

Parish Notes

United Way president to speak

St. Mary's, Rochester — Ted L. Moore, president of the United Way of Greater Rochester, will be the speaker for the concluding presentation of this season's Life After Five series on Wednesday, June 3. Moore's topic will be *Escalating Issues in the Community*, focusing on violence in the home, troubled teens, children at risk, the elderly and AIDS. He will discuss the relationships between these topics and the consequences of not intervening quickly and effectively to resolve them.

Moore will speak from 3 to 5 p.m. in the lower level Community Center at the church, 15 St. Mary's Place.

Class of 1937 plans June celebration

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester — The 1937 graduates of the parish school are planning a 50th anniversary celebration for Sunday, June 14. The festivities will begin with a high Mass at 10 a.m. in the church, followed by brunch at the Royal Scot Restaurant, 657 Ridge Road at Hudson Avenue. For reservations, contact any of the following committee members by June 1: Lorraine Sohn Hasenaur, (716)458-9393; Ruth Doser Mayer, 352-0872; Marcella Schnorr, 461-4177; Joseph Cook, 254-5249; or Leo Beattie, 225-6650.

Reunion set for graduating class of '21

Immaculate Conception, Rochester — The graduating class of 1921 is planning its 66th reunion for June 24. Mass will be celebrated in the Church at 11 a.m., followed by a brunch in the convent. For information, call (716)244-1929 or 244-9244.

Parish offers evening of May devotions

St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn — May celebrations around the diocese will include an evening of special devotions on Sunday, May 31, at the church at 185 Clark St., Auburn. A living rosary next to the shrine will begin at 8 p.m., followed by the May crowning and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the church.

The Sacred Heart Society is sponsoring these devotions. All members are urged to attend, and the public is welcome.

St. Patrick's bids pastor 'bon voyage'

St. Patrick, Owego — The parish has planned a farewell celebration for Father Thomas H. Watts on Sunday, May 31. Father Watts, who will observe the 30th anniversary of his ordination on June 15, will leave St. Pat's on July 1, after 17 years as pastor of the Southern Tier parish. He will begin his sabbatical in Rome this coming September.

An 11:30 a.m. Mass in St. Patrick's Church will begin the day of fellowship. Afterward, a pork chop barbecue will be held at the Hickories Park in Owego. Guests are requested to bring their own beverages, table service, lawn chairs, sports equipment, guitars and a dish to pass.

Adult fellowship group plans theater trip

St. Thomas More, Rochester — The parish's Adult Fellowship Group is sponsoring a bus trip to Niagara-on-the-Lake for a performance of Cole Porter's musical "Anything Goes."

Although the trip is scheduled for August 5, the deadline for ticket reservations is Wednesday, June 3.

In addition to the musical performance at the Royal George Theater, highlights of the trip will include lunch at the Queenston Heights Restaurant, a tour of the area and possible time for shopping.

For more information as to the cost, time of departure and other details, contact Sister Karen at (716)381-4200.



GOLDEN YEARS — St. Charles Borromeo School's Class of 1937 will celebrate its 50th reunion July 8, 1987. Members of the planning committee for the event are seeking to notify their classmates. In particular, anyone with information about the whereabouts of Charles B. Adams, Betty Betts, Marian Frank, Mary Berger, Donal Englert and Charles Sande (shown above with the rest of the class) should call Don and Mary (Laragy) Murphy at (716) 342-4966.

Henrietta parish schedules fun fest

Good Shepherd, Henrietta — Parishioners are gearing up for their "Sun and Fun" fest on Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6. Among the activities featured during the two-day celebration are a garage sale, sales of homemade foods and crafts, and a children's parade, which begins on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Youngsters who are 12-years old or under should gather in costume at the East Henrietta Road parking lot at 1 p.m.

Hours for the fest are 6-11 p.m. on Friday and noon to 11 p.m. on Saturday. The garage sale will continue on Sunday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

By Deacon Claude Lester

"Father, the hour has come!" Jesus is quoted by John in his gospel. With that statement, we move toward the conclusion of the Easter season and the conclusion of the *Crossroads* series.

