

A Unique Retreat

NOW IS the time to sign on for the Retreat being held in our Parish for the Fifth Week of Lent, 20th - 26th March.

It's aimed at those who want to deepen their prayer-life, or even get it started. It's an ideal solution for those who would like to, but can't find the time to go away for a Retreat.

Those who sign on for the Retreat make a commitment to pray for a half-hour (or two quarter hours) daily, for the 5 days, and to share their experience with one experienced person.

The Retreat team, for their part, promise to introduce you to praying with scripture, and to provide you with a "soul-friend", with whom you will meet daily, to listen to your experience, and help you.

If this "WEEK OF DIRECTED PRAYER" appeals to you, please give your name at the C.P. CENTRE as soon as possible. Numbers may be limited, so don't delay.

Enrolment Continues...

MANY HAVE already enrolled for Fr. Newman's course on the Gospel of Mark, which will begin on 8th March. The programme for the course is available at the C.P. Centre. (Fee = £ 2)

"A Holy Show"

THE PRIESTS of Cloyne present their 'Holy Show' at Wilton Parish Centre on Sunday 13th March at 8.00 P.M. All proceeds will go to Fr. John O'Brien's Mission in Liberia, West Africa. Tickets, which cost £ 5, are on sale at the C.P. Centre.

Under Constant Attack

"MARRIAGE and the family are under constant attack directly and indirectly, in the present climate of society", says Fr. Jerome Hurley, the Cork Director of CMAC, in a letter to priests.

We in this parish are certainly doing our bit to support the family - through initiatives like the recent questionnaire.

At the diocesan level, it falls to the Catholic Marriage Advisory Council to fill this important role.

They do this, with much voluntary help, through services like marriage counselling, family planning advice and Pre-Marriage courses.

Their annual collection is on March 6th. They depend on you.

Time 'Marches' On

FRIDAY IS the First Friday of March. The usual arrangements for the sick apply.

A Woman in the Pulpit ?

Mrs. Claire O'Halloran ('Claire' in the FOLD) will preach at a special Service for WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER, to be held at St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Fri March 4th at 11.00 A.M.

According to Sr. Immaculata, head of the Mercy Order, very few Catholic women have attended in previous years. So, why not, this year ?

To Whom It May Concern...

FOR THOSE interested in the effects of alcohol on families and friends, a talk is being held at the Sacred Heart Hall on Tuesday March 1st at 8.30 P.M.



BALLINEASPAIG PARISH BULLETIN

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URGENT APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS

AN APPEAL has gone out for more helpers for the monthly Vincent dePaul collection. Said Tim Holland, a member of the parish conference of the Society: "If we don't get the money in, we can't give it out to the families who need it."

Tim is at pains to stress that getting involved with the monthly church-gate collection doesn't commit anyone to full-time membership.

It's just that the four members of the Conference find it impossible to cover the 15 Masses on Sundays in the area.

So they're appealing for people to give their time each month for this important cause. Anyone who would be able to help is asked to contact Tim at 542595 or Tony Moloney at 543610.

Naturally, people willing to help with the work of the Society on a weekly basis are needed too. But for the moment the conference is anxious to streamline the monthly collection. So, if you can help at all, please DO!

God wants spiritual fruits, not religious nuts.

Ethel Wilcox

PRESENTATION TO DEPARTING SENIOR CHOIR MEMBER



Bernie Oehlert is off to Australia. And to mark the occasion, this popular member of the Senior Choir received a special gift from her fellow choristers.

The photo above, courtesy of George Healy, shows our Choirmaster, Patrick Killeen (left) making the presentation, with the help of Choir committee member Donal McCarthy.

To mark the occasion, a special ditty, seven verses long, was composed by Clare O'Flynn. With full voice, and in splendid harmony, Choir members sang out their tribute to their departing member. We publish just one verse of the tribute, sung, naturally, to the air of 'Waltzing Matilda'.....

Continued on PAGE 2

THE CHOIR'S 'Farewell to Bernie'

Once a pretty colleen,
all the way from Trinidad,
Sang in the choir
with conductor Paddy,
And she sang as she watched
and waited till her visa came:
"Who'll come a-singing
Down Under with me?"

