

Pikes Peak Edition



of the Denver Catholic Register

Christ Is My Coach

Al Grimme, a member of Holy Family Parish in Security, has qualified for the Olympic trials in the Marathon, a 26-mile race. Grimme said he would not have qualified without his coach.

"I train on my own," Grimme points out, "but Christ is my coach." He meets with his coach every day at 7 a.m. Mass.

Weekday Mass

Grimme serves the early morning weekday Masses with Father Arthur Dresen, pastor at Holy Family. He has not missed a Mass since his arrival in Colorado Springs over a year and a half ago.

"I can't imagine missing Mass," admits Grimme. "I owe it to the Lord."

Grimme does not understand how people, especially Catholics, can forget God. "If I miss a day I feel I let Christ down. Some Catholics don't even go once a week."

He also prays in the mornings and evenings. He rises at 5 a.m. for his first workout and hits the sack after his evening workout at 8:30 p.m.

150 Miles

Grimme runs over 150 miles a week. He runs a 13-mile distance daily for his afternoon exercise and an eight-mile run daily in the evening to round out the day.

"I try to run someplace different every day," said Grimme.

He credits his varied running sites for developing different muscles from the changing conditions and for providing him with the inspiration of God's world to continue the grueling routine.

On Mondays, you can usually find Grimme traveling at a good pace up the steep North Cheyenne Canyon Road. The tunnel at the summit is his turn-around point.

Intervals

Two days of the week he spends on 100 yard dash speed workouts. On Wednesday, he runs intervals with friends. Intervals are five consecutive one mile races at top speed with three minute walks in between.

He runs on The Olympic Training Center track for his Thursday workouts.

"It's the best surface I've ever ran on," he said.

Grimme's Sunday jog of 21 miles is special. He has chosen the Garden of the Gods to Woodman Valley Road past Mount Saint Francis for this day of the Lord. His spiritual emphasis obviously runs deep through every facet of his training.

Grimme said he feels a constant spiritual backing from Father Dresen and Holy Family Parish.

Prayers

"Father always prays for me before a race and keeps the parish posted of my progress by bulletin announcements."

Grimme is living with his aunt and uncle, Rita and Frank Koegler, members of Holy Family Parish. He came to Colorado for high altitude training finding fellowship an added feature.

Fellowship and running are not usually compatible. A runner spends a lot of time by himself. Grimme takes his faith life seriously and said the community at Holy Family is essential for his running stamina.

Qualifying

Most people will admit it takes a lot of energy to run 26 miles. Grimme did it in two hours and twenty minutes. That time was necessary to qualify for the Olympic trials.

Two hundred twenty-two runners have qualified so far for the trials.

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Al Grimme . . . a marathon Christian

Grimme ... Marathon Christian

(Continued from Page 1B)

"Only three runners will go to Moscow," pointed out Grimme. The trials are on May 24, 1980, in Buffalo, N.Y.

There is only one Olympic trials marathon race. It doesn't matter what your record is or what kind of a day you are having. The first three across the finish line are the winners. They will go to Moscow, and everyone else stays home.

10 Minutes

Grimme knows he will have to run the course in at least 2:10 to go to the 1980 games. Cutting ten minutes off his time is not easily attainable within the five months remaining.

"It will take a small miracle," admitted Grimme frankly. "I need Jesus' help."

Grimme has been depending on Christ since he first decided to run back in 1968.

I was a junior in high school and my decision to give several years of my life to running was not easy for my parents to handle.

Support

His two other brothers went to college, married and started families. "I'm thankful for my parents' loving support."

This December, Grimme raced in Phoenix and qualified for the Olympics. His mother was making a novena to the Infant of Prague, while he was running. On

his last visit home, she had given him a statue of the Infant to give to her sister, Rita.

Rita was also praying in the Infant's name on the day of Grimme's best time. Grimme says he feels a closeness to the Infant because of these answered prayers.

I would like to have a statue of the Infant, but I believe it should be given to you rather than bought for yourself.

Response

Positive responses to his prayers is the reason Grimme prays. "I turn to Jesus and even without conversation I know he is listening."

In one race Grimme recalls being way out in front. "I was nearing the finish and was so happy. I knelt down and thanked the Lord before I crossed it." He quickly adds he was alone on the country road and was not praying as a spectacle.

Everything does not always go well for Grimme, however. There are frustrating times. A marathon in Eugene, Ore. this past year was defeating. He spent his time and money to fly to the race and ran it in 2:24 -- four minutes over qualifying time for the Olympic trials.