The seventh Sunday of Easter provides us with a respite for reflection. "These are in the world," Jesus says, indicating that the community is to continue His work. This statement challenges us, as Christians, to carry on the work of Jesus. All who bear the name of Christian must accept this mission, which calls forth service as the highest form of human endeavor, shared in one faith, one baptism and one Lord.

The scene in the Acts of the Apostles moves to the upper room in Jerusalem, where the Apostles have gathered. Armed with the strength and fortification of the Spirit, the apostles go forth to witness in the name of Jesus. In the second reading, Peter proclaims the glory of God and the suffering that must be endured to bring us to that glory. The reading calls to mind the message of Jesus in his post-resurrection appearance on the road to Emmaus: "Did not the Messiah have to suffer?"

The proclamation of the Easter season is repeated over and over: because of our baptism, we have a duty to build up the reign of God. This can be accomplished only through the power of the Spirit, working

CROSSROADS '87

through the hands and hearts and minds of the whole community.

During the Lenten season, more than 75 members of local parish communities gathered at diocesan listening sessions on the role of the laity in the Church. Participants shared their lives and their dreams for the future.

In gathering this input, the diocesan Task Force on the Laity attempted not to gain consensus but to give people an opportunity to share their individual insights. We asked participants, "How have you experienced God in your life?" Many people cited the births of their children, the celebration of the Eucharist, nature and the arts, RCIA, illness and infirmity, prayer, the deaths of loved ones, and reaching out to parish staff and the parish community. Some said they experienced God as they increased their awareness of the Spirit's gifts, or in the affirmation and love of friends, spouses and parents.

A range of responses was given to the



question, "How has your parish community supported you?" People frequently commented that parishes are often impersonal and individuals are not affirmed. Others cited the support provided by kind words and actions, gestures of appreciation and homilies.

We also asked people, "What are your dreams?" Responses included evangelizing more

effectively; creating a deeper sense of belonging, acceptance, openness and hospitality; assuming our responsibility to priesthood; gaining a better understanding of service rather than power; giving greater attention to social justice; exploring options to celibacy for our clergy and religious;

having competent laity; and ordaining women.

In addition to the local responses to these questions, the Task Force on the Laity forwarded to the Bishops' Office for the Laity in Washington, D.C., numerous personal letters, some 600 surveys completed by people in more than a dozen parishes, the statement of theology composed by the task force as constituted by our Diocesan Pastoral Council, and recent *Courier-Journal* articles highlighting local parish initiatives.

Although participants shared many different perspectives and dreams, one point of unity gained during this process might best be summarized by the overwhelmingly positive response to one item on the survey: "Through baptism, confirmation and Eucharist, I share in the mission of the Church to bring Christ to the world." Ninety-seven percent of the respondents recorded either "I strongly believe" or "I believe."

Our modern-day challenge is the same as that presented by the scene in the upper room: to go forth and witness in the name of Jesus.

Peace activist to lead Nazareth workshop on role of women

Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, an internationally recognized leader in the women's and peace movements, will conduct a day-long workshop at Nazareth College's Otto A. Shults Community Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester, on June 5. Her presentation, which is entitled "The Role of Women in Church and Society," will run from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program is

sponsored by Great Lakes Center and is open to the public.

Sister Chittister has won several national and international awards for her leadership in the areas of women's rights and world peace, and has just published her seventh book, *Winds of Change: Women Challenge the Church*.

Sister Chittister is prioress of Mount Saint Benedict Priory, a community of Benedictine sisters in Erie, Pennsylvania.

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person or \$12 before May 31. Call (716)288-3854 for information or registration.

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St. Patrick's of Mt. Morris Alumni Dinner

Sunday, July 12th - 2:00 p.m.
at the Genesee River Hotel

Sponsored by the School's Alumni Assoc.

Principal speaker will be
Bishop W. Thomas Larkin
on the occasion of his 40th
Anniversary in the priesthood.

Tickets for the Roast Beef Dinner
are \$8.50

and can be purchased through
July 6th from:

Fred Beuerlein - 658-4411
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