Basses and Altos,
Tenors, Sopranos,
Sing loud and clearly now,
one, two and three:
We will all be so sad when you
go to leave Old Erin's shore,
We'll go a-singing
Down Under with thee." !!!

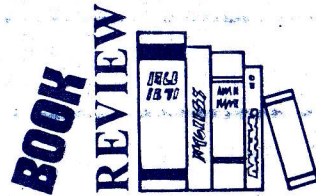
«PARISH FACES»



KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN, "Genazzano"
Parkway Drive represents Parkway
on the Pastoral Council. A native
of North Cork, she is married
to Jim, with four daughters.
She serves as Minister of the
Eucharist at 12.15 Mass.

Now's Your Chance!

AS YOU MAY have noticed on the
front page of the Bulletin, the
St. Vincent dePaul Society
urgently needs help with its
monthly collection. The next
such collection is on Sunday
next, so if you feel inclined to
help, get in touch, NOW!



THE OBJECT OF "The Hard Life"
is to present religion to young
adults, but the book is of value
to all age-groups. It is written
for those who want to seek, find
and love Christ, or at least set
out on that road.

The language of the book is
very personal, down-to-earth and
easy to follow. It also contains
elements of humour, which makes
reading easy.

The book deals with the
question of becoming a true
Catholic. We learn that it's
not enough to be able to argue
and discuss one's faith - it
must be actively lived. This
doesn't mean choosing an easy
life, but a life full of challenge,
involving prayer, self-denial
and the sacraments.

Catholicism, however, does
not call for a withdrawal from
human life; rather, God calls
us to serve him in the secular
and civil activities of life.

To become a good Catholic
doesn't mean you have to become
a Church person in the sense of
physical presence, rather you
must direct your daily affairs
according to God's will.

"THE HARD LIFE", written
by Michael Adam, is published
by Four Courts Press at £ 2.95.

A. O'Brien

(All books reviewed may be ordered
at the C.P. CENTRE.)

MEDIA COMMENT

MOST IMPRESSIVE WAS the
'To-Day, To-Night' interview
with Dr. Bridget Laffan,
author of 'IRELAND AND
SOUTH AFRICA'. Her answers
to Brian Farrell's questions
were clear, intelligent
direct and non-judgemental
... unlike the week-end
rhetoric from politicians
of all shades.

THE ABDUCTION - and thankfully
the later release -
of the three volunteer
workers in Ethiopia, remind
us of the great work these
people do. They constantly
need, and deserve, our
prayers and support.

TO BE ABLE TO PROTEST is
a right but it can be
counter-productive. On
separate T.V. incidents,
one involving live-hare
coursing, the other on the
right to housing, we saw
this right grossly
abused. Both causes
suffered in the process.

A PHOTO of six Korean trawler-
men in the 'EXAMINER' had the
caption "ALMOST SAVED". They
were on the point of being
rescued from stormy seas. Three
were saved, three were lost.

The thought occurred to me,
in this season of repentance,
that it would be ironic for us
Christians to be "almost saved".
It's a sobering thought!

Focus On.....
The Poor Clares
DO POOR CLARES RECEIVE VISITORS?

THE SIMPLE answer is 'yes'.
Visitors are welcome to call,
except during Advent and Lent,
or during the annual retreat.

But visitors aren't allowed
inside the Enclosure. They
talk to one of the Nuns through
a small grille in the porch of
the Monastery. They tell their
needs and problems, knowing
that their concerns will become
part of the Nuns' prayers.

As well, each nun has three
family visits each year, at
Christmas, Easter and summer.
Families love these few hours
together, in a bright new room,
with a discreet grille.

People ask why there has
to be a grille? The best way
to explain it is to call it a
sign - a very dramatic sign!
It's a reminder that the Nuns
are separated, set apart from
those outside.

NEXT WEEK: WHY DID THE POOR CLARES
CHOOSE TO REMAIN ENCLOSED?

