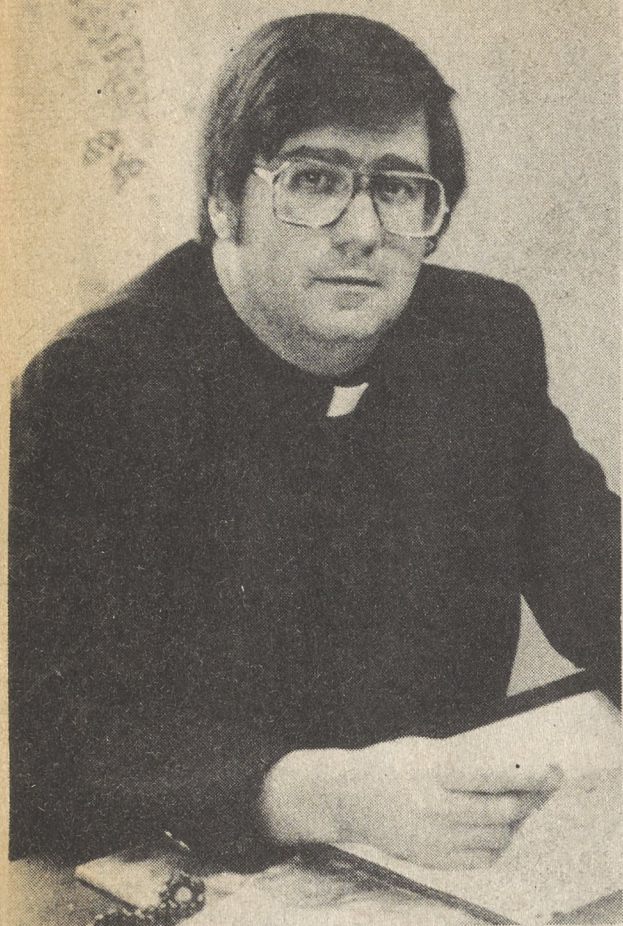


**KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR**

**When it comes to youth, Fr. Skotek is enthused**



Rev. Thomas Skotek

by Joan Kingsbury  
When it comes to working with young people, the Rev. Thomas D. Skotek, pastor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Lake Silkworth is a real enthusiast. Father Skotek was awarded the St. George Award, the highest recognition an individual can receive for youth work in the Diocese of Scranton by Bishop James Timlin.

Since his ordination on June 8, 1963, Rev. Skotek has been involved with youth. In 1963 he served as chaplain and was a member of the board of directors of the Wyoming Valley Council of Boys Scouts and helped to establish the Catholic scouting program. Rev. Skotek gave instructions to adults who helped scouts to train for the Catholic scout awards.

In 1973, Rev. Skotek began working with retarded children. He is director of religious education for the mentally retarded on the West Side. Classes are held every Monday night at St. Hedwig's Church, Kingston where lay people and students from Bishop O'Reilly High School assist with the program which Rev. Skotek organized.

Rev. Skotek explained that each child is taught the fundamentals of the Roman Catholic faith according to their individual ability to learn. A recent addition to the program is the use of music therapy which Rev. Skotek finds the children enjoying very much.

This year, Father Skotek will again hold a picnic for his retarded students on the grounds of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church. Rev. Skotek proudly related that last year, the Youth Organization of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church organized the picnic.

preparing food and baking cookies. The picnic proved great fun for everyone.

Rev. Skotek is extremely proud of this program for the retarded, and finds working with these students very worthwhile. He often finds a great insight in these students, and sometimes feels that he gets more out of the program than the children do.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church is Rev. Skotek's first pastorate. He became pastor on May 26, 1977. Rev. Skotek said he is really enjoying his assignment. He finds the people very friendly and cooperative. In the past two years he has tried to organize activities for youngsters, and adults, and to open the church to the community.

Under his guidance, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Youth Organization was formed. This group, which is comprised of 45 young people, is affiliated with the 4-H Club and the Catholic Youth Center. The group works on various projects such as arts and crafts, and sewing. Last summer, a canoeing and boating safety course and swimming instructions were held at Sylvan Lake for area children.

The group meets each Wednesday with one night each month being set aside for "fun night". On this night the group has a special activity such as a roller skating party or an ice skating party. When the youth group sponsored an ice skating party this winter, the party proved a great success with 250 people attending.

Ages of group members range from 8 to 18 with the older members holding offices in the organization. The group is presently working on a float for the Sweet Valley Fireman's Parade on Memorial Day. Several other organizations at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church provide activities for parishioners. In addition to the Youth Organization, there is the Sodality an organization for girls which provides both religious instruction and social activities; the Women of Mt. Carmel Society; the Holy Name Society; and the recently revived Sacred Heart Society.

Last summer classes sponsored by Luzerne County Community College

were held in the church hall. The Lions Club of Lake Silkworth, of which Rev. Skotek is chaplain, was organized and holds its meetings in the church hall. Dances, bingo and other activities are held at the church hall provide entertainment for area residents.

