

Rural life director fondly recalls memories of family life on farm

BY GERALD PETERSON, rural life director from Clarksville, Ga.

It's springtime in the mountains. Farmers and gardeners are busy tilling the soil and planting their early crops. This is my favorite season of the year. It brings back to me many fond memories of my family life on the farm.

As one reared on a farm, I learned to appreciate the family farm as a wonderful place for a healthy life. I grew up as one of eleven children on a dairy farm in the middle of the State of Kentucky. As a rural life director, may I reflect with you on the question: "Are there advantages for strengthening family life on the farm?"

We all have our prejudices. I have to admit that one of mine is that I strongly favor life in the rural area to

life in the big city. That's one reason I chose to become a Glenmary Missioner instead of a diocesan priest. Either way, here are some of the advantages which I feel are present in rural living.

First of all, the family on the farm can work together. The father is not away from the home all day at work. (Unless, as in some cases I know, the parents have to work away from home in order to pay for the farm!). Rather, the children and parents can work together. This, I feel from my own experience, builds a sense of closeness in the family. In the summer, my Dad worked with us each day other than the three hours it took him to deliver the mail on his Rural Route. During the school

year, for all in my family it meant early rising to milk the cows and feed the livestock before school. The same chores awaited us in the evening.

From this kind of childhood, I learned the satisfaction and enjoyment that comes from a job well done. There are a lot of inner rewards from work, especially when the work is so close to nature — the soil, the animals.

Second, one of my fondest memories comes from thoughts of meals shared around the family dinner table. We always shared breakfast and the evening meal together as a family. In the summer, all three meals were eaten together.

With the rapid pace of living these days it is difficult for families to eat meals together even once during the day. But I encourage the effort it takes to make it possible.

Third, as the axiom goes, "The family that prays together, stays together!" We always had evening prayer together after supper in our home. It was no easy task even thirty-five years ago. It is certainly not easy today for families to pray together. Even the grade-school children have their own schedule of evening activities.

Maybe we need to learn to slow down our pace of living. During my childhood there seemed to be work left undone. However, my parents tried to make Sunday a special family day. There was Mass in the morning, followed by a big dinner at noon with some special dessert, like homemade ice cream and cake. Except for milking and feeding the cows, the afternoon was the time for the family softball or horseshoe game in the one acre yard, if the weather permitted. In the winter months, a variety of card games took preference over softball.

The farmer is very much aware of his dependence on God. Without proper rainfall and plenty of sunshine, he realizes there will be no corn or hay crop. Also people on the farm experience the joy of seeing the results of a rich harvest when God blesses their efforts as good stewards of the soil.

I'm not encouraging every Catholic family to buy a farm. However I know of several who, on deciding to slow down their pace of living, have moved from Atlanta to the mountains of North Georgia. Also, a fair number of Floridians have come to appreciate the peaceful atmosphere of the mountains, streams, lakes and rolling hills of North Georgia.

I look back with fond memories on my experiences of growing up in a large family on a farm. Maybe it was that kind of start in life that helps me feel so much at home in the rural mountains area of Clarksville and Clayton, Ga.

I must stop writing and go check the progress of my early crop of lettuce, spinach, onions, broccoli, cauliflower and carrots. And it's time to peep inside my two bee hives to see if those wonderful little creatures are ready to bring in a good crop of apple blossom and sourwood honey.



S.O.S. — In Stoughton, Mass., hundreds of residents opposed to the establishment of an adult book store in the town square, stage a candlelight vigil in the square. The peaceful demonstration was organized by the Save Our Stoughton committee. (NC Photo from UPI)

Swiss Protestant leaders oppose proposal for new Catholic dioceses

(NC) — Swiss Protestant leaders have opposed a proposal by the bishops of Switzerland's six Catholic dioceses to establish three new dioceses.

Vatican sources said the plan was under discussion at the Vatican and was the subject of recent talks between Pope John Paul II and two Swiss bishops.

The pope, currently living at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo, met on Aug.

19 with Bishop Pierre Mamie of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg and on Aug. 23 with Bishop Johannes Vonderach of Chur.

As usual with private audiences, the Vatican released no details about the meetings.

At a press conference in Geneva last June, Bishop Mamie, former president of the Swiss Bishops' Conference, announced the propo-

sal to establish three new dioceses, including one in Geneva.

"I am not preparing to storm the hill of St. Peter's," the bishop said, referring to Geneva's Protestant cathedral, "and I hope there will not be emotional reactions."

Geneva, once the capital of the non-Lutheran Reformation led by John Calvin, has not had a Catholic bishop since 1535, when celebration of the Catholic Mass was prohibited in the city.

"One feels in this the imperialist and triumphalistic accent of the Rome of John Paul II," said the Rev. Claude Reverdin, a leader in the Swiss Reformed Church.

"This decision is difficult to understand except as a desire to imprint a more pronounced Catholic presence on the city of Calvin, Geneva, the Protestant Rome," Mr. Reverdin added.

