

Institute to present ministry program

ROCHESTER — St. Bernard's Institute, in conjunction with the diocesan Department of Personnel Services, will present a program titled, "Life After St. Bernard's: Opportunities and Careers in Ministry," on Wednesday, May 19. The event will take place from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at SBI's Strong Auditorium, 1100 S. Goodman St.

The free program will feature presentations from a variety of people who have pursued graduate degrees in theology and careers in ministry — including a pastoral assistant, a pastoral counselor, a teacher in a prison and a campus minister.

Contact Georgia Crissy, SBI's director of admissions, at 716/271-1320, ext. 299 for information.

Newark church slates Garden Faire on May 15

NEWARK — St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 400 S. Main St., has scheduled its second annual Garden Faire for Saturday, May 15. The event is scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The faire will feature herbs, ivy topiary and perennial flowers for sale. In addition, programs providing gardening advice and an English-style "tea" are also scheduled.

Call 315/331-3610 for information.

Jesus offers road map to eternity

By Father Robert S. Bourcy
Guest contributor

Do you recall the saying that goes something like this: the road to a friend's house is never long? It may not be necessarily long, but for some it might be difficult.

I have a certain friend who has trouble getting to my house. The question, "How do I get there?" arises before every visit. We are not talking great distances, either. I am not leading this person through tricky roads. The house is not even off the road in some secluded woods. We are talking about a ride from Victor to Greece.

I laugh to myself and wonder why can't this person remember the directions. Nonetheless, I repeat the directions because I look forward to the visits and want them to continue.

In John's Gospel Jesus refers to His Father's house (John 14:2). Jesus lets his friends know they are welcome at His Father's house, which has plenty of room. He adds, "You know the way that leads where I go."

Hearing these words, Thomas speaks up by asking, "How can we know the way?" (John 14:5) Because these companions have been with Jesus for some time now, one might think these friends would have some idea what Jesus was talking about and where He wanted them to come. But that mutual understanding appears not to be quite there.

So it's only logical, such as the case with my friend in Victor, that if you want to get somewhere and don't



know how — ask directions. There's nothing wrong with that. Jesus takes the time to give directions because people's coming to His father's house is very important.

The invitation still stands today as Jesus' words speak to our spirit. His father's house still has plenty of room for us as well. He welcomes our journey toward Him, even though that journey may be filled with questions. Like Thomas, do we find ourselves asking "how do I get there?" Even those of us who have been following Jesus for some time now may still be perplexed with "how to get there." Are we going the right way?

Like the disciples, the directions to "there" are the same. We are asked to have faith in Jesus and to perform the works that He did. These works are accomplished by taking our baptismal commitment seriously. By doing this we find our lives are committed to lov-

ing service to God and our neighbor.

Surprisingly, Jesus tells us that along our journey we will end up doing great works and wonderful things, some even greater than He did. That may seem farfetched — after all, we are not Jesus. But He asks us to be like Him in our relationship with those we meet along the way.

We do find ourselves in places and among people He never was. Through these good works for others we bring Jesus to them by allowing Him to work through us.

These possible great works include sharing the Gospel with others, being compassionate to the sick, aiding the poor in their afflictions, celebrating acts of reconciliation, being a loving and faithful spouse, and using our talents to praise God.

As we live our days in this world doing God's will with joy, love and fidelity, we can't help but find ourselves on the right road to His house. But just in case you start to wonder, or think you're getting lost, don't hesitate to ask directions. He's used to it and is happy to repeat them.

After all, He wants to make sure you get "there."

Catholic Child Sponsorship For Just \$10 a Month



Little Conchita lives in a small village in the mountains of Guatemala. Her house is made of cornstalks, with a tin roof and dirt floor. Her father struggles to support the family as a day laborer. Your concern can make the difference in the lives of children like Conchita.

Your opportunity to help one very poor child is much too important to miss. And **Christian Foundation for Children and Aging is the only Catholic child sponsorship program** working in the twenty desperately poor countries we serve.

For as little as \$10 monthly, you can help a poor child at a Catholic mission site receive nourishing food, medical care, the chance to go to school and hope for a brighter future. **You can literally change a life.**

Through CFCA you can sponsor a child with the amount you can afford. Ordinarily it takes \$20 per month to provide one of our children with the life changing benefits of sponsorship. But if this is not possible for you, we invite you to do what you can. CFCA will see to it from other donations and the tireless efforts of our missionaries that **your special child receives the same benefits as other sponsored children.**

And you can be assured your donations are being magnified and are having their greatest impact because our programs are directed by dedicated Catholic missionaries with a long standing commitment to the people they serve.

You will receive a new picture of your child each year, information about your child's family and country, letters from your child and the CFCA quarterly newsletter.

Please take this opportunity to make a difference in the life of one poor child. **Become a sponsor today!**

Short book leaves the door open for more comprehensive directory

Pilgrims' Guide to America, by J. Anthony Moran; Our Sunday Visitor Books, (Huntington, Ind., 1992); 270 pages; \$7.95.

By Father John J. Philipps
Guest contributor

Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure, J. Anthony Moran's compact guidebook, *Pilgrims' Guide to America*, can help you discover many of the Catholic faith's treasures expressed in 360 shrines and centers of devotion.

Moran divides these shrines and centers into East, Midwest, South and West. They are then indexed according to the patron they honor.

A three-page introduction gives his working definition of a Catholic shrine before he skims through a history of pilgrimage and shrines throughout the Christian era. In spite of its brevity, the introduction serves adequately.

The book does not give detailed descriptions of the shrines, usually noting only a brief caption and an address (without zip codes or phone numbers.) Maps or precise directions on how to find them are lacking as well.

Hardly a place exists in America, it seems, where one can visit without coming into the vicinity of a place of particular devotion. Even on an excursion to Disney World, the tourist can become pilgrim, with a prayerful respite at the nearby Mary Queen of the Universe Shrine in Orlando, Fla. The

shrine features a sanctuary with lawns, gardens, fountains, a reflecting pool, a 2,000-seat church, an audio-visual theatre, and a museum of religious art.

In our own diocese Moran rightly lists Mt. Saviour Monastery — located in Pine City, near Elmira — and its lovely crypt with the 14th-century statue of Our Lady. In the See City, this guide discovers St. Jude's Church on Lyell Road ("noted for its annual novena") and Our Lady of Victory Church on Pleasant Street.

Obviously confused with the former St. Joseph's, the author says Our Lady of Victory (a.k.a. "the French church") was founded 1946 (sic) by the Redemptorists. Perhaps his error is forgivable, but one which caused this reviewer to feel unsure about the other entries' accuracy. And Auburn readers will surely object to his omission of the noted shrine to Our Lady at St. Francis Assisi Church.

While the work is far from a comprehensive treatment of shrines in our country, it does introduce us to this particular expression of Catholic America's faith.

It might perhaps challenge some enterprising historian, devotee or travel consultant to work up a more definitive directory on a subject of interest to many.

Father Philipps is pastor of East Bloomfield's St. Bridget/St. Joseph Church.

Two Mercy sisters profess final vows in Santiago, Chile

The Sisters of Mercy of Rochester have announced the final professions of two Chilean women at the order's mission in Santiago, Chile.

Sister Lía Gonzalez Sandoval, 43, professed her final vows on March 22,

1993. In addition, María Inés Olgún, 42, will give her final vows this Saturday, May 1. Both work in pastoral ministry at parishes in Santiago.

Another woman, Ana Maria Parada, recently became a candidate for the Sisters of Mercy in Santiago.