The son of John and Veronica Skotek, Rev. Skotek was raised in MacAdoo. His brother Father Fred Skotek is a resident of Shenandoah who teaches at Cardinal

Brennen High School in Frackville. Two brothers, Leo, a former mayor of MacAdoo and John Jr. an employee of PP&L reside in MacAdoo. Rev. Skotek's sisters Mariane Nolt and Clara Hissick live in Hershey.

Rev. Skotek graduated from St. Mary's Prep School, St. Mary's College, and St. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, all located in Orchard Lakes, Mich.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's

Church, Milford; St. Peter and Paul's Church, Plains; St. Joseph's Church, Wyoming; St. Mary's Church, Mount Pocono; and St. Hedwig's Church, Kingston.

A teacher at Bishop O'Reilly High School, Rev. Skotek formerly taught at St. John's School in Pittston and Pocono Central

Catholic High School where he served as director of religious education.

Rev. Skotek is a member of the National Apostolate for Retarded Children, Secretary of the Board of Pastors of Bishop O'Reilly High School and vice-president of the Orchard Lake Seminary Alumni Association.

**St. Therese's Altar-Rosary to hear talk on design**

The monthly meeting of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown will be May 2 at 8 p.m.

Mrs. Anne Postupack, interior designer and Mrs. Jane Balavage, artist and design consultant at C.A.M.E.O., The House of Living Ideas, West Pittston, will present a talk on interior decorating. They will discuss the impact that color has on one's daily life

and how this force can be used in decorating a home.

The talk "Color Makes a Difference" will be illustrated by the use of the color wheel, wallpaper, fabric, and rug samples.

Mrs. Frank Wallace, president, will preside. Mrs. Joseph Youngblood and Mrs. Chester Molley will serve refreshments. Miss Ann Marie Konek is in charge of publicity.

**Watkins, Medura relocate offices**

Dr. William E. Watkins and Dr. Leonard C. Medura, dentists, wish to announce the re-location of

their office to the Back Mountain Professional Building, Rte. 309, effective Monday, May 7.

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**MY TYPEWRITER TALKS**

**Dreaming**

by The Rev. Charles H. Gilbert

There is a funny thing about my dreams. I am never blind or hard of hearing in my dreams. Sometimes there is a whole newspaper spread out on the sloping ceiling over my bed, and I can read the type clearly that far away with no trouble at all. Only I don't usually remember what I was reading after I wake up!

But one night recently it was so unusual that I'll have to tell you about it. I saw a whole Bible being held by invisible hands. It must have been a loose-leaf edition, because those invisible hands then took out one of the books and showed it to me.

It was the book of Judges, and it was bound separately to show that the person was going to make a special study of that book. Probably what you would call an "in depth" study, with all kinds of research and thinking about the book's importance and meaning and place in religious history.

Now I have read the book of Judges when I was awake, and all I can say is that I never liked it. I never was able to understand why God inspired somebody to write it for Him. The only reason I ever read it at all was that I was reading the whole Bible straight through in order to be able to say that I had read it all.

There's an awful lot of assorted mayhem and wickedness and enough gory stories to satisfy any bloodthirsty small boy. But as far as I could remember there wasn't anything in it of value to meditate on.

However, the dream left me with the strong sense that I SHOULD read it again, to try to find out what there was of value in it. That left me with the problem of how to read it, for even my best magnifying glass makes a poor job of reading even large type books. I can't read Grandma's large print Psalm book any more without this glass, and not very easily then.

Besides, why would anyone print a separate volume of the book of Judges?

Anyway, one day when we were in Wilkes-Barre we went in to the library and I sat there resting while Cathy went looking. First on the shelves where the Large Print books are, then in the card catalogue, and then she disappeared up the stairs in the stacks.

After a while she returned and said, "You're not going to believe this!" In her hand was a volume devoted entirely to a new translation of the book of Judges, complete with copious notes and historical background.

It's part of a series called the Anchor Bible with each book of the Bible separately printed and annotated and analyzed. The print is good sized for normal eyes to read, so that's how I'll have to do it, with Cathy reading and explaining about it.

We'll have to wait until after next weekend to do very much of it, because the Oratorio Society concert is Sunday afternoon. And I like to attend the dress rehearsal on Saturday so as to get a preview of the concert. I'm not familiar with the music of this oratorio, but I know it is beautiful.

One day there was a recording on the radio of some sublimely heavenly singing, and Cathy said it was "The Dream of Gerontius" which is what they will be singing on Sunday. The main part of the words they were singing in the section I heard was "Praise to the Holiest in the heights", which seems like a good idea for anybody as a way of spending time or energy.

Getting back to the book of Judges, it evidently came out of a very unsettled period of history. And the Judges weren't solemn black-robed men (or women) sitting sedately on a high bench handing down decisions. Some were consulted for their oracular wisdom, but mostly they seem to have been leaders in battle against the enemy and the oppressor.

They weren't always exemplary people themselves (Cathy thinks Samson was downright stupid!). But nearly every section starts off with the explanation that the people had forgotten God, and then got in trouble and then remembered Him.

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