Came Home

"I saw the clock turn 2:23 when I entered the stadium to finish," he recalls. "The race meant nothing. I just packed up and came home."

Grimme was running out of time. Phoenix and Boston

Marathons were the only runs left where he might qualify.

The disappointment caused Grimme to come back harder.

"I had to be thankful that I was without injury and look ahead to the next race in Phoenix." There he cut four minutes from his time and qualified.

His next run is the Olympic trials. He wants to lose five pounds before then, if being six foot and 151 pounds is overweight. Grimme wants every ounce of his body to be muscle and bone. He abstains from little luxuries like coffee, pop and milk. He still has to eat though.

Communion

One day in confession Grimme mentioned he was unable to receive communion daily because of his schedule. He exercises, attends Mass and then goes immediately to work. The priest told him it was alright to receive communion.

Grimme is really happy he can go to communion. "It is a personal time when I can talk directly to Jesus," he said. The time of personal intentions is also special for him. "I ask Jesus for favors. I ask him to let me run first, second or third at the trials."

What if Grimme does not run first, second or third at Buffalo? How will that effect his relationship to his coach?

"If I had an accident tomorrow and it was all over with I'd be satisfied," he said. "If it wasn't for Christ I never would have made it this far."

Latin Mass Is 'Neat'

The first Latin Mass in more than a decade was celebrated last Sunday at Corpus Christi Church. This was not the old Tridentine Mass, but a direct translation of the new Mass with all its changes into Latin.

"It was different," admitted John Creany, an altar boy serving the Mass. "It was harder than usual to follow because I didn't know what they were saying."

Serving the liturgy had special significance for Tony Wolsleben. "I'm Italian and think the Latin is neat," he said.

Older People

After a moment's thought, Mark Stanfield, the third altar boy, added, "It is nice

to have it again for the older people."

Eugene Halversen recalled serving Mass as a small boy through his high school years.

"I enjoy Mass more this morning than I have in a long time," he said. "I don't like the new trend of forgetting about the older people."

Jan Dell, a young lady in the Corpus Christi choir, is familiar with the Latin songs.

"I sang Latin in class," she said. "I'm a music major and enjoy the beauty of the vocal parts, but a lot of the people this morning were not yet used to it."

Father Robert Kekeisen, pastor, made an enthusiastic celebrant. He admits being

from the old school and being familiar with this style of church music of Gregorian chant and the four part harmony of classical church music.

"Nothing has been written for the modern English Mass to compare with the great composers like Vito Carnevali, Pietro Yon or Cesar Frank of the church's past," said Father Kekeisen.

Returning to the Latin tradition is important for Frank De Simone, a parishioner of Divine Redeemer, in attendance at the Latin Mass.

"The centuries of heritage embodied in the Latin shouldn't be lost," he said.

"The musical quality of the Latin adds to the meaning of the words. My heart melted at the Gloria."

He said he hopes all parishes will offer the young and old the opportunity of this alternative.

De Simone's son, Jonevan, 13, wants to learn the Latin.

My father has a Latin prayer book written by Bishop Sheen which has the English and explanations of the Mass," he said.

'Town Meeting' Held

Holy Apostles Parish held its first town meeting last Monday night. The meeting was scheduled in response to Pope John Paul II's request for renewal during his recent United States visit.

The parish council decided on a town meeting format to present and renew the parish's mission statement on a parish-wide level.

Three-minute presentations of the programs for the divorced, non-parish social concerns, administrative services, youth and adult education were given by parishioners involved in these ministries.

Following this information session, a handout outlined the mission statement and the corresponding programs as a response to the statement.

It is an effort to become what we say we are," said Juanita Montoya, director of adult religious education. The programs are means to accomplish our goals.

The stated Parish goal is to become a community of

people giving witness to the love of God according to the mission statement. It continues to define the parish as a community centered in prayer and social concern for others.

"We are one body with diverse opinions, united in Christ," pointed out Montoya. The diverse opinions were heard in the questions and concerns voiced in the open forum that came next.



