

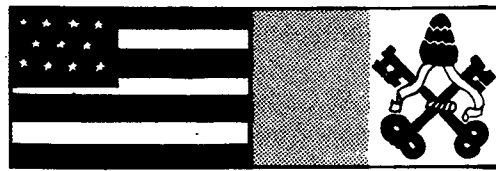
Southern Tier parishes greet visiting Kenyan priest

By Father Paul Cuddy
Courier columnist

Father Ernest Bulinda was ordained three years ago in his native diocese of Nakuru, Kenya. He is in residence at St. Mary's, Elmira, under the tutelage of Father James Boyle, the pastor, and the associate, Father Michael Brown, a priest intern from St. Pius X, Rochester.

Father Boyle went to Kenya nearly two years ago to visit Raphael Ndingi, the Bishop of Nakuru. As a result of Father Boyle's visit, Father Bulinda now studies at Elmira College, lives at St. Mary's and assists during Masses.

Priests, brothers and sisters sent as students by their bishops and superiors to the United States should return home knowledgeable about the history, culture, people and geography of our country. Coming to a better understanding of our country benefits them, us and the church.



ON THE RIGHT SIDE

Isabelle Larrabee, who is the mother of Father Joseph Larrabee of Good Shepherd Church, wrote me in April to ask if I would speak at the golden anniversary banquet of the Elmira Ladies of Charity on June 7.

The three-day visit to Elmira allowed me a chance to get acquainted with the young Kenyan priest.

About 100 ladies and a few men assembled at the banquet. When it was my turn to speak, I ruminated: "These are the people who have sustained the faith in

Elmira for generations. They are firmly loyal to the Holy See. They hold our bishop and clergy in a reverence which is hardly the spirit of the new generation."

Because Father Bulinda has been so intent in his studies, he has circumscribed himself within the parish. Since he was on vacation for a few weeks, I thought I would introduce him to some of the "church in the Southern Tier."

We left St. Mary's at 9:30 a.m. for Mount Saviour Monastery, which is located just outside Elmira. Father Martin Boler, OSB, who is prior of the monastery, welcomed us. He told us that my good friend, Brother Sabastian, was quite sick at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was a member of our first tour group to the Holy Land in 1972.

We later stopped at St. Mary's Church in Corning, where Father Thomas Brennan — a marvel of age and wisdom — welcomed

us. Father Brennan took us to lunch where we discussed our mutual love for the diocese and the church.

We then traveled to St. Vincent's, Corning, where Father John Murphy was resting up after just returning from St. Joseph's Hospital. We were disappointed to miss Father Robert MacNamara, pastor, who recently returned from Yale Divinity School. Nevertheless, Father William Endress gave us coffee and a flood of cheerful observations.

We then moved onward to Bath where Father Robert Hammond is the coordinator of many projects. He has established several Alcoholics Anonymous units — including one for non-smokers — in Bath.

We later traveled to Hornell where we stopped in at the home of Mary Louise and Pat Mattie, who are both secretaries at St. Ann's Church. Their brother, Father Richard Mattie, who was a Navy chaplain for 18 years, will return to our diocese in two years. It was then onto St. Ann's rectory for supper and a big welcome by Rena Tellier, the faithful cook of many years.

We dined with the gracious pastor, Father Elmer J. Schmidt, discussing the church and mutual friends until Father James Yeager, associate pastor, came in from Mass. He entertained us with a deluge of observations that made me think that if Fathers Yeager and Endress were in the same room they would have to talk in tandem. He is always refreshing.

Our final visit was to see Kevin Doran, who is manager of radio station WLEA. His wife is Mary Margaret Gibbs, who is the sister of Father Gabriel Gibbs, OSB, prior of St. Benedict's Priory in Stillwater, Mass. Kevin is a mighty Catholic with an ardent loyalty to the Holy See and the Universal Church. If I ever win the lottery, I will give much of it to this zealous lay man who has long wanted to buy Rochester's WHAM radio station to make it a Catholic station.

We left Hornell at 8 p.m. for the 60-mile trek to Elmira. We got gloriously lost by taking the wrong exit near Elmira. Father Bulinda finally arrived back home at St. Mary's around 10 p.m. after acquainting himself with some of the finest priests and lay people in the diocese.

When in doubt, it's best to believe in apparitions

By Father Albert Shamon
Courier columnist

Sunday's readings: (R3) Luke 1:57-66, 80; (R1) Isaiah 49:1-6; (R2) Acts 13:22-26.

The church only celebrates the birthdays of Jesus, Mary and John the Baptist because all three were born without sin.

Birthdays are always happy events, but few equaled the celebration over John's. Elizabeth was overjoyed. Her relatives and friends also rejoiced. Zechariah, upon naming John, recovered his speech. Fear, wonder and awe seized everyone.

Isaiah foretold John's birth. God chooses him "from his mother's womb and gives him his name." His words will cut like a sword and pierce hearts like an arrow. Yet God will protect him because God sets him apart for a great task: to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to be a light to the nations.

The Baptist knew who he was and who he was not. He was a man of fierce energy and little patience. "Don't waste time on me," he thundered, "look for the one who comes after me."

In view of Bishop Zanic's diatribes against Medjugorje, it seems more than coincidence that the Solemnity — which celebrates the Birth of John the Baptist —



A WORD FOR SUNDAY

takes place this Sunday because it was on this feast day that the Mother of God allegedly appeared to six children at Medjugorje.

Of course, we must wait for the church's judgment regarding the authenticity of these apparitions and so must those who don't believe they occurred. No one has the right as yet to condemn these apparitions.

Bishop Zanic's evaluation of the apparitions at Medjugorje was so superficial and biased that Rome rejected his commission's report and put the study of these apparitions in the hands of the Bishops' Conference of Yugoslavia.

