

Parish Notes

Parish sponsors series on aging

St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester — As a nation, we are growing older. More than 12 percent of the U.S. Population is over age 65, with a rapidly growing number living substantially beyond the biblical "three score and ten."

The Mercy Center for the Aging, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, offers a variety of programs to help the elderly, their families and churches in dealing more effectively with the many challenges of aging. During the next few weeks, St. Charles parishioners and other members of the community will be able to participate in one of the center's most popular programs, its Family Education Series on Aging.

The series will be held at the St. Charles Parish Center, corner of Dewey Avenue and Maiden Lane. It consists of six two-hour sessions to be held from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on successive Tuesday evenings, April 28, May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2. Admission is free, and all adults are welcome.

The program offers insights on the aging process and on elderly people, and will make participants aware of health-care delivery systems now available to seniors.

By Father Thomas P. Mull
Director, Office of Liturgy

The *Crossroads* focus shifts as Lent draws to its close and the Easter "alleluia" is heard once again. The triumph of this day fills the readings, music and prayers. The Gospel of John tells the beautiful story of Mary Magdalene and her privileged first look at the risen Savior. Peter addresses the people of Jerusalem, giving them insights into the life of Jesus, which is continued through his followers. St. Paul sings of the heavenly promise that is part of the Easter commemoration.

Easter is a day of great joy for all who bear the title Christian. We were so designated when we cleared the waters of baptism, were confirmed with the anointing of the Spirit, and came to be nourished at the community's holy table. Easter is the anniversary of our baptisms. Thus, at all the Easter Masses, Christians will be asked to renew the vows that were made for them at baptism. This annual ritual is the opportunity for all Christians to reflect on the meaning of their lives in light of baptism.

As Roman Catholics, we are invited by the Church to reflect on the meaning of our own tradition. The sacraments that have been given to us are a large part of this tradition. Do we receive them and celebrate them with dignity and respect? Are we willing to take time to prepare for each sacramental celebration? Do we find our dignity in the unique opportunities we have to be sacramental people?

St. Leo's choirs to perform

St. Leo, Hilton — The parish's bell, adult and children's choirs will perform with the choirs of three other Hilton churches in a Sunday, May 3, concert of sacred music. The concert, entitled "Praise and Love," is set for 7 p.m. in the Hilton High School Auditorium, 400 East Ave. It will be free and open to the public.

More than 200 singers and bell ringers — 12 choirs in all — have been rehearsing with their choir directors in preparation for this annual event. The other churches participating in the performance are United Methodist, St. Paul's Lutheran and Hilton Baptist. Ed Mizma, the director of Hilton Baptist's adult choir, is again serving as master of ceremonies. The Rev. Albert Zoller of St. Paul's will give the invocation.

The concert will begin with the adult choirs processing into the auditorium while singing "Alleluia" by Coates. They will also sing "This We Proclaim," Butler; "Kum Ba Yah," Sjolund arrangement; "And the Father Will Dance," Hayes; "Wings of the Dawn," Spencer; and "Ascription of Praise," Schwoebel.

Each of the churches also has a bell choir, whose members will join together to ring "Praise the Lord Ye Heavens Adore Him" and "The Lord's Prayer." The bells, enhanced by a brass section, will accompany the singers during the final song, "A Jubilant Song" by Pote.

The children's choirs will sing "His Banner Over Me Is Love," "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy" and "Share a Little Bit of Your Love." The audience will be invited to sing with the children and adults in "Palm Sunday Processional."

Directing the St. Leo's choirs will be Marie Hebert, director and accompanist of the adult choir; Mary Ann Hubbell, bell director; and Terry Corcoran, director of the children's choir.

Free refreshments will be available following the concert. Free-will offerings will offset the cost of music rights.

St. Mary's announces donation

St. Mary's, Rochester — Father James Lawlor, pastor, has announced that the parish's capital campaign has received a major donation from The Pioneer Group, developer of the City Centre project, which faces St. Mary's across Washington Square Park.

The Pioneer Group, headed by partners Michael J. Falcone and Edward W. McNeil, has pledged \$10,000 to St. Mary's Renovation Fund, which has a goal of \$500,000 for renovations of the historic church's interior.

The Syracuse-based development firm felt compelled to contribute to the renovation of St. Mary's, McNeil said, "because we're both facing the same square and of the momentum for renovation and new construction on all its sides."

CROSSROADS '87

As people of faith, we become aware of the gift that baptism brings to us and of the challenging responsibilities this gift calls forth. On Passion Sunday, more than 2,000 members of the diocesan Nocturnal Adoration Society gathered at Sacred Heart Cathedral for the celebration of evening prayer. This group of dedicated men and women spends an hour each month gathered in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. Their strong voices raised in the song of the psalms, the conviction of their hearts in the vocalized prayer, and the respect they give to the Eucharist speak volumes about how they treasure the sacrament of the Eucharist. On Passion Sunday, they gave up a part of their afternoon to gather in a body, share their faith and pray with one voice. The homilist challenged them to put their faith into action — not only in their



monthly observance but also in their daily lives. This is the challenge of all sacramental celebrations — to rejoice in the risen Lord's transforming presence in the sacraments and then take this presence into the world.

Easter invites the faithful to look not only to themselves but also to those who have joined their ranks during the celebration of the Easter Vigil. The elect (catechumens

and candidates) celebrate the sacraments of initiation within a community that has played a large part in their journey. They reach the dignity of the baptized in the sacramental waters of baptism, the sealing of chrism and the sharing and the sharing of Eucharist. The renewal of baptismal vows at the Easter Vigil is a powerful sign when seen in light of the newly baptized.

Somehow we who are old hands at being Catholic Christians are inspired when we see

the excitement of the neophytes. We can be rightly proud of who we are and of what we offer, when we see others expressing a strong desire to become one with us. Easter tells us that the resurrection is not simply an historical event, but that it is an ever-renewing moment in the lives of everyone who believes. Easter finds its focus in these newly initiated people. They speak to us of discovery, transformation and moving on in their journey. Through providence, they cross the Christian path and begin to walk with us. The power of the resurrection can be seen in their eyes, through their voices and by their actions.

Easter, however, does not last only a moment; the Church expands its celebration for 50 days. As we commence the Easter season, our bishops move throughout the diocese confirming and ordaining. First Communions and marriages become regular parts of our community's worship at this time of year. Communal anointings of the sick have become popular, giving the whole community time to pray for those who suffer in their midst. These sacramental moments as well as our life experiences challenge us to see the ever-expanding power of Jesus' resurrection. In First Corinthians 5:8, St. Paul challenges his listeners to see the continuing impact of the Paschal Mystery, saying: "Let us celebrate the feast not with the old yeast, that of corruption and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." Happy Easter to all!

Diocesan Appointments

Father Edward Dillon from St. Augustine's Rectory to pastor, Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, effective June 30, 1987.

Father William Graf from pastor, Church of the Annunciation, Rochester, to pastor, Church of the Most Precious Blood, Rochester, effective June 30, 1987.

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On the cover:

Easter holds special significance for the monks at Mount Saviour Monastery in Pine City. Brother Gereon Reuter evidences the joy of new birth as he feeds an orphaned lamb at sunrise.

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