



People of Faith Must Not Abandon Their Responsibility to Others

A Weekly Column From Members of the Westfield Ministerial Association

By REVEREND MONSIGNOR WILLIAM C. HARMS

Many activists in religious circles are tired. They find themselves up against so many walls and misunderstandings that they would like to draw back, to take a rest.

Then again, there are young people who announce that they have no intention of doing as their parents did. They want to have time to live, time for themselves. Thank God there are some young men and women who do not subscribe wholly to the above thought.

Some of the most committed people think that they may even be on the wrong road, that they ought to pray more, and leave the action to God.

This is a very serious state of affairs. God gave us men and women, humanity, a world as a work in progress. He gave us this world to be worked upon, to be shaped by us. There is no way that religious people can retire to their tents, and refuse to take on this task.

More than any others, people of faith are called to take on the world according to their possibilities. This is the indisputable criterion of the authenticity of their love for their brothers and sisters.

To have a loving faith does not mean that we run away from the building site to ask God to do our construction for us. It means that we give all our energy to the job at hand, while asking God to work with us.

At the April 18 meeting of the local Ministerium (the clergy of the Westfield and Mountainside area), a serious discussion took place concerning the plight of the residents in the Cacciola area of town.

Long-term residents have been displaced to build apartment units renting for over \$2,200 a month for a two-bedroom unit. How does one deal with such activity when Westfield does not have a comprehensive housing plan?

Without such a plan, the only restrictions are those imposed by zoning. As a result, people who rent in the Cacciola area are victims of the highest bidder on the property in which they live. The absent landlord is looking for a significant dollar, and he is getting it.

All of a sudden proximity to the track is attractive. There is little, if any, vacant land; developers come in, see an opportunity, and buy. What happens to the renting resident? What about a family who, in many cases, has been in town for many years? Profit, convenience, perhaps greed, become the operating principle.

What happens to the displaced family? Have we, as a town, come up with any plan of action? Or are we only concerned with appearance to impress

those who travel a major road in Westfield? Can't we improve our appearance, if that is a goal, while providing adequate housing for those whose economic means require some assistance?

Special improvement districts (SID) are for downtown development. The area under discussion receives no benefit from SID. Neighborhood Preservation Grants have little chance of success in that Westfield is devoid of a comprehensive housing plan.

Something needs to be done, hopefully by people of faith who recognize and celebrate the dignity of their fellow men and women, no matter what their socio-economic condition.

Mark presents the image Christ has as to whom our brothers and sisters are.

"Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside the house, and sent in a message, asking for him. A crowd was sitting around Jesus, and they said to him, 'Look, your mother, and your brothers, and sisters are outside, and they want you.' Jesus answered, 'Who is my mother? Who are my brothers? Whoever does what God wants him to do is my brother, my sister, my mother.'" (Mark 3:31-35)

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Reverend Monsignor Harms was appointed as Pastor of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield last September. He previously worked at Seton Hall University for 15 years in various capacities, including teaching at the Immaculate Conception Seminary School of Theology. His most recent role was as Vice President for Planning.

Day of Prayer Service Set in Scotch Plains

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Ministerial Association will host its annual National Day of Prayer Service on the Village Green adjacent to the Scotch Plains Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, tonight, May 3, at 7:30 p.m.

In the event of inclement weather, the service will be held in the Scotch Plains Baptist Church, located at 333 Park Avenue.

During the service, local clergy and community leaders will lead the gathering in prayer and scripture readings. Special music will be provided by the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Gospel Choir, under the direction of Kelvin Brooks.

Attendees are advised to bring lawn chairs for the service. For more information, please call (908) 322-6710.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY... Clemente DiNizio, seated, a resident of Rumlens Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights, celebrated his 101st birthday on March 29 at the facility. Pictured with him, left to right, are: Mr. DiNizio's daughter, Elena DiFiore, and niece, Antonette Perrucci, both of Scotch Plains, and Patricia Scott of Union, Director of the Rumlens Activities Therapy Department. A native of Italy, Mr. DiNizio moved to Scotch Plains in 1955 and became a mason. He has two children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Temple Sisterhood Sets Book-Author Luncheon

WESTFIELD - The Sisterhood of Temple Emanu-El in Westfield will hold its annual Book and Author Luncheon on Wednesday, May 16, at 12:30 p.m. at the temple.