Roman Catholics have a slight majority among Switzerland's 6.5 million people.

Wings of Hope featured on Sacred Heart Program

A unique airborne charity that delivers food and medical aid to remote corners of the world is the subject of the weekly radio program "Lift Your Heart" on Sunday, Sept. 19. A production of Sacred Heart Program, Inc., the documentary focuses on the growth and good works of the humanitarian air service, Wings of Hope.

Founded in St. Louis 20 years ago, the worldwide organization developed from a project to aid a medical mission in Kenya. Hyenas had eaten through the fabric shell of a small plane used by the Medical Missionaries of Mary in their ministry to famine-stricken desert nomads. In St. Louis, a group of aviation-oriented businessmen raised funds for a replacement metal aircraft. After meeting the need of the Kenyan mission, the group established Wings of Hope to provide air transportation to missionaries and field medical personnel in other isolated communities. Today, more than 40 aircraft serve established charities in remote outposts on four continents.

A string of volunteer pilots keeps the fleet airborne. From the backwaters of the Amazon to the Alaskan bush, these dedicated men and women fly supplies and field workers in and out of areas where land travel is restricted by dense jungle, rough terrain or flooding rivers. The pilots perform medical evacuations, deliver food to famine victims and transport displaced villagers to new homesites. A former Navy pilot interviewed on the program calls his mission field experience "the acme of achievement in my life."

This moving documentary is scheduled for broadcast on 750 stations by Sacred Heart Program, Inc. It will air in Wichita on Sunday, Sept. 19 at 10 p.m. on KFDL. The program will also be carried on KGGF, Coffeyville at 5:15 a.m.; KGCS, Derby, at 9:30 a.m.; and KLLK, Parsons, at 11:45 a.m.

Padilla Club Schedule

The Padilla Club of Wichita is an organization for single Catholic adults, 18 and over. For more information about the Padilla Club, contact Stan at 943-7589 or Marita at 263-8961.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 — First Friday Mass, Holy Savior Church, 1425 N. Chautauqua, 7 p.m. Rosary following Mass.
- 5 — Labor Day party, Devonshire Apt's clubhouse, 330 S. Tyler Road, 8 p.m.
- 7 — Board meeting, 330 S. Tyler Rd., #711, 8 p.m.
- 9 — Business meeting, St. Joseph School, 145 S. Millwood, 8 p.m.
- 10-12 — Camping trip to Wilson reservoir. Reservations by Sept. 5. Call 686-8077.
- 11 — Alternative activity — drive-in movie. Meet at All Saints parking lot at 8 p.m.
- 18 — State Fair in Hutchinson. Meet at St. Joseph parking lot at 10 a.m.
- In town alternate activity — free concert at social room of St. Francis of Assisi parish. Covered dish dinner, 5 p.m.; Mass follows at 7 p.m. Concert begins at 8 p.m.
- 19 — Communion Sunday, St. Margaret Mary Church, 2635 Pattie, 11 a.m.
- 21 — Board meeting, 33 Ranchwood, Augusta, 8 p.m.
- 23 — Business meeting, 145 S. Millwood, 8 p.m.
- 24 — Birthday party, 2880 S. Davidson, 8 p.m.
- 26 — Evangelistic crusade, Kemper Arena, Kansas City, 1-5 p.m. Call 775-7658 for details.

OBITUARIES

May They Rest in Peace

DEL VALLE — Funeral services were held Aug. 23 in St. Teresa Church for Robert Del Valle, 33, of Hutchinson who died Aug. 21. Father John Mullen officiated. Survivors include: his wife, Anita; three sons, Robert Jr., Steven, and Thomas; a daughter, Monica, all of the home; his mother, Nita Del Valle, Ft. Worth, Tex.; a brother, Tony, Ft. Worth, and four sisters, Mary Castillo, Arlington, Tex.; Grace Gasca, Bertha Gonzales, and Betty Garcia, all of Ft. Worth. Arrangements by Johnson & Sons Funeral Home.

SPEXARTH — Funeral services were held in Sacred Heart Church for Leah Marie, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Spexarth, of Colwich who died Aug. 25. Survivors include: a brother, Clayton, of the home, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Spexarth, Colwich, and Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Clark, Wichita. Arrangements by Seiler Funeral Home.

DOLL — Funeral services were held Aug. 31 in St. Anne Church for Mrs. Alvin (Bonnie) Doll Sr., 87, of 4526 S. Vine, Wichita who died Aug. 28. Survivors include: her husband; a son, Alvin Jr., Gilbert, Ariz., and a daughter, Pat Mahaney, Wichita. Arrangements by Flanagan-Hunt Mortuary.

McGRAW — Funeral services were held Aug. 28 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church for Mary G. McGraw, 87, of Pittsburg who died Aug. 26. Father Ivan Eck officiated. Survivors include: two sisters, Nora Ahrens and Lucy Bach, both of Pittsburg, and a brother, Bernard McGraw, Port Ricky, Fla. Arrangements by McGraw-Quinn Funeral Home.

