

Parish Notes

Pierogi sale to aid Polish children

St. Stanislaus, Rochester — The Rozwoj Polek women's group has scheduled a pierogi sale for the weekend of April 4-5. Pierogis will be sold in the school kitchen after Masses, and proceeds will go toward the purchase of medicine for children in Poland who are suffering from leukemia.

A healing service is set for Palm Sunday, April 12, at 2 p.m. in the church. Homebound and chronically ill parishioners are reminded of the parish's chair lift and convenient parking. Those who need transportation to the service are asked to call Sister Mary Ellen Cragan at (716)467-3068.

Committee presenting fashion show

St. Pius X, Rochester — Spring fashions and a dinner will be the agenda for an April 30 gala at the airport Marriott. The evening, which is being sponsored by the Parish Life Committee, will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner of chicken French served at 7 p.m.

Tickets — advance sale only — may be obtained by calling (716)889-3128 or 889-9203.

Workshop to focus on intimacy

Corpus Christi, Rochester — Michael Shaffer of Visalia, Calif., will be the speaker at a day-long presentation entitled "Sexuality, Spirituality and Intimacy." The presentation, set for Saturday, April 4, is designed for single and married people.

The day session will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with an evening session from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Shaffer will also conduct an evening session for parents and teens on Friday, April 3, from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Registration for either program may be made by calling the parish rectory, (716)325-2424.

Five parish programs have been accepted as Option-2 charities in the upcoming United Way campaign. By filling out designated cards, United Way donors may designate that part of their contributions be given to Corpus Christi Center (donor number 1243), Corpus Christi Child Care (#1365), Dimitri House shelter for the homeless (#1389), Isaiah House hospice (number not yet assigned) or Rogers House home for ex-offenders (#1384). For information on pledge designation, contact Corpus Christi or a United Way coordinator.

Corning parish announces changes

St. Mary, Corning — Two liturgical changes are in the offing at the State Street parish. Beginning in April, daily adoration will be limited to the first Monday of each month

from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., rather than twice a week.

Beginning on the first Sunday of May, the parish hopes to offer special liturgies of the Word for children at several Masses. Last year, the children's liturgies were conducted during the 9:30 a.m. Mass only. In order to increase the number of Masses, more volunteers are needed. To volunteer, contact Sister Pat Flass at the rectory.

Rosary Guild sponsoring card party

Sacred Heart, Rochester — The parish Rosary Guild will sponsor a benefit card party on Friday, April 3, at 8 p.m. Participants may play either at the party, in the school hall, or in their homes.

Proceeds from the sale of tickets, priced at \$1.50, will go to the parish school and the School of the Holy Childhood. Tickets may be purchased in advance, by calling Dorothy O'Meara at (716)254-0957, or at the door.

New Jersey priest to preach here

St. Mary, Auburn — Father Carl J. Marucci of the Diocese of Camden, N.J., will speak at all weekend Masses on Saturday, April 4, (5:30 and 7:30 p.m.) and Sunday, April 5 (7, 8:15, 9:30 and 11 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.). Father Marucci will also speak at a series of conferences Sunday, April 5, through Thursday, April 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the church, and Monday, April 6 through Thursday, April 9, at 11 a.m. in the church.

By Father Thomas P. Mull
Director, Office of Liturgy

This fifth week of Lent begins with Bishop Clark's celebration of the Eucharist with the student community at St. John Fisher College. On Wednesday of this week, the bishop will gather the diocesan staff together for a Lenten Study Day. The topic of study will be the U.S. bishops' pastoral on economics. The study day will offer an opportunity to reflect on a timely issue, as well as giving the entire staff a chance to pray and celebrate life together.

Life seems to be the focus of a number of this week's activities. This Sunday's readings affirm the promise made to each baptized person: new life. The first reading of Ezekiel states: "I will put my spirit in you that you may live." In the second reading, St. Paul proclaims: "If the Spirit of Him who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, then He who raised Christ from the dead will bring your mortal bodies to life also, through the Spirit dwelling in you."

In John's gospel, Jesus states: "I am the resurrection and the life, and whoever believes in me ... will come to life." The story of the resurrection of Lazarus, a lesson dear to the hearts of the early Christians, is easily recognized by Christians today. The story may inspire us because of our immediate identification with the characters, or perhaps because of the inner healing of

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Martha and Mary, which is brought about by the resurrection of Lazarus. It may even be the powerful message of new life that makes the story dynamic.

The essence of this week's readings is that new life begins in Jesus and reaches fulfillment in heaven. This is the week of the promise, toward which the lives of all baptized people are moving. We are called, then, to be a people of hope — a people of promise.

Yet certain obstacles prevent us from reaching the full potential of our baptismal dignity. Because of these barriers, we can only reflect to others a portion of our promise. How can we break down these barriers? What factors create obstacles that keep us from experiencing the fullness of our baptismal call?

Is there a question of justice that we must examine? What about the alienated? Are we



offering an open hand to heal the wounds and renew alienated people?

The fifth week of Lent seems to overwhelm us with challenges, because it asks each Christian to examine his or her life in light of the baptism we have all shared. This baptism is supposed to affect us by adding new depth to our understanding of life and spirituality. Baptism provides the Christ-

dimention to human life. Often, however, baptism becomes a stumbling block. "Wouldn't it be easier if I were not baptized?" we sometimes ask. Yet, as all of us have learned, it is in moments of challenge that we discover our greatest growth. It is by challenging ourselves to live out a baptismal commitment that we discover the true meaning of baptism.

In our Church today, many people have accepted the call to ministry. We can no

longer limit the Church's ministry to that of the ordained. There is an important place for the clergy in the sacramental life as well as the day-to-day activities of the Church, but the Church's life is not limited to clerical activity.

The People of God have a baptismal dignity that is meant to be lived in this world and fulfilled in the next. Those who serve as Eucharistic ministers, lectors, greeters, musicians, servers and presiders are called by their baptism to these positions of service. The commitment to serve is not limited, but remains open instead to the gifts of the whole community.

Within the confines of our Church, certain areas of service are limited, but individual growth and development in the Spirit have been the hallmark of service since the Church's inception. Service by the baptized is not limited to liturgical roles. Many other areas of service have developed out of the liturgical experience on which they are modeled. Such areas of service have been inspired by a baptismal commitment to serve the Lord in all things.

As the story of Lazarus' resurrection is recounted, and a "new" experience is reflected in his "re-entry" into the world, the Church invites similar reflection on the richness of life. Our faith and the grace of our baptism suggest many ways that life can be experienced on a deeper and more spiritual level.

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Karen M. Franz
Editor

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Correction

Because he has not pursued theological studies beyond the master's degree level, Father Matthew Temple, O.Carm., the priest interviewed for last week's article on the Vatican document on bioethics (C-J, March 26: "Priest reflects on bioethics in light of science and theology") should have been termed an ethicist rather than a theologian.

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