Donald Friedman, author of the award-winning novel "The Hand before the Eye," will discuss some of his research into an 18th century Hassidic teaching and how it relates to the modern experiences of a contemporary man.

There is no admission charge for Sisterhood members. Guests are welcome at \$15 per person. Temple Emanu-El is located at 756 East Broad Street.

For further information or to respond, please call Shirley Cowman at (732) 382-7831.

JCC Announces Trip To Israel Day Parade

SCOTCH PLAINS - The Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Central New Jersey is organizing a bus trip to the Salute to Israel Day Parade in New York City on Sunday, May 20.

The buses to the parade will leave the Wilf Jewish Community Campus, located at 1391 Martine Avenue in Scotch Plains at 8:45 a.m. and leave from New York at 3 p.m. Grandstand seating is available.

Registration is required by Wednesday, May 16, at the JCC reception desk. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$6 for children. For more information, please call Richard Corman at (908) 889-8800, extension no. 202.



HE MADE A DIFFERENCE... Monsignor James A. Burke, left, and Larry Reagan, Master of Ceremonies for the Center For Hope Hospice and Palliative Care Annual Charity Ball, listen to Peggy Coloney, President of the Center, as she makes a few remarks during the February 24 ceremony honoring Monsignor Burke.

Monsignor Burke Honored At Center For Hope Ball

MOUNTAINSIDE - Four hundred and sixty people gathered at L'Affaire in Mountainside on February 24 to support the Center For Hope Hospice and Palliative Care and to honor Monsignor James A. Burke, former Pastor of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church in Westfield.

Monsignor Burke was this year's recipient of the Father Charles J. Hudson Award, which was presented at the Center for Hope's Annual Charity Ball. The late Reverend Hudson, who was a weekend assistant at St. Helen's Church, co-founded the center.

"This award is especially meaningful to me because I knew and admired Father Hudson and shared many of his concerns regarding the terminally ill. Both myself and the parishioners of St. Helen's continue to support the work of the Center For Hope Hospice and Palliative Care," remarked Monsignor Burke.

"Monsignor Burke shared his church, his people and his priesthood with Father Hudson," said Peggy Coloney, President of the center, which she co-founded with Reverend Hudson.

"He welcomed the Center For Hope at all times and encouraged and supported our work in caring for the sick and suffering. He is a highly compassionate priest and, like Father Hudson, he made a difference," she added.

Founded in 1983, the Center For Hope Hospice and Palliative Care has served more than 8,000 terminally ill patients "by providing them with an opportunity to discover and embrace the gift of life as they journey through loss," said center spokeswoman Diane Coloney.

In addition to caring for hospice patients, the center has expanded its programs over the years to help those who are aging, ill or have other disabilities.

In 1997, the Coloney-Hudson Day Care Center was opened in Linden, where functionally impaired adults are offered an individualized plan of therapeutic activities and services designed to enhance their abilities and foster independence.

In 1998, a senior outreach program was developed. The Center For Hope now serves 19 senior housing units throughout Union County and one in Hudson County. The outreach program assists the housing unit staff in providing informational and educational services to keep residents physically and socially stimulated.

On April 1, the Center For Hope and Palliative Care opened a re-

sale shop, called "The Hope Chest," located at 26 Prospect Street in Westfield.



BACK TO THE PAST... Owen McWilliams, left, and Vince Parlapano of Roselle Park, dressed in Colonial-era garb, prepare to greet visitors to the Miller-Cory House Museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield. On Sunday, May 6, the museum will feature a program on Spring Baskets between 2 and 5 p.m.

Miller-Cory to Spotlight May Baskets on Sunday

WESTFIELD - The making of May Baskets will be presented by Patricia D'Angelo of Westfield at the Miller-Cory House Museum this Sunday, May 6, from 2 to 5 p.m.

Children visiting the museum, located at 614 Mountain Avenue in Westfield, will have an opportunity to construct their own May Baskets.

