst Adams, presiding bishop of the Second Episcopal District and founder and chairman of the Congress of National Black Churches, will lecture at 9:15 a.m. on "Black Churches Working Together for Economic Liberation." Avhay A. Orara and Dennis Muhammad, representatives of the Nation of Islam, will speak on "People Organized and Working for Economic Development: a Model" at 10:30 a.m.

The Rev. Cheryl Townsend-Gilkes, associate pastor of Union Baptist Church in Cambridge, Mass., and a professor of sociology at Boston University, will present a 1:15 p.m. lecture entitled "If It Wasn't for the Women, You Wouldn't Have a Church." At 2 p.m., responses and a panel discussion will follow the afternoon lecture.

Evening workshops and worship services will be held in conjunction with the confer-

ence. On Thursday, March 26, at 6:45 p.m., WDKX radio station manager Andrew Langston will conduct a workshop on "Using the Media for Ministry and Economic Development." The workshop, which will be followed by an 8 p.m. worship service, will be held at Progressive COGIC, 270 Cumberland St., Rochester. A Friday evening worship service will be offered at 8 p.m. at Aeon Baptist Church, 175 Genesee St. All events are free and open to the public.

Diocesan Appointments



Father Thomas F. Corbett to temporary parochial vicar of St. Michael's Church in Newark, effective March 16, 1987.

Father Daniel V. Hogan from temporary parochial vicar of St. Michael's Church to medical leave with residence at Blessed Sacrament Rectory, effective March 16, 1987.

Father Daniel P. Torney from director of chaplaincy service at Strong Memorial Hospital to director of Becket Hall and director of the Ministry to Priests Program, effective August 1, 1987.