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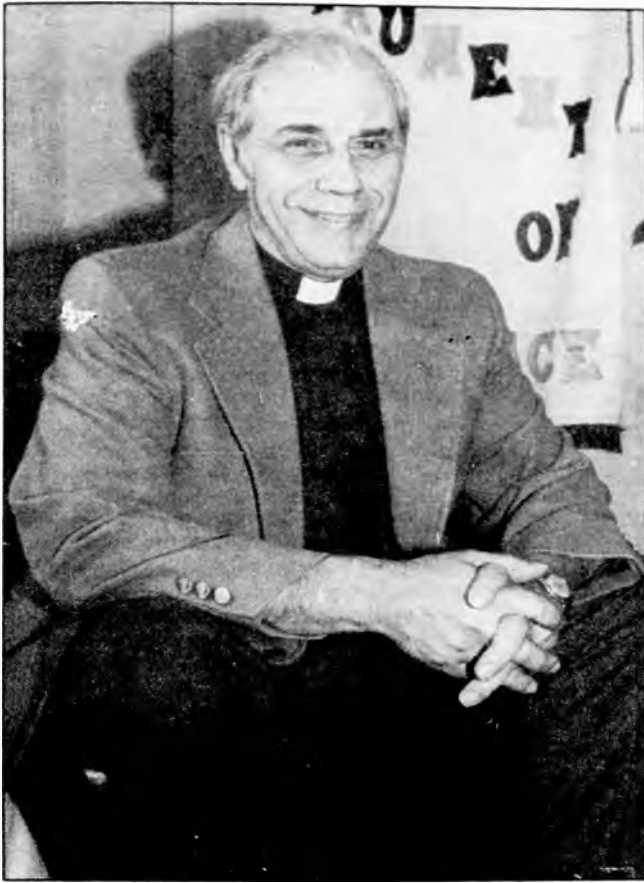
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Deacon Tom Parrish

Responding to a Need

The Army may have difficulty attracting recruits, but to newly hired deacon, Tom Parrish, the post at Ft. Carson was a God-send.

Deacon Parrish was recently hired by the military as a civilian, the first deacon to be hired in military history strictly to perform duties as a deacon.

"It's both a test case and a response to a dire need," said Deacon Parrish. "There are only two priests at Ft. Carson. The post calls for at least six. They needed me pretty badly."

Military

Why would a deacon take a job with the military, though?

"No one else would pay me," explained Parrish. "I wanted to be a full-time deacon, but that is a rather revolutionary idea. To my knowledge, there aren't any deacons hired in the United States as deacons. They are expected to work a job and volunteer their services to the parish, rather than be paid for it."

Parrish still volunteers his services to his parish, however. It's St. Mary's in Colorado Springs. He has been with the parish since his ordination in 1976, but desired to make his financial career as a deacon also.

"The fort agreed to hire me at the advice of the Chief of Chaplains and the Catholic priest on post," said Parrish. The chief is Rev. Richard Brandt, a protestant.

Far Ahead

With both a Protestant and Catholic request for Parrish, the acceptance moved quickly through the typical red tape. In fact, Parrish believes the military may be farther ahead in accepting deacons than civilian dioceses.

"I've been very well received here," Parrish explained. His job description runs similar to that of a priest, but does not include consecration of the Eucharist, giving absolution or anointing the sick.

"I'm not an assistant priest, though," Parrish insisted. "I am a deacon. Our roles have been muddled in recent history, and the laity just doesn't understand that deacons have a place in the church along with sisters, priests and bishops."

Boss

Father John Zagar is Parrish's boss at Ft. Carson and speaks highly of his deacon's abilities and contribution to ministry on the post.

"He's earning his deaconate the hard way," said Father Zagar, a major. "I keep him running every day."

Parrish's work reads like a litany of tasks. Each day he holds a liturgy, without consecration, called a "communion service" at the hospital.

He has two offices, one at the center chapel and one in the hospital. Parrish spends literally hours each day counseling the sick, the hospital staff, pre-marriage candidates, annulment situations, and general religious crises.

Distance

"I'm really at a distance from the military compared to an enlisted chaplain, though," said Parrish. "I live in Colorado Springs with my family and won't be transferred like a regular Army recruit."

Parrish has lived in Colorado Springs for 30 years. His wife, Liz, supports him in his ministry. They have four children, two in college.

"In this diocese, I am the only deacon who has been able to put both economic survival and ministry into one package," said Parrish.

Before taking the job at Ft. Carson, Parrish sent out letters to almost 50 dioceses across the country. He specifically asked for a job with pay as a deacon.

Pay a Rarity

"The majority did not respond, but of those that did, they did not know what I was talking about," said Parrish. "Only three or four offered potential employment and only one spoke about pay."

That pay was an offer for room and board. Needless to say, Parrish turned it down. "I could understand their situation, though. They were a very poor diocese."

"There is a future for deacons, though," said Parrish. "I've actually been told by a Colorado Springs priest that he would like to see deacons running the parishes that do not have resident priests. In that ministry alone, I see an enormous need for deacons."

