

Parish Notes

Donations exceed renovation-fund goal

St. Mary, Canandaigua — Cash and pledges totaling \$675,000 — well over the goal of \$600,000 — have been collected for the interior renovation of the church. The 82-year-old edifice, which seats 888 people, is an historical landmark. General repairs to the building's exterior were completed recently, along with the installation of a new roof.

Interior work will include expansion of the chapel used for daily Mass, painting, pew refinishing, restoration of the statues, new carpeting, installation of new heating and ventilation equipment, and the construction of a handicapped-accessible ramp and new basement rooms.

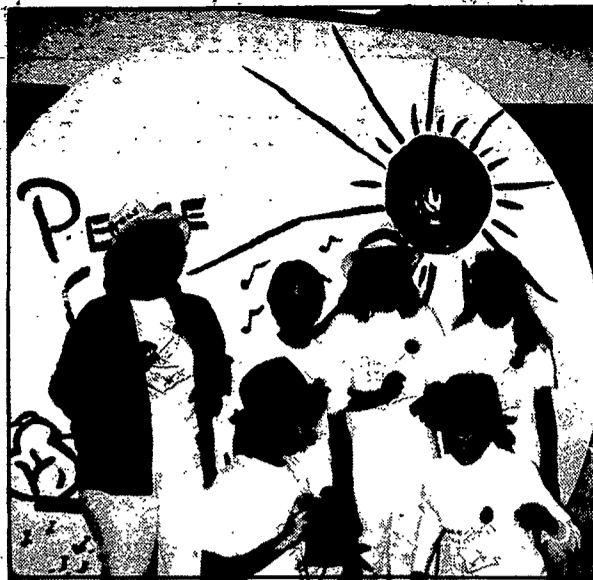
Father James C. Burke, pastor, announced that the church will be closed after the last Sunday Mass in June. From August through November, Masses will be conducted in the school and other locations, in order to allow for uninterrupted work in the church. A rededication ceremony, with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, is scheduled for December 8.

Dinner will honor departing principal

St. Ambrose, Rochester — After 11 years as principal of St. Ambrose School, Sister Ann Collins, SSJ, is moving on to become principal of Nazareth Academy High School.

The parish has scheduled a dinner in Sister Collins' honor for the evening of Friday, June 19, at Marvin's Country Club in Macedon. Social hour (cash bar) will begin at 6:30, and a buffet dinner will begin at 7:30.

Parishioners, former students, colleagues and friends of Sister Collins may purchase tickets, priced at \$12 each, at the school or rectory throughout May. Seating for the dinner is limited.



Holy Trinity School's "Peace Child" performers are (from rear left): Heather Brouwer, Scott Eilender, Jacqueline Fewkes, Kristin Gilliland, Danielle DeFeo and Kim Cronenworth.

Holy Trinity presents 'Peace Child'

Holy Trinity, Webster — An early April production of David Woolcombe's play "Peace Child" offered parish children an opportunity to learn about international conflict, peace efforts, dramatic adaptation and sign language.

"Peace Child" was first performed in London, and has since been produced in more than 13 countries on four continents. Each group that performs the play is encouraged to rewrite it. Holy Trinity children spent many hours discussing world peace and developing their own version of the play. Since sign language is the third-most common language in the Rochester area, children chose to present the play in both English and sign language.

The play is the story of an American boy, played by Bill Ernst, and a Russian girl, played by Gretchen Kriessen, who learn to see beyond the stereotypes and suspicions that separate their two nations. The two children then attempt to convince their respective governments to disarm and live together in peace.

The play was performed under the direction of junior high teachers and veteran directors Patricia Urban and Michael Costello. Roberta Mace, a teacher in the junior high, served as director for the vocal solos. Webster-area dance teacher Brenda Schwenzer choreographed the dance sequences.

Holy Trinity students performed "Peace Child" for a home audience on April 3 and 4, taking their show on the road to St. John of Rochester School in Fairport on April 10.