Thus far, the conference has stated: "No bishop of the (Bishops' Conference of Yugoslavia) can pass his own official nor binding validity ... nor is it proper to attack those events, in the name of God and the

Church, as mendacious and diabolical ... the faithful may freely make pilgrimage to Medjugorje ..."

His Holiness, Pope Urban VIII (1623-1644) said: "In cases which concern private revelations, it is better to believe than not to believe; for if you believe, and it is proven true, you will be happy that you have believed, because our Holy Mother Church asked for it. If you believe, and it should be proven false, you will receive all blessings as if it had been true, because you believed it to be true."

In June, 1986, 12 Italian bishops at a papal audience addressed this question to Pope John Paul II: "Holy Father, what should we advise about pilgrimages to Medjugorje? Many of our people are traveling to Medjugorje and returning to their parishes fasting, praying and doing penance."

The Holy Father's responded, "Let the people go to Medjugorje if they convert, pray, confess, do penance, and fast."

The fact that Our Lady appeared on June 24 seems to underscore the fact that Mary is the new precursor ushering in the rebirth of Christ and Christianity at the beginning of the third millennium.

Pro-life broadcast slated for Rochester June 30

NORTH CHILI — Cardinal John J. O'Connor of New York, the Rev. Jerry Falwell and athletes Mark Bavaro and Mike Singletary are among the hundreds of abortion opponents expected to participate in a "Unity '90" conference June 28-July 1 in Chicago.

The North Chili Community Church will be the site for a pro-life video-conference on Saturday, June 30, from 7-9 p.m. The closed-circuit program will be broadcast live to more than 1,000 closed-circuit TV reception sites across the country.

Sponsored by the American Life League, the pro-life gathering will feature speeches, forums, seminars, and the live

video-conference. Tickets to the video-conference cost \$20, and can be obtained from Project Life of Rochester, 716/235-1611.



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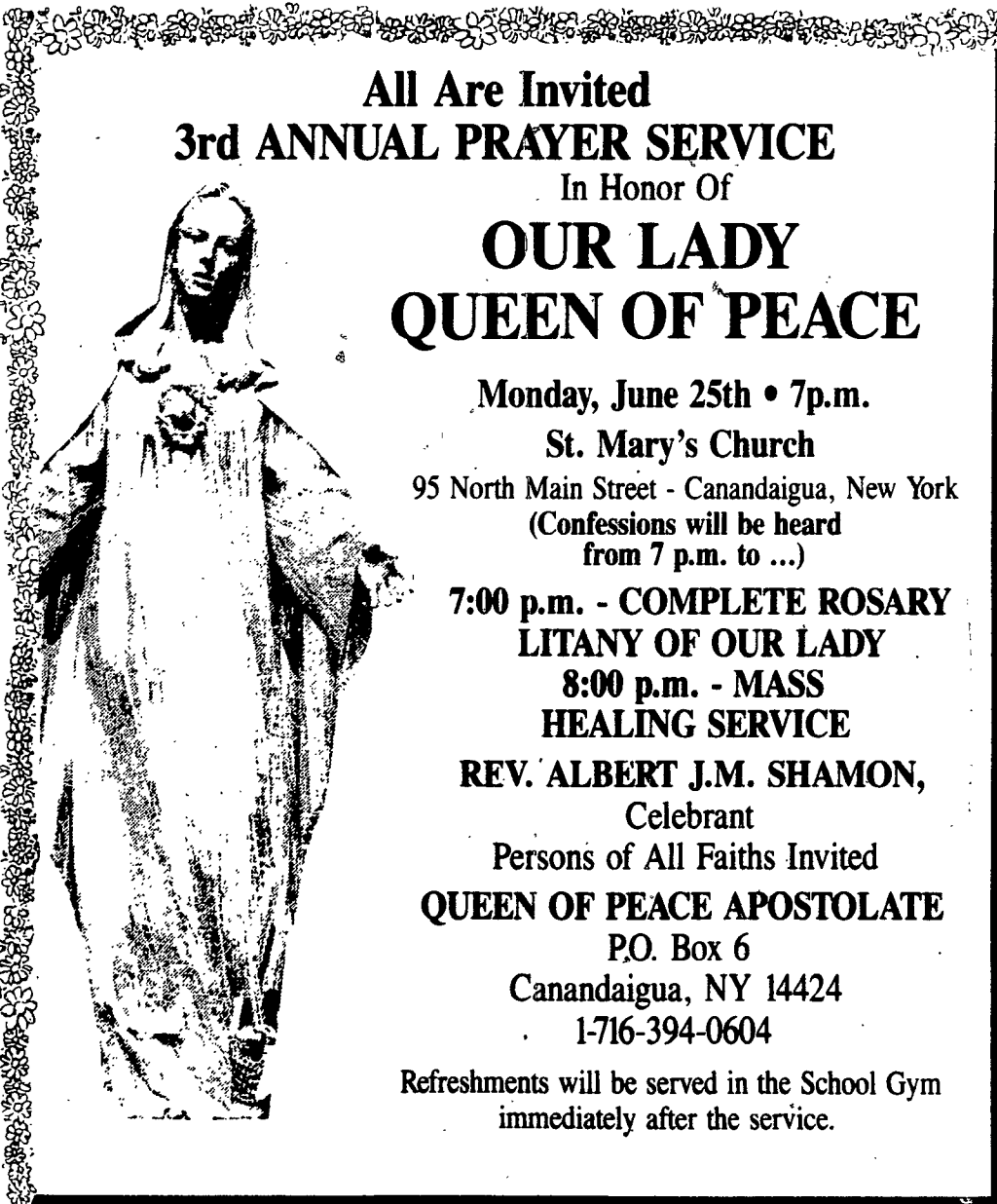
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