

Parish Notes

Celebration to honor founding pastor



St. Thomas More, Rochester — The parish is planning a jubilee celebration to honor founding pastor Father Francis J. Pegnam on the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. A jubilee Mass is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, with a reception thereafter.

A native of Rochester, Father Pegnam was ordained by Cardinal Mooney on June 4, 1937. His first post was as assistant pastor of St. Patrick, Elmira. After a four-year stint in the navy, he became assistant pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Rochester, and was assigned in 1953 to establish the Brighton parish named for St. Thomas More. Since his retirement in 1982, Father Pegnam has assisted in Scottsville and Mendon, residing in Canandaigua.

Reservations for the jubilee celebration may be made through St. Thomas More Church.

By Father Thomas P. Mull
Director, Office of Liturgy

Because of the gospel that will be read next Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Easter has come to be known as Good Shepherd Sunday. In addition to being celebrated as Mother's Day in the United States, it is the day on which members of the Church are asked to reflect on the leadership role of Jesus, whose concern touches all people — especially those who are poor, sick or alienated.

John's gospel described Jesus as the gate of the sheepfold. Each Christian encounters Him before becoming one of the flock and



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hears His gentle voice beckoning the hearts and minds of those who are summoned. It is Christ's warm embrace in the waters of baptism that welcomes new members into the community.

The first reading for Good Shepherd Sunday is a continuation of Peter's speech after the coming of the Spirit. In this reading, Peter calls the people to accountability for their ignorance and sin. If they reform their lives and are baptized, their sins will be forgiven and their minds will be opened to the wonders of God.

Peter summons the people to take charge of their faith lives, to perceive themselves as important to God because they are called by

name. In their rejection of Satan and acceptance of baptism, Christians promise to live a life aligned with that of Jesus Christ. As they turn their backs on the lure of sin and embrace God in the waters of baptism, they open themselves to the direction of the Spirit, through the Church.

The Letter of Peter, Sunday's second reading, proclaims that by Christ's wounds, we are healed. This image is consistent with that of the Good Shepherd, as well as with the healing power of Christ's death on the cross and resurrection from the dead. It is a healing in which all participate.

Sunday is an ideal day for the communal anointing of the sick, for it is in times of crisis and illness that we find a desperate need for the comfort of the Lord. The Letter of Peter reveals the healing power of Christ, in the following words from the anointing rite: "May the Lord who has freed you from sin save you and raise you up." These words remind those who share in this ritual that there is hope, and that suffering doesn't have to be endured alone. The community of faith will readily shoulder some of the burden and pain. This community gives testimony to the mystery that we celebrate throughout the Easter season: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again.

kers. Construction skills are not required.

Child care and meals will be provided for those working on the playground site. For information or to volunteer, call Jim Klaver at (716)247-1089 or Amy Sabol at 594-2472.

Wayne County parishes plan census

St. Anne, Palmyra, and St. Gregory, Marion — Reach Out in Friendship is the theme of the parishes' joint outreach and census program, which will be conducted on Sunday, May 17, from 1-5 p.m.

Volunteers will be canvassing all homes in their Wayne County region to identify the needs of area residents and to update parish records. For information, call (315) 597-4571 or 926-4323.

Fashion show slated for Oak Hill

St. Joseph, Penfield — The ninth annual Spring Fling Fashion Show, sponsored by St. Joseph's Parish Life Committee, will take place on Saturday, May 30, at Oak Hill Country Club. Seating will begin at 11:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon, followed by the fashion show at 1:15.

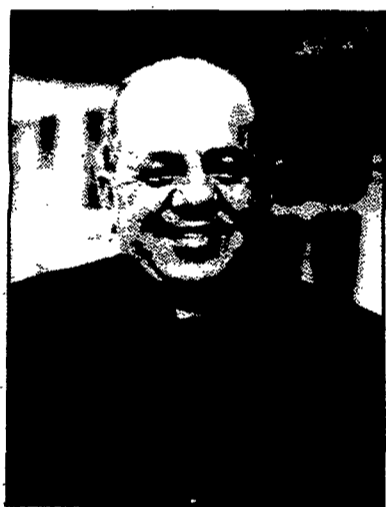
Fashions for the show will be provided by Caren Charles of Pittsford Plaza and Attie's Fashions of Panorama Plaza. Tickets may be reserved by calling (716) 377-1163.

We must remember that the anointing of the sick is a sacrament for the living, not one for the dead. It is meant to bring the Lord's healing power into the lives of the anointed, rather than to confirm the closeness of death. To observe the communal anointing of the sick during the Easter season — the season of life — is to give particular emphasis to the live-giving dimension of the sacrament, while providing an opportunity to encourage fellow Christians to recognize their responsibility to one another.

The sacrament is always a beautiful sight, with so many helping hands bringing the faithful sick to church to be anointed and to share in the Eucharist. The faith of today's active Catholics allows all of us to witness those who have been so much a part of parish life continuing their presence in the life of the Church.

Mother's Day, incidentally, is a time to honor those women who have accepted a special role in shepherding children into life, in dealing with life's crises as well as life's joys. Sunday is also a day of gratitude to God for the life that so many enjoy. As Christians, we are responsible for protecting the lives of those unborn and yet to be born.

We all share in the responsibility of life and in God's generous gift of life through His creative process. The Easter season fills us with a sense of deep respect for life in all its aspects.



Fr. Stefano Gobbi of Milan, Italy, founder and promoter of the world-wide Marian Movement of Priests, will speak at a Cenacle gathering at:

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH
1460 Ridge Rd. Webster, NY 14580
Monday, June 8, 1987

Father Gobbi will speak on the nature of the Marian Movement of Priests and will give a spiritual message on the need for consecration to Mary in today's world.

3:00 PM: Cenacle for priests and deacons only followed by dinner at Webster Columbus Center (reservations necessary)
6:30 PM: Rosary for Religious and lay people followed by a celebrated Mass and reception at the Parish Hall

All members and associates of the movement and all persons interested in hearing Fr. Gobbi are invited to attend. Admission is free.

For more information contact Deacon Leo Kester, 1673 Woodard Rd., Webster NY 14580 Phone: (716) 265-2192



The Marian Movement of Priests

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How can I prevent difficulties from grief?

Many who confront grief for the first time are surprised at the intensity of their feelings. Grief is most often associated with the death of a loved one but it can also result from divorce, loss of bodily function, moving or from a child growing up and leaving home. Because grief is poorly understood, those who have not experienced it personally can be poor helpers. By learning about grief ahead of time we can more capably assist friends in their time of need and can more readily understand the intensity of feelings when death affects our families. Take time to read and inquire about grief and learn ways to assist those in need of support.

We purchase all forms of insurance to protect our family & assets, not because we expect the worst to happen, but to be prepared. Doesn't it make sense then to prepare for what will happen. Let our trained counselors assist you with the many options available in planning for a worry-free future.

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