

Father Lubey to conduct healing service in Fairport

FAIRPORT — Father John Lubey, a retired diocesan priest from Baltimore and Washington, D.C., will conduct a healing service at 7 p.m. in Assumption of Our Lady Church, 20 East Ave., on Thursday, Dec. 26.

Father Lubey has offered healing services throughout the United States, Mexico, Europe and the Holy Land. Earlier this year, he was honored with the Marianist International Divine Mercy Award at the National Shrine in Washington, D.C. Mother Teresa of Calcutta was honored as the first recipient of the award.

Tier shop specializes in religious items

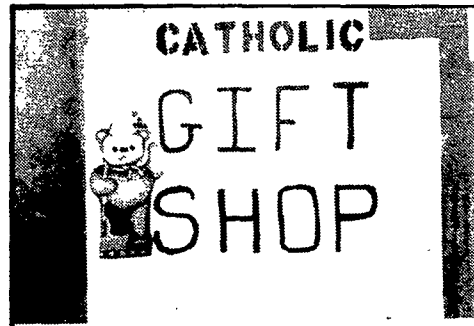
CORNING — Are you searching for Christmas gifts with special meaning, but your creativity is beginning to tail off a bit?

The Bread of Life Gift Shop, located in a converted classroom at the former St. Patrick's School in Corning, may be just the answer for many Southern Tier Catholics.

Bread of Life is in its third year of operation. The only Corning store that deals exclusively in Catholic religious items, the store is managed by Peggy Verkon and owned by St. Patrick's Church. Although it is a for-profit operation, Verkon prefers to focus on the non-monetary aspects of Bread of Life.

"I find, most often, that people will ask me about a saint who can help their cause, and I'm able to lead them to the right books. And during the last crisis (the Persian Gulf War), people were coming in asking for medals for their men in the service," Verkon related.

The store offers religious articles such as rosaries, medals, crucifixes, greeting cards, Bibles, and other Catholic-oriented literature for people of all ages.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Peggy Verkon, manager of the Bread of Life Gift Shop in Corning, peers out of the store's window. The St. Joseph statue stood in front of the store she previously operated in Cary, N.C.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Although Verkon is the only paid employee, four volunteers devote about three hours per week at the store.

A native of Painted Post, the 57-year-old Verkon became involved in religious stores while living in Cary, N.C. She owned and operated a similar store down South, also known as Bread of Life, from 1986-89. She and her husband returned to the Southern Tier in 1989, when her husband, Ronald, was transferred to his old job at Corning Glass, Inc.

She was approached by St. Patrick's later that year about opening a shop. Verkon got the business off the ground by using many of the items left over from the North Carolina store, which she sold to St. Patrick's.

For Verkon, helping people serves as her own vehicle for growing closer to God.

"It fits into my own search, and the customers don't even realize it," she said. "We try to keep it very personalized. People don't have to spend a certain amount of money. They can just come in and ... be."

— Mike Latona

Alternative store opens in Fairport

FAIRPORT — One World Goods, a not-for-profit store sponsored by Greater Rochester Community of Churches, opened a new store in Fairport last month.

The store is located at 118 Fairport Village Landing in the atrium above the Fairport Public Library. One World Goods is an alternative retail store which helps support artisans striving for dignity and self-sufficiency. The organization was made possible through a grant from the fund for Self Development of People of the Presbyterian Church, USA.

One World Goods offers handcrafts from the mountains of Chile and Ecuador to the plains of Kenya and India. Merchandise includes baskets,

bags, carved wooden animals, decorator items, holiday ornaments and more.

According to a press release from the organization, One World Goods is staffed by volunteers "who share in the goal of helping to create a more just society where all may have a fair share in the proceeds from what their hands have produced.

"We work to build concern and appreciation for other cultures in those who purchase these crafts," the release said.

Store hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.

Call 716/223-6370 for information.

Recognizing...

★ Mark Van Wert, of Elmira Notre Dame High School, who was named a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship Program. About 35,000 commended students throughout the nation were honored for their outstanding performance on the 1990 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. These students have shown exceptional academic promise by placing among the top five percent of more than one million program entrants.

★ Three McQuaid Jesuit High School students: Rohan Mehra, of Fairport, Matthew Shields, of Brighton, and Stephen Wampler, of Victor, who have been named semifinalists in the 1992 Merit Scholarship competition. Mark Campanelli, of Rochester, Mark Hurley, of Webster, Robert Moldoch, of Fairport, Michael Rivers, of Fairport, and Kurt Schillinger, of Avon, received letters as commended students. The selection of semifinalists and commended students is based on the results of the 1990 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

★ Jenifer Damian, of Aquinas Institute, who was selected by the New York State School Music Association to perform this month on the clarinet with the All-State Symphonies Band at the Concord Resort Hotel in Kiamesha Lake.

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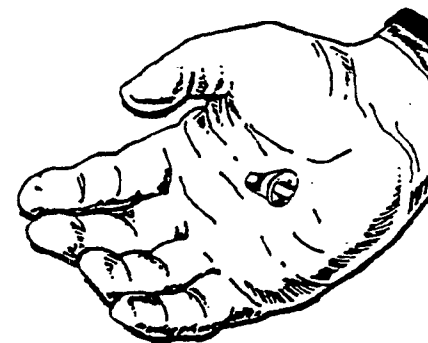
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