Parrish is an outspoken deacon, but feels his role is the future direction of the church.

"Unless, of course, the Holy Spirit moves a lot of things to make the situation change. Until then, I think we are a positive answer to a need."

Better

Parrish is quick to qualify himself, saying he does not believe the church is failing in its job. "It just needs to be done better, more properly," he said.

What is to be "done," according to Parrish is opening up ministry to deacons as varied as the number of deacons in the field.

"We deacons are in the funny position of needing all the exposure and publicity we can get to become known to the laity," said Parrish. "At the same time, though, we have to be careful not to come across as pushy or hammy. It's going to take time."

In the meantime, Parrish's day is taken up with as many endeavors in ministry as there are hours.

When he is not at the fort, he is riding with the Colorado Springs Police Department as a chaplain, acting as a deacon at St. Mary's parish, and being with his family.

Peers

Parrish is constantly speaking well of his peers in the deaconate and the priests that he works with. The work for the "few" is still overwhelming, and he strives to maintain a community among his fellow religious.

"I do take offense at being called a 'permanent deacon, though,'" said Parrish. "I am a deacon, period. It's like saying I am a permanent married. The fact is, I have made a commitment for life. Calling me a permanent deacon is redundant."

Parrish wears the Roman collar at the request of the military and with the sanction of Archbishop James V. Casey.

"The collar is my uniform, but I do look like a priest," he said. The official title for a deacon is Reverend Mister, but Parrish said to use "Deacon Parrish."

It is short, identifiable and exactly what I am, he said. "I'm no more and no less. Deacon Parrish, for life."

Sacred Heart Restoration

The first major restoration work on the three churches of Sacred Heart Parish has begun, according to Father Robert McGrath, O.M.I., pastor.

Sacred Heart Church is on 21st and Colorado and the parish serves two missions in Manitou Springs and Cascade.

"The work planned is not cosmetic in nature, but absolutely necessary," said Father McGrath. The majority of restoring is scheduled for Sacred Heart Church with repairing and sandblasting of the exterior already completed.

The last attention to repairs was patchwork to the stucco in 1961. The church was built as a Spanish Adobe replica in 1922.

A temperature of at least 55 degrees is needed for a 24 hour period to apply and dry a special plastic paint which has the additional quality of sealing the stucco-like surface. So, work is temporarily suspended.

Foundation work, gutters and a new coat of paint are in store for the chapel of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Manitou Springs. "We figure between 5 and 6,000 dollars for each of the mission churches," said Father McGrath.

The other mission, Holy Rosary Chapel in Cascade, will have its stone structure regouted and plastic windows made to protect the stained glass windows.

"The response to our campaign for repairs has been gratifying," said Father McGrath. "We simply told the people of the need and they really came through."

\$20,000 was raised in the first three weeks. Money is still coming in. "The parishioners have really made sacrifices so this work could be done," said McGrath.

Army Chapel To Be Church

Father Wil Menard, C.S.C., the pastor at St. Joseph's in Fountain, received approval on Dec. 18 to purchase an old Army chapel by the Department of the Army.

The chapel will be transported from the post at Ft. Carson to a lot adjoining the current building used for services in Fountain to be the new church facility.

"We bid on the chapel,

were awarded the bid, and received authorization to pick it up," said Father Menard. "We will have it moved, hopefully, sometime by the end of January."

Father said the parish will have a "beautiful setup" when they get the old wooden chapel finished. At present, the parish worships in an old brick bank building in the center of Fountain.



Sacred Heart Church at 21st and W. Colorado is nearing completion of its exterior restoration.

Women To Meet

Catholic women of the Colorado Springs parishes are invited to the second quarterly meeting of the Colorado Springs Council of Catholic Women on Jan. 24, at the Marian Center, 14 W. Bijou St.

Father Theodore Haas, moderator, will celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. followed by a

"Gateway Brunch," for \$2.50.

A special program, a showing of a film "Food First," will be shown at 11 a.m. followed with the Council meeting.

For further information, contact Mrs. F. J. Sienkowski, president, at 634-6349.

Bishop Sees Changing Structure

The 1980s will find the Catholic Church at the cutting edge of the changing family structure, according to Bishop Richard C. Hanifen, Vicar of the Southern Area.

"The family will be greatly effected by the energy scarcity," said Bishop Hanifen. "Attitudes toward family life will change."

Bishop Hanifen is optimistic. The changes he sees coming will strengthen the family unit.

