

PASTORAL PRAYER: May 22, 1994

ETERNAL SPIRIT...Father of our spirits and the Father of all mankind. We have come to Your house this day from different backgrounds and for different purposes.

SOME OF US are here because we're feeling the pressure and stress of life in the city...crowding in on us...and we have come to know from past experience that we cannot always handle the "bumps and bruises" of life entirely on our own...that things seem to go so much better for us when we slow down, think of You, and pause to see life from the "higher ground" of worship.

SOME OF US are here because we're lonely. We walk the crowded streets of this city...people pass us by...no one seems to notice...to care. We have "low" moments when we feel that no one loves us, but then deep in our hearts we feel that tug from You that reminds us that You care, that You love us, that our lives are precious in Your sight.

OTHERS OF US are here because at other times and in other places we have felt close to You...we have had a "mountain top" experience, a fleeting glimpse, an inner vision of what life could be if only all people took You seriously and lived by the Words You have given us in the Bible.

AND SO WE ARE HERE....anxious, but uncertain...seeking always to hear Your voice and to put our convictions into action.

LORD, GOD, whatever the reason may be that has brought us here this day, may each of us feel and experience something that will work a miracle in our lives, something that will permit Your peace and power to flow through us into the lives of others.

Help us to slow down that our "restless spirits" may grow quiet and serene as we feel the gentle invasion of Your love.

MAY WE DEPART from this sanctuary of worship spiritually refreshed - with renewed insight, a better perspective, with courage and also with compassion, with faith and also with trust to do battle with the stresses and struggles of another week in this city.

May we carry away from here something of Your love for all mankind, and help us to share that love with others - the hurt, homeless, and hungry - the tempted and the troubled - the sick and discouraged and the dying.

All of this we ask in the strong name and the loving spirit of Christ, our Lord.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Today we have the joy of baptizing JOSEPH LANE O'HARA, infant son of Dr. Margaret Yaussi O'Hara...and Joseph Thomas O'Hara, II.... Margaret and Tom O'Hara will be joining the church in a few moments... after we baptize JOEY....born on November 18, 1993...and not 1994...

I would invite Margaret and Tom to join Duane and myself down at the baptismal font for this special moment....

NEW MEMBERS JOINING

Today is PENTECOST....one of the three great days of the Christian year....and we read in Acts, chapter 2....

"And the Lord added to their number day....by day....."
"three thousand souls...." (baptized...a good' day's work)

This morning we are adding 18 persons to our number here....two who are joining were recently baptized by me....Michael Kipness and Chris Workman...and three have been confirmed here in recent days at the altar of the church: Michael, Chris....and Paul Bohsung....

As I read the names of those who are joining I would invite them to join me at the altar....and also invite Howard DaCosta to represent all of you.....chairperson of our Membership Commmttee.....and while they are at the altar, I would like to get a picture of them because this may be difficult to do downstairs after the service....and it's important that we post their pictures and that you get to know them.

Also, turn to page 48....and hold your finger in that page for the congregational response.....

LOOKING AHEAD

A. Looking ahead, we're coming to some quieter weeks....but one of the "big" events of June is the Annual Trip to Shea Stadium to help the METS. June 11th, FLAG DAY....tickets will soon go on sale. Adults \$ 12.00. Children \$ 10. It's a BENEFIT for the UNITED METHODIST CITY SOCIETY. See Janet Ernst for a ticket...usually sell about 25 tickets...more. ~~Always~~ remember those wonderful words of HERBERT HOOVER: Who was it who said:

"Next to religion, baseball has furnished a greater impact on American life than any other institution...."

Anyone know? Take a guess?

WELCOME

Al Thomas...of JEOPARDY fame....I think that puts you ONE UP on Goerge Leopold...

A. We welcome visiting friends to our church this morning and hope we shall have opportunity to greet you after the service. Fill out a visitor card...sign a guest book. Come and worship with us on other Sundays....come, work with us.....we've been doing the Lord's work here since 1837....we minister in Christ's name and it is in His spirit we welcome you this day!

OFFERING

"It is more blessed to give than it is to receive". In this spirit let us worship God with our morning offering.

...don't fail to give...
So you'll be...
...of the Lord's work...

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Sunday, May 22, 1994

SPECIAL SUNDAY

- A. Today is a very special Sunday in the life of this Church. Our Student Assistant, Duane Thompson, who graduated from Union Theological Seminary here in our city is making his "final" pulpit appearance. His mother and dad are here this weekend to help celebrate this "milestone" - graduation....sermon. We welcome them....also some classmates from UTS....special honor, Travelling Fellowship
- B. This is not Duane's last Sunday with us...on Sunday, June the 5th, we shall have a "farewell" party following church for Brenda and Duane. They will be "off" to Western Pennsylvania where Duane will be ordained a DEACON on Sunday, June 12th...and appointed to serve the United Methodist Church in Sheridan, a suburb of Pittsburgh.
- C. We anticipate his "One Foot In Heaven" sermon....in a few moments from now....the title, incidentally, is taken from a film of the early forties...which I remember...some of you, a few of you...

PARISH CONCERNS

- A. Parish concerns are listed for you in your bulletin. Review them on your own...NOTING that the "HOUNDS" meet on Tuesday evening... 19 Hounds shared in a lovely supper meeting at Anna Delson's last Tuesday....study of Maxie Dunnam's Workbook on Prayer.
- B. Note, too...not too late for a special "love gift" for the Golden Cross appeal....Health Care Agencies of our NY Conference.
- C. How nice to welcome Richard and Dale Donovan and their two children, David and Elizabeth, to our church this morning...they're on their way to Pacific Grove, California. Dick was an "un-official" and "un-Paid" staff member here back in the late seventies...preaching here on occasion...helping with adult fellowship programs...met Dale here...they got married here....Dorothy Scardino played for their wedding reception upstairs. Retired from the US Army Chaplaincy with the rank of COLONEL. Welcome back....
- D. All of you are invited to the ART CONNECTION II...downstairs in the Russell Room....celebrate the gifts of three church artists: Lili Bates, Cynthia McCollum and Phyllis Westermann...come on down, enjoy the display...."connect up" with our new members....and with one another. Come...share...enjoy...stay as long as you wish to.
- E. Also here for ART CONNECTION...former member, Glenn Peck...and wife, Susan....Glenn operates the Allison Galley...Robert Kashey of the Shephard Galley is also sharing in this... (over)