Work to begin on St. Mary's renovation

St. Mary, Rochester — Renovation work is about to begin on the historic downtown church. The parish celebrated its closing liturgies on April 25; reopening ceremonies are scheduled for early October.

In the interim, the "upper church" at St. Mary's will be closed for renovations. Masses will be celebrated in the basement church until work is complete.

Good Shepherd planning fun, sun fest

Good Shepherd, Henrietta — As a result of the success of last year's Celebration '86, the parish is now planning a Fun in the Sun Fest for June 5 and 6.

Many of the favorite programs from last year's festival — the garage sale, children's costume parade, games and strawberry sundaes — will be included in the June gala. In addition, the festival will include a demolition derby, goldfish games and a cotton candy booth.

The title for this year's festival was chosen through a contest conducted among the schoolchildren. D.R. Salerno won \$25 for submitting "Fun in the Sun Fest."

Heading this year's festival crew are Lydia Conner and Dick Moore, who also ran Celebration '86.

CROSSROADS '87

By Father
Thomas P. Mull
Director,
Office of Liturgy

Throughout the season of Lent, the image of journey was very strong. The elect continued their journey of faith as they entered a season of intense spiritual preparation for the Easter sacraments. The faithful continued on their own journey of faith, entering into a penitential season with hearts and minds set on healing, growth, purification and a closer union with their God.

The season of Lent invited participants to see their entire Christian lives as a continuous journey, with many hills and valleys, many turns and stops. The season of Lent was a season of reflection on the journey: where have I come from and where am I going?



A common — and mistaken — assumption is that the journey ends with the celebration of Easter, which entails so much preparation and elaboration. Rather than ending it, however, Easter transforms the journey.

The readings for the third Sunday of Easter portray the concept of journey once again. After his resurrection, Jesus walks with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, stopping with them for the night and gathering at a table. "Weren't our hearts burning within us as he talked to us on the road?" asked the two disciples, who finally recognized Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

By the same token, the Eucharist — the Body and Blood of the Son of God — becomes for us a sign of unity and a revelation of God.

In the moment of revelation, the disciples reflected on all that was heard and experienced, not only on the Emmaus road, but also on the road of Jesus' life. The moment of truth had arrived: the Savior would take the sins of the world upon himself and redeem the world, through his death and resurrection.

In the second reading, Peter speaks of the "Paths of Life." Although Jesus had to suffer and even die, he was not forsaken, but rose from the dead. In defeat, he was victorious, showing the way his followers would travel. Although our life's journey presents many challenges, it also confirms the basic goodness of our God. In all things we must remember that we have been saved and called to celebrate this salvation in Christ each day.

The Acts of the Apostles gives the continuing story of the development of community. The Spirit called people to become one: they shared all things in common, they prayed as one and they broke bread together. Peter's speech encourages all believers to recognize that their path of life is not separate from that of Jesus but, rather, one with Jesus.

This week, we look at our sacramental celebrations to see how they have encouraged our faith, renewed our hope and

strengthened our resolve. At this time of year, many First Communion classes gather and celebrate together. It is always a beautiful sight to see so many of God's innocent children approach the altar for the first time. We must not allow ourselves to simply become nostalgic, however; we must continue to see the challenge of the Eucharist.

First Eucharist is another step in one's faith journey — movement into a deeper relationship with Jesus. This sacrament also represents a stronger commitment to a community that nourishes neophytes and encourages them to recognize the Lord in both the consecrated bread and wine and in the world around them. This call — to serve the Lord by serving our brothers and sisters — is the road that lies ahead of our young friends who share the Eucharist for the first time. Many have walked this road because of the faith and encouragement of countless others.

The journey of faith continues, and the Easter season gives us the opportunity to reflect on all those who will journey with us. Like the disciples at Emmaus, may we also realize the power of Jesus' life and death, and come to recognize Him in the breaking of the bread.

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