Competition

Easing of the competitive pressure to keep up with the Joneses is the first step toward family unity, said the bishop. Peer pressure on all levels — parent, teen and child — to possess things has complicated the structure.

Cars, TV, and abundance are distractions which separate the family. Everybody is going in their own direction, he said.

Having to stay home more because of a gas shortage will allow the natural creativity of the family as a unit to grow, pointed out Bishop Hanifen.

Simplifying

The simplifying of family life will provide opportunities for relationships to develop. Identity as a family comes from doing things together. A sense of belonging results.

This simplifying of structure will extend to the family of God in the 1980s, according to Bishop Hanifen.

Small faith groups will be a stabilizing factor in the Church's future, he said.

These groups would meet regularly for prayer, scripture reading and sharing of faith experiences. The small number of members would respond to the isolation of the present structure.

Commitment

It would be an open-ended commitment, explained Bishop Hanifen. "The people in the group would assume responsibility for each other. They would feel let down if a member failed to grow in their faith."

Enabling is a key word the bishop used in describing the small groups. The openness and acceptance within these groups would ideally be a source of strength for the Church in Colorado Springs during this coming decade, the bishop said.

Another source of strength will be achieved through what Bishop Hanifen termed "life technique skills."

"The people of God are asking for help in forming their consciences with the new questions arising out of

scientific discoveries," he said.

Genetics

An example he gave is the possibility of genetic counseling. Bishop Hanifen said he will be attending a conference at the end of January on that subject. Intense instruction by scientists and doctors is scheduled at the conference, with over 100 U.S. bishops in attendance.

Keeping up with the challenges of our society through education and prayer should be a priority for bishops, ac-

ording to Bishop Hanifen.

Laity

"If we are going to lead our people in the 80s, we have to stay in tune with the difficulties that the laity will face," he said.

Bishop Hanifen feels the Church will be required to take a stand on many directions of society for the 80s.

"A bishop must speak for his people," he said, "and at the same time call them to Christ's teachings."

Students Pray For Hostages

Corpus Christi grade school students celebrated a special liturgy of peace and justice Dec. 18 for the hostages in Iran. The students of the North Cascade Avenue school wore special badges reminding everyone to pray for the Americans in

captivity.

Fifty star-carrying students were led in solemn procession by a flag bearer. The flag was then draped over the altar and the 50 stars placed around it as the focus of prayers for a peaceful settlement of the

crisis.

The special Mass, celebrated by Father Robert Kekeisan, included readings in which Christ's peace was explained. A communion meditation implored the

Holy Spirit's wisdom and guidance for President Carter and the Ayatollah Khomeini. Mass ended with everyone joining in singing "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Film Festival Set

Sister Jeannine Percy, O.S.M., director of religious education for the southern area, announced the speakers for the opening of a region-wide film festival called "Focus on the Family."

Father Bob Stamschror, a diocesan priest from Minnesota, will be guest speaker on Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary's High School.

Father Stamschror was recently cited in the National Catholic Reporter as the person who has his finger on the pulse of the American church, said Sister Jeannine.

The films for the nine-week series will begin on February 11 following Father Stamschror and the second speaker, Sister Sandra Degidio, O.S.M., also from Minnesota.

Sister Degidio will be speaking at Holy Apostles on Feb. 11 at 7:30 on

celebrating Lent in the home.

According to Sister Jeannine, the family series is an area-wide program for all the parishes, with sessions traveling from parish to parish each week.

The entire series costs \$7 or \$1 a session. For more information, call 632-4097.

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St. Joe Parish Dinner

St. Joseph's Parish family gathered around the tables for their annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 16.

The main hall was filled with people overflowing into the side classrooms. Father Kumba lead the 300 gathered in a blessing.

Then, the line for the buffet formed and extended out the doorway and down the hall. The carving of 200 pounds of turkey began.

"It is a nice little family get-together for Christmas," said Father Kumba. "Everyone always plans on coming."

Preparations for the dinner included dividing the parish alphabetically for salads, vegetables and desserts. Jim and Mary Mayes had donated ten 20-pound turkeys.

The birds were cooked and served by the Women's Guild. Ginger Krabbenhoft, guild president, organized a raffle for a Mexican blanket, a Christmas tree skirt and an afghan.

Joe Preston, one of nine newly mandated eucharistic ministers, distributes communion with Father Kumba at Saint Joseph's Parish, Southgate.

Laymen Help Pastors

Father Dean R. Kumba scheduled the first eucharistic ministers for St. Joseph's Parish in Southgate over the Christmas holidays.