SCHIERLMANN — Funeral services were held Aug. 28 in All Saints Church for Louise J. Schierlmann, 64, of Liberty who died Aug. 24. Father Edward York officiated. Survivors include: two brothers, William Schierlmann, Mt. Vernon, Mo. and John Schierlmann, Las Vegas, Nev. Arrange-

ments by Ford-Wulf-Bruno Funeral Home.

THIMESCH — Funeral services were held Aug. 30 in St. Patrick Church, Kingman for Connie Jo Thimesch, 21, of Wichita who died Aug. 27. Father Patrick Larkin officiated. Survivors include: her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Thimesch, Kingman; two brothers, Douglas, Wichita, and Gregg, Kingman, and her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Thimesch and Reva Potter, all of Kingman. Arrangements by Livingston Funeral Home, Kingman.

FERN — Funeral services were held Aug. 24 in Our Lady of Lourdes Church for Francis Fern Jr., 80, of Pittsburg who died Aug. 21. Father Ivan Eck officiated. Survivors include: his wife, Agnes; a son, Francis Usher, and two sisters, Rose Huycke and Josephine Usher, all of Pittsburg. Arrangements by McGavran-Quinn Funeral Home.

FREEMAN — Funeral services were held Aug. 31 in St. Peter Church, Schulte for Mrs. Dee (Caroline) Freeman, 71, of 1400 N. Woodlawn, Wichita who died Aug. 29. Survivors include: her husband; a brother, Joe Jerick, Peck, and a sister, Anna Peavler, Wichita. Arrangements by Webb Mortuary, Clearwater.

BOGDANOVECZ — Funeral services were held Aug. 31 in Sacred Heart Church for Mildred Bogdanovecz, 71, of Anthony who died Aug. 29. Father John Curran officiated. Survivors include: a son, Stanley, Anthony, and five sisters, Pauline Montgomery, Ellsworth; Laura Wedman, Danville; Julia Downing, Anthony; Carmel Fox, Wichita, and Edna Helms, San Jose, Calif. Arrangements by Elliott Mortuary.

IOERGER — Funeral services were held Aug. 28 in Immaculate Conception Church for Mary G. Ioerger, 64, of Danville who died Aug. 26. Father William Wheeler officiated. Survivors include: a brother, Darrell Ioerger, Harper. Arrangements by Elliott Funeral Home, Harper.



SACRED HEART PROGRAM will feature a documentary on Wings of Hope, an air service to mission outposts on four continents, to be broadcast on several local radio stations Sept. 19.



STEPHEN M. BLAES (l.), legal counsel for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita, and Sherwin L. Memel, California and Washington, D.C. practicing attorney specializing in health law discuss corporate restructuring at the annual meeting of administration and trustees of the Sisters' eight hospitals and college.



SISTER ANTOINETTE YELEK, C.S.J. (l.), president, Coordinated Services, D. Dale Richmond (center), vice president human resources, Coordinated Services, and LeRoy Hadley (r.), associate administrator, Blackwell General Hospital, Blackwell, Okla., discuss situations that might affect corporate restructuring in C.S.J. hospitals.

CSJ Coordinated Services holds their annual meeting

Corporate restructuring was the topic of the annual meeting for hospital executives, trustees and other guests of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita health care system. The two-day meeting, Aug. 12 and 13, held at the Sisters Coordinated Services offices and Hilton Inn in Wichita provided attendees an opportunity for a closer look at changes in legal structures of health care providers.

Keynote speaker Sherwin L. Memel, a practicing attorney specializing in health law with offices in California and Washington, D.C., covered areas regarding the need for changes in the legal structure of providers; a brief history of government regulation of health care; the basic options available to health facilities seeking to cope with the pressures to reduce services, to cut costs or to increase revenues; common existing legal structures; two new elements of legal structure for health facilities; and a practical guide to conducting a review and modification of corporate restructuring.

Stephen M. Blaes and Robert L. Heath, corporate legal counsel for the Wichita Sisters, presented internal considerations in the management of health care.

LeRoy Hadley, associate administrator, Blackwell General Hospital, Blackwell, Okla. and chairman of the meeting said, "All three presentations by the learned attorneys emphasized the Sisters' awareness and sensitivity to the massive changes in society in general and regulatory patterns in particular, and to providing opportunities for administration of their corporate facilities to keep abreast of implications that may affect health care delivery."

Attendees included representatives of each of the Sisters' hospitals and college: Blackwell General Hospital, Blackwell, Okla.; St. Joseph Hospital & Nursing Home, Del Norte, Colo.; Halstead Hospital, Halstead; St. Rose Hospital, Hayward, Calif.; Mt. Carmel Medical Center, Pittsburg; St. Joseph Medical Center, Ponca City, Okla.; Tri-Regional Medical Center, Pratt; St. Joseph Medical Center, Wichita; and St. Mary of the Plains College, Dodge City.

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