

et cetera

Corning

Continued from Page 3

Stone Hill without finds, during the next 55 years he succeeded in building up and paying for a whole city of charities. In 1926 he had the joy of dedicating there the splendid basilica of Our Lady of Victory. It was his thank-you gift for Mary's constant assistance.

Notable among the many philanthropies of the Baker cluster were its projects for orphans and for unwed mothers. Some of the orphans later settled in Corning and elsewhere in the Rochester diocese. The protectory was finally closed in 1956, but it had meanwhile served as foster parent to 100,000 children.

Although their life there had been hardy, its alumni remained loyal to their Lackawanna home. As one of them confessed two years ago, "We didn't like the place much then, but we wouldn't be alive today if it wasn't for Father Baker."

The program for unwed mothers remains active, providing all necessary physical and psychological care. Another related agency arranges for the adoption of the babies, if the mothers choose that course.

As Nelson Baker continued to expand and administer all these charitable institutions, he became revered for his pastoral leadership. He was a great promoter of eucharistic piety, and it was he above all who made the Parisian devotion to Our Lady of Victory better known

across the United States. Furthermore, when Father Baker was around, marvelous things that seemed beyond purely human powers sometimes occurred.

Corning Catholics were not surprised to hear reports of cures and other wonders at Lackawanna. The same sort of thing had happened when the padre was stationed at St. Mary's. At least three cures were attributed to him during his short stay in Corning. Sister Raymond Joseph Griffin, RSM, now the pastoral assistant at St. Vincent De Paul Church and herself a native of St. Mary's Parish, is looking into these local occurrences.

One of the alleged Corning cures was that of Katherine Dwyer. At the age of about 19, Kate contracted typhoid fever, but she made a quick recovery after Father Baker prayed over her and sprinkled her with water from the miraculous shrine at Lourdes, France.

The reported Corning cures cannot be scientifically verified at this late date. What is significant is that the parishioners of St. Mary's, after knowing the little Buffalo priest for only a few months, should have been so impressed by his spirituality that they were ready to accept him as a miracle-worker. No other priest assigned to St. Mary's has ever been held in quite the same spiritual esteem.

It is good, then, that in the Rochester diocese, the drive for the canonization of this "Padre of the Poor" should begin in Corning. The story of his career there, brief though it was, may give strong support to the proposition that he was indeed a saint.

Penfield Columbiettes slate annual charity card party

The second-annual charity card party sponsored by the St. John Neumann Columbiettes Council #8271 of Penfield is scheduled for Saturday, March 19. The party will take place at 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Building, 70 Barrett Drive, Webster.

The columbiettes is an organization of women who work with the Knights of Columbus to promote unity, charity and patriotism.

Refreshments will be served at the party, and a cash bar will be available. The donation for the evening will be \$5. For ticket information, call Mary R. Cantatore, (716)671-6047; Constance Mammino, 671-236; or Joan Rovet, 671-0486. Tickets also will be available at the door the evening of the card party.

Trinity Emmanuel to host Cabrini Circle gospel concert

Mother Cabrini Circle will present its annual gospel concert, "Preparing for Tomorrow," at Trinity Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, 9 Shelter St., Rochester, on Sunday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m.

Several choirs and musical groups from Rochester will be participating in this program. A \$5 donation will be asked from adults; \$2.50 from senior citizens and children.

Call (716)544-6319 or 235-1463 for information.

Church schedules meetings on Christian/Jewish relations

The Downtown Community Forum, together with the Commission on Christian/Jewish Relations, has begun a monthly dialogue group for Christians and Jews. The next meeting of the group, which convenes at St. Mary's Church rectory, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester, will be March 22, from 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Subsequent meetings will take place on April 26 and May 24.

The facilitator for the series is Joseph G. Kelly, D. Min., professor of religious studies at Nazareth College of Rochester. He has been active in the area of Jewish/Christian dialogue on both the local and national scene.

Group programs are free and open to the public. As an adjunct to the Downtown Community Forum's "Conversations: Faith and the Marketplace" series, these noon-hour discussions are designed for participation by downtown business and professional people. Participants are welcome to bring bag lunches. Dessert and beverages will be provided.

The Downtown Community Forum is sponsored by St. Mary's Church. The Commission on Christian/Jewish Relations is a joint agency of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and the Jewish Community Federation.

Classifieds

To place a classified ad, call 328-4340 between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Classified ads cost 50 cents a word with a \$7.50 minimum. If you mail your ad to us, you may enclose payment or include a billing address.

General

THANKS SACRED Heart of Jesus, Mary Queen of Our Hearts, St. Joseph, Holy Spirit, Saints. L.T.

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Call the Covenant House 9-LINE, a hotline for troubled youth and families, open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, from anywhere in the U.S. 1-800-999-9999

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Catholic Committee of Appalachia seeks an Executive Coordinator for July 1, 1988. Organizational and community building skills needed, ability to work with variety of church groups, adept at oral and written communication, grantwriting, car, free to travel - necessary. Preference for Appalachian experience and willingness to move to Whitesburg. Send resume to: Mary Priniski, OP, PO Box 2892, Rock Hill, SC 29731; telephone (803) 327-9451, before April 1.

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