Previously, Father Kumba, pastor and Father Cowhig, assistant, were the only eucharistic ministers for the parish numbering 300 families.

"Father Cowhig is getting on in years and I am often overworked," admitted Father Kumba. "Frankly, we need their help."

Jesse Avila, Jr., Elmer J. Griebel, Joe Preston, George Stoffa, Bill Ternaat, Stan Turpin, Don Williams, George Wyman and Mike Feagler were mandated by Archbishop James V. Casey to distribute holy communion.

"We booked up the ministers for the holidays," said Father Kumba. "And they will continue to help at Sunday masses and with home visitations this coming year."

Installation of the ministers took place after the homily at the 9 a. m. Mass on Sunday, Dec. 16.

"The experience was one of spiritual renewal. Not only for the men, but also for the people receiving communion from them," said Father Kumba.

Originally 13 men had been chosen. Two felt they would not be able to minister because of their work schedules. Two others felt unworthy," said Father Kumba.

"The people accepted the new ministers graciously."

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Couple 'Adopts' 11 Priests

John and Jane Durcan have 11 boys, all adopted, and all priests.

Sacrificing many of the luxuries of life to finance each of these men through the seminary of the Missionary Society of St. Columban in Ireland, they now call them their spiritual "sons."

John, 80, lives in a nursing home while his wife is at home. They have exchanged illnesses and hospital visits most of their married lives, but are certain that God has something planned for them. The Durcans never really considered their commitment to the aspiring priests as a ministry in the church, but a sacrifice.

Ordained

After all the years of financial support, the first priest was ordained in 1958. The Durcans still send money to their "sons" for their missionary work.

The priests are located all over the world, said Mrs. Durcan. "Three are stationed in the Fiji Islands, three have been missioned to Korea, two more sent to Peru and one is working in the Philippine Islands."

One is also now in Taiwan and another doing advanced studies in Rome. All the men are sons of families too poor to provide the funding for theological studies.

The Durcans provided scholarships and paid the expenses for their four years of study.

The Durcans got the idea to subsidize potential priests from their travels abroad to John's home in Ireland in the early 1950's. John Durcan was an immigrant from Ireland in 1925, actually just "passing through the United States."

John contracted tuberculosis in New York, explained Mrs. Durcan. "He was an insurance salesman, but was told to quit work and come to Colorado Springs for a change of climate."

The Durcans met at the old Glockner Hospital, now Penrose, and courted for 11 years before John's recovery and their marriage.

"If we would have children of our own, we would have wanted them to become priests and sisters," said Mr. Durcan. "It's got to start with the parents, and a sense of obedience."

Faith

The Durcans saw a faith in Ireland that strongly impressed them, and they did not want to see it thwarted because of money difficulties. They now feel vocations will be coming primarily out of the third world countries.

They have been concerned over the shortage of priests in the United States, but have a deep conviction that the times are a trial for the church. John is a charter member of the Colorado Springs Serra Club.

In the 40's and 50's, the church was at its height in answering the needs of young people," he said. "It offered a challenge, excitement and mystique. It was a sensual church, something that is lacking in past years and just beginning to return."

Breathes

A sensual church to the Durcans is one that breathes the life of meaningful ritual and depth of prayer for the young.

Since the last Durcan priest was ordained in 1974, the sponsorship or patron plan of the Durcans has stopped. But during the height of their activity, they encouraged many other people to join their commitment.

There are now more than 50 Columban priests who might never have reached ordination had it not been for John," said Mrs. Durcan.

Scholarships

Among the other sponsors are Mrs. Hazel McCullough, who gave 24 scholarships in memory of her late husband, James McCullough, the former mayor of Colorado Springs.

Mrs. Adele Schroeder, presently living in Europe, and James McGovern, now active in Cathedral Parish in Denver, have also provided many more scholarships, according to Mrs. Durcan.

We should also mention Mr. and Mrs. Tom Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Winfred Griffith, Miss Grace O'Brien, Mrs. Gladys Fowler, Mrs. Agnes Murphy, and Miss Sadie Shea," added Mrs. Durcan.

Sister

The Durcans also sponsored a nun through her studies. Mrs. Durcan was responsible for the woman being baptised in the Catholic Church, and then proceeded to provide the dowry necessary for her education.

"She was caught in the turmoil of becoming both a

sister and a doctor," explained Mrs. Durcan. "Now she is both."

Mrs. Durcan has always given her personal time to the church. She remained with Penrose Hospital for many years, and still keeps a close contact with the sisters there.