Sherry Lange of Cranford and Arlene Kendall of Plainfield will prepare seasonal foods over the open hearth in the Frazee Building, using authentic cooking techniques and recipes. Taste treats prepared by the cooks will be available for visitors to sample.

Tours of the historic farmhouse will be conducted by costumed docents who will answer questions about early New Jersey farm life. The last tour will begin at 4 p.m.

A variety of educational materials, reproductions and handicrafts, including cookbooks and recipes, are offered in the museum's gift shop.

Admission to the museum is \$2 for adults and 50 cents for students. Children age 6 and under will be admitted for free.

For information about the museum and its calendar of events, please call the museum office at (908) 232-1776, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and noon. The museum will be closed for Mother's Day on Sunday, May 13.

On Saturday, May 19, the museum will hold its Annual Aunt Carrie's Attic

First Baptist to Conduct Annual Meeting May 6

WESTFIELD - The First Baptist Church, located at 170 Elm Street in Westfield, will hold its Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 6, at noon following the Sunday morning worship service.

The meeting will feature a Pastor's "State of the Church" address by Dr. Dee Dee Turlington, Senior Minister, along with the election of church officers and an acknowledgment of committee membership.

There will also be a vote on the distribution of the 2000 budget surplus; an update on Capital Campaign plans for renovations and committee reports on various programs.

The nominations for officers that will be voted upon are as follows: Mary Foster of Clark as Clerk; Linn Cavaliere of Westfield as Assistant Clerk; Sandy Brown of Warren as Chairwoman of the Deacons Committee, and Judy Klein of Westfield as Chairwoman of the Christian Education Committee.

The following individuals have been appointed to serve on various committees: Nancy Hansen, Nancy

Martin and Norma Jean McGuire on the Christian Education Committee, and Jack Alpaugh, Linn Cavaliere, Mary Foster and Dawn Cocco on the Deacons Committee.

Other appointees included Atossa Cicchino, Beth Hanscom, Karen Kaslucky, Steve Lind, Cherie Parker and Ken Wooster on the Evangelism Committee; Paul Clark, Randy Hansen, Cal Martin and Trish Scott on the Facilities and Finance Committee, and Bill Brown and Marilyn Gulotta on the Outreach Committee.

"The ministries of the church are dependent on volunteers like these giving of their time and talents to make a difference," said Dr. Turlington. "They, and the dozens like them in Westfield's houses of worship, make our town a more welcoming and responsive community."

Interested individuals are welcome to attend Sunday's Annual Meeting. For more information on the meeting, please send an e-mail to the church at 1st.baptist.westfield@att.net or call the office at (908) 233-2278.

Small Business Taxes To be Topic May 11 At Library Workshop

WESTFIELD - The Internal Revenue Service and the New Jersey Department of Taxation will conduct a free Small Business Tax Workshop on Friday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street.

This special program will advise new and prospective self-employed individuals on the opportunities available for assistance regarding their tax responsibilities.

Small business owners will learn about business tax benefits, tax obligations, record keeping and employment taxes.

Business owners, self-employed individuals and potential entrepreneurs are welcome to attend. For more information, please visit the library or call (908) 789-4090.

Alice Elliott, Award-Winning Filmmaker presents

DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH

A film about a "real-life field of dreams."

Thursday May 10
7:30 PM

The Parish House of the
Presbyterian Church in Westfield
140 Mountain Avenue, Westfield NJ

Tickets \$5, Seniors \$3 at the door or The Westfield "Y"

The Westfield Lecture Series is sponsored by: The Westfield Foundation, The Westfield "Y," and a HEART grant from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

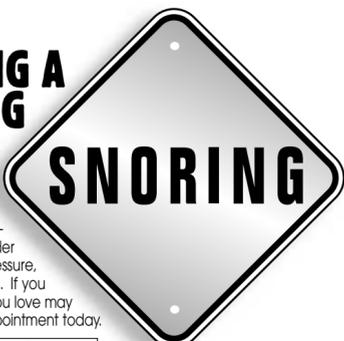
Good News

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Psalms 27:1

The Gospel

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