

## Parish Notes

### Syracuse students to present play

**St. Theodore, Rochester** — Students from Syracuse's Bishop Grimes High School will present the passion play "The Way of the Cross" at the parish on Wednesday, April 15. The play, a theatrical interpretation of the Stations of the Cross, is described as "a contemplative experience" of the Passion and death of Jesus Christ. Reminiscent of medieval passion and mystery plays, the Bishop Grimes production will incorporate special lighting, pantomime, props and music, combined with religious costumes and meditative readings.

The performance, which will begin at 7:30 p.m., is free and open to the public. It will be interpreted for the hearing-impaired. The church is wheelchair-accessible.

### Teens rehearsing Living Stations

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira** — The parish teenagers will present the Living Stations of the Cross to members of the Cayuga Team Ministry (Cayuga, Union Springs, Aurora and King Ferry) on the evening of April 10. This show — as well as one in Lourdes Parish Center at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10 — will serve as a dress rehearsal for the principal performance, set for 7:30 p.m. on Good Friday, also in the Parish Center.

### Committee seeking input on project

**St. Joseph, Wayland** — The parish's Social Action Committee plans to develop a volunteer service project to assist those who need transportation to and from medical appointments or assistance with such errands as grocery shopping.

The committee is now attempting to determine how many people need this type of help. Those who would benefit from such a service — or know of others who would — are asked to call Sandy Evans at (716)728-2198.

### Parishes plan Seder celebration

**Sacred Heart, Perkinsville, and St. Pius V, Cohocton** — Reservations are now being accepted for the parish's annual Seder supper, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. in Cohocton's Sturmer Hall. This re-enactment of the Passover celebration can accommodate only 90 people, and reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

### Playground project set for Saturday

**Mother of Sorrows, Rochester** — Parents, teachers and friends of the parish school will be working together this weekend to construct a playground at the school, 1777 Latta Road. The project has already involved the volunteer efforts of many parishioners, including several parents who worked on the playground's design. The school children also assisted by raising funds through participation in a marathon walk conducted last fall.

Weather permitting, work will begin at 7 a.m. on Saturday, April 11. Volunteers will be needed to haul cement; shovel gravel and assemble pre-cut pieces of equipment. Those who would like to help but cannot do this type of work are asked to baby-sit for the children of the work crew and to prepare food.

### Multimedia presentation announced

**St. Rita, Webster** — "The Passion in Word, Art and Music," a multimedia show on the Passion of Christ, will be presented on Monday, April 13. The show — which consists of dramatic readings, slides and choral music — will take place in the church, 1008 Maple Drive, at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Other Holy Week liturgies scheduled at St. Rita's are a penitential service on Wednesday, April 15, at 7:30; a celebration of the Last Supper at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16; Good Friday services at 2 and 7:30 p.m. on April 17; and Easter Sunday Masses at 7:30, 9 and 10:30 a.m., and noon.

### Reservations sought for cluster event

**Cayuga Team Ministry, Cayuga County** — The four-parish Seder supper is set for Wednesday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. in the Methodist Dining Hall in Union Springs. Reservations are needed by Palm Sunday, April 12; call Father Spilly, (315)364-7413; Mary Lucas; Jane Warnock; or Marianne Fessenden.

By Father Thomas P. Mull  
Director, Office of Liturgy

Holy Week, which has developed into the most solemn period in the life of a Christian, retraces the steps of our Lord and asks believers to walk the same path.

In the perceptions of Christians throughout the centuries, Holy Week has evolved from something akin to a play or tableau at one point in Church history into a deep spiritual experience during a later period. Today, the Church invites us not to stand on the sidelines and watch a re-enactment of what happened, but to enter into the mystery and find our life's story intertwined with the life story of Jesus Christ.

Holy Week leads the Christian community into the final days of Jesus' life and the focal point of the Paschal Mystery. The readings of Passion Sunday are ones that inspire hope, even in the face of tragedy and defeat.

Matthew's account of the Passion tells the story of suffering and offers insight to those who live in the midst of suffering. According to Matthew, Jesus "clearly was the son of God!" In that role, He carried the sins of others that they might be free.

The Third-Servant Song of Isaiah offers the image of one who suffers for another. In the second reading, St. Paul uses the hymn of Jesus as a reflection. Jesus suffered for others, and He passed this legacy of selfless suffering on to His disciples. This sacrifice would be perpetuated, through the Eucharistic celebration and the apostolic activity of Christ's followers. Sacraments are experienced not simply for a moment, but ever afterward, thereby en-

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riching the journeys of all Christian pilgrims.

The social justice commitment that Christians must pursue means far more than simply "being nice." This commitment to others is the demand of the Gospel, exemplified for us in the person of Jesus. As initiated "faithful," we enter this Holy Week with eyes fixed on Christ. How can we reconfirm our faith in Him? How can we reflect the

values of His message? How can we most fittingly celebrate the Eucharistic mysteries that He left us? How can the sacraments become an integral part of our daily lives?

These are questions that especially haunt us this week. The challenges of prayer, worship and apostolic activity call forth the dignity of the baptized. During this week, the elect become one with the faithful. Their journey becomes ours, as we share mutual baptism — the summit for the elect and the source for the faithful.

Holy Week ends with the Triduum — three days intended to be viewed as one. The evening Mass of the Lord's Supper begins the sacred observance of Jesus' journey through death to new life. This evening of prayer focuses on the service we render one another, exemplified by the Gospel of the washing of the



feet (a ceremony known as the *mandatum*).

As Christians direct their attention to the Holy Eucharist, we are reminded that the activity inspired by the Eucharist affects believers everywhere. The visits of Holy Thursday evening exemplify the pilgrim quality of our Christian life. As we move from church to church, we become increasingly aware of the vastness of our faith and the common

sensibility we share with others who keep this night watch.

Good Friday is simply a continuation of the Paschal Mystery revelation. The silence with which the service begins, the focus on the cross and Jesus' victory over death, the reception of

the presanctified Eucharist and the service's silent conclusion give this day a sacred aspect surpassed by that of very few other days. We fast, abstain and pray intensely because the journey to the cross is one we all must follow; St. Paul says we are baptized to meet that destiny. Holy Saturday's emptiness leaves us with the impression that the story hasn't ended — and, in our Christian hearts, we know the best is still to come.

The evening twilight calls catechumen and faithful to gather together. As night falls, a fire is ignited, a single candle lighted and the ancient strains of "Christ our light" ring out: Jesus is risen from the dead.

The Easter Vigil focuses on the newly baptized and confirmed and those who have received the Eucharist for the first time. These new members of the faithful become the living example of the resurrection of Jesus, whose new life continues in the life of His community.

The Paschal Triduum comes to an end as the joyful Easter Sunday liturgy calls the faithful to renew their baptismal vows and enter once again into the lived experience of baptismal dignity: the Risen Lord living among His people.

### Diocesan Appointments



**Father William Darling** from parochial vicar to pastor, St. Patrick's Church, Owego, effective June 30, 1987.

**Father Michael C. Hogan** from pastor, St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ithaca, and All Saints Church, Lansing, to pastor, St. Mary's Church, Honeoye, effective June 30, 1987.

**Father Edward L. Palumbos** from co-

pastor to pastor, Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta, effective June 30, 1987.

**Father John J. Philipps** from pastor, the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport, to pastor, St. Bridget's Church, East Bloomfield, and St. Joseph's Church, West Bloomfield, effective June 30, 1987.

**Father Eugene R. Weis** from temporary administrator, St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, to pastor, St. Casimir's Church, Elmira, effective June 30, 1987.

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