"John and I were daily communicants for 35 years, and the sisters help us to continue by bringing us the Eucharist when we cannot make it to Mass," she explained.

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Dan Nigbur, Ernie Velasquez and John Dominguez pose with recent Knights of Columbus Council #4636 fundraisers.

Knights Changing Image

The recent image of the Knights of Columbus as just a men's social club is changing, for the better, according to both the Colorado Springs Councils, #582 and #4636.

Their emphasis is on family and community.

"The family is the basic unit," said Gary Beres, Grand Knight of Council #582. "We find strength in its structure."

Council #4636 takes in Security and Fountain areas with 360 members from Holy Family and St. Joseph Parishes, and is the most active Council in the state, according to Bob Coakley, activities director.

"We have a perpetual support posture in the Fountain Valley area," said Jack Jenkins, president of the Parish Players.

Players

The Parish Players is an arm of the Knights begun by the Catholic Daughters eight years ago. The group recently presented a melodrama and olio raising \$500. The proceeds will help pay heating bills for senior citizens this winter.

"Our referrals come from Don Tracey, a Knight who is coordinator of senior citizen services in the community," said Jenkins.

Besides raising funds, the Players entertained the seniors with a dinner and the show.

"They enjoyed themselves so much we had a dinner the

following month for 240," said Jenkins.

Sunday breakfast is a constant service with seven teams of twelve cooks rotating turns.

"We get good mileage out of our volunteers," pointed out Jenkins. "A few people support an activity for a larger community." Two free tables are reserved for senior citizens.

The handicapped is another area of concern with a recent "50c Christmas Party" sponsored for the benefit of Cheyenne Village.

"It was a surprise when a bus from the village showed up. Nobody knew the kids would be coming to the party, but the spontaneous reaction was great," said Ernie Velasquez, general program chairman. "We were all together having a great time and the Knights realized what they were there for."

Tootsie Rolls

The annual tootsie roll campaign held in October is another fund raiser for the Village.

"We raised \$1,528 by 10 men selling," said Velasquez. "30 percent goes to the state campaign and 70 percent to our local choice."

The local choice for Council #582 has been the CCD program for the Mentally Handicapped held at Holy Apostles. A donation of \$300 will buy supplies for this year's programs.

"Everything we do is done

with quality," said Jenkins.

He said a reason for this is that functions of the council are family oriented. "When you bring your family to a place you make sure it is quality."

Watching out for each other's families is another characteristic of the Knights. "Everybody knows everybody. If anyone is ever in a jam help is always here," said Jenkins.

Trophies

The council's assistance has reached out to the larger community of Colorado Springs. Trophies for the Youth Athletic League, girls athletics at St. Mary's High School and air time on KWYD to broadcast portions of Luke during Advent have been recent projects.

Helping St. Joseph in Fountain with their new church building project is going to be a major goal for 1980. Fund raising is the Knight's expertise and a raffle of a mini-truck will be their next task.

"When you are reaching out and helping, everybody wants to get involved," said Dan Nigbur, another in the Security Council. The membership ranges in age from 18 to 79 with the average being 40. "For most of our Knights this is the one organization they belong to. We have a good time working together."

Building

For Council #582 the work of the past year has included purchasing a new building at 1045 Ford St.

"We bought a 6,000 square foot warehouse and are remodeling it," said Gary Beres, grand knight. "The entire package will cost close to \$200,000. The work is scheduled for completion in 3 months."

The facility will be the Knight's meeting place, with offices and a small kitchen for meal preparations. The multi-purpose building will be rented for weddings and parties and has an acre of land for outdoor events.

"It is possible we may become a satellite to a

parish for Masses to serve the Cimarron Hills area," said Beres.

The 300 members of this council come from all the parishes in Colorado Springs. Their outreach is usually on a regionwide scale.

Films

The first set of Genesis II films were purchased for the Religious Education Office by a grant from this council. This adult spiritual growth program was utilized by ten parishes of the Pikes Peak Region.

Involvement in the Catholic Elementary School Athletic League culminates in the annual parochial school track meet in May.

"The athletic aspect brings out the younger members and their families," said Beres.

Younger members attracted to the council this past year have provided new life, according to Beres.

Being without a home this past year has proven a blessing for these Knights. Meeting at Holy Apostles and Holy Trinity has strengthened the ties to these parishes.

"The group is growing in strength and vitality," admitted Beres. "We could eventually be one of the best councils in the state."

Priest Takes Tour

Father Bernie Schmitz, associate pastor at Holy Apostles Parish, left for Israel this past Sunday on a study tour of Nazareth and Jerusalem.

He went with a group of 21 ministers through Wartburg Theological Seminary in

Dubuque, Iowa, and expects to return Jan 31.

"I hope to share my trip with everyone when I get back," he said. This will be his first trip overseas, a venture from his own savings and continuing education funds of the Archdiocese.



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Will the 1980's offer a Catholic education for the children in Colorado Springs?

Where Are Schools Going in 80s?

A look at where the Catholic schools are presently in order to prepare for the 1980's was recently completed in Project Awareness.

A committee of principals headed by Sister Maryanna Coyle, coordinator of the Catholic schools for the Pikes Peak Region, visited all schools.

"This self evaluation assessed the plants to all be in good condition and in maximum use," pointed out Sister Maryanna. "The one problem is money, but it is not a barrier. The future requires a willingness to face the problems objectively."

Decline

A major problem is declining enrollments.

"This problem is not only a Catholic one. District 11 is also faced with it," pointed out Sister Maryanna.

The decline since 1965, when 45 percent of Catholic children attended Catholic elementary schools to only 26 percent in 1977 is nationwide. This decline is projected to peak in 1982 for elementary schools and in 1999 for secondary schools.

"I think Colorado Springs is a microcosm of the nation and we can expect the projection to hold true here also," said Sister.

Suburbs

Another national pattern holding true for the Springs is the growth pattern in the suburbs.

"Our traditional orientation to a first through eighth grade elementary school and a ninth through twelfth grade high school structure will need to be open to change," predicts Sister.

An area open to expansion is the preschool. At this time only Pauline Memorial has one.

Other alternative structures bring up the

question of serving Catholics beyond the individual parish.

"We must search out the needs of the Catholic community and strive to meet those needs," admits Sister.

The financial burden of a school on a parish is another problem. Alternatives to increasing tuition cost in order to justify increase teachers' salaries are being reviewed. The student teacher ratio is one possibility.

Increasing enrollment is a more efficient and effective means of balancing the budget than raising tuition. Serving more students, however, is limited to 35 children per classroom.

The fundraising alternative is of value in supplementing the revenues, according to Sister Coyle.

Reaching the Catholic and civic communities with information about Catholic education as a viable alternative to public schools has been a problem in the past.

"The people intimately involved with the Catholic school system failed to communicate what good things were going on," said Sister. "We were hiding our light under a bushel basket. Now it is time to let it shine."

The value-oriented education fosters self-discovery, an appreciation for one's own uniqueness and an understanding of how to learn, according to Sister.

"The yardstick is no longer the number of books you complete or tests you pass, but how you handle the challenge of learning," explained Sister.

"The faith community of the school can't be 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. anymore," said Sister. "Schools must begin to offer resources to parents on parenting, integrate itself with the total parish community and utilize the human resources of the parish."

Un-Program Started For Parish Families

A new family un-program appears to be forming for the parishes of Colorado Springs. The new movement is a collection of interested couples and singles who have formed a support group to share ideas on promoting family ministry in parish life.

"We are based on the realization that people don't need to establish a whole set of programs to have a ministry focus," said Dave Levad, a member of the committee.

"People who need help are able to help each other," explained his wife, Betty Jo.

The Levad's, along with five other couples and two nuns, went to the Family Life Ministry and Education Conference in Kansas City last October. Since that trip, they have felt a need to put to work the insights they received from the conference.

"We are basically meeting to affirm each other in our need to strengthen the family," said Betty Jo Levad.

Mrs. Levad feels strongly about the need for mothers, fathers, couples and families to be told that they are important to the church.

But especially that families can minister to each other, she added. She said the conference was an enlightenment to her when she realized that ministry did not need degrees and credentials. It only needed commitment and relationships in love.

The first thing we hope to form in our parish is a committee of different representatives from families that include single, elderly, divorced, widowed, single parents and newly and pre-marrieds," said Mrs. Levad.

"We all have to do what we can in our own parishes," said Jim O'Neil, from St. Joseph's in Fountain.

"The parish is a family, and the church as a whole is a family, in a very real sense, not just symbolically." Therefore, he said it deserves individual attention.

O'Neil and his wife, Terry, are involved in their parish as religion teachers directing their efforts

toward influencing the parish by affirming its positive action.

"We need to tell people that they are doing a good job and that they are good people," said Mrs. Levad. "Rather than yelling at each other for our

ills, we should be patting each other on the back. I always improve in what I do when someone tells me I'm a good person."

The committee is sponsored by Sister Jeannine Percy, rea director of religious education.

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