

Blessed Mother is focus of Day of Reflection at Randolph parish

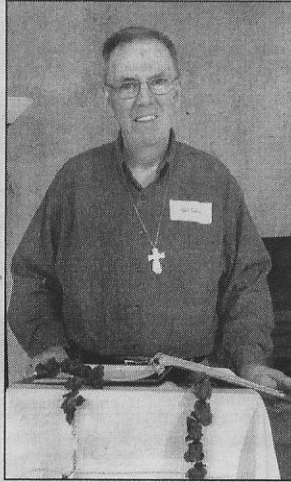
By HENRY M. HOLDEN

RANDOLPH Resurrection Parish here held a Parish Day of Reflection Oct. 25 with the theme, “Mary, Pope Francis, and You.”

Some 70 people from Resurrection Parish and other parishes spent the day honoring the Blessed Mother.

Pope Francis often discusses his devotion to the Blessed Mother so the committee decided to read some of the pope’s homilies on Mary, her faith journey and how Catholics are inseparably linked to her in their faith lives. The pope uses Mary as an example of faithful living. “Mary said, ‘yes’ to God and began a journey of faith through both great joy and great sorrow,” the pope said in one of his homilies.

“I particularly enjoyed that opportunity to unpack a homily from Pope Francis,” said Shannon Civetta. “As laity we don’t often get the chance to hear and discuss the pope’s words, which is unfortunate since



UNDOING KNOTS Deacon Ray Latour shares how Pope Francis speaks of the Blessed Mother as one who “lovingly and patiently brings us back home to God so that he can untangle the knots of our soul by his fatherly mercy.”

he is our divinely chosen leader for a time.”

Deacon Ray Latour shared the story of “Mary, Undoer of Knots,” centering his presentation on Pope Francis’ devotion to Our Lady.

“In the mid 1980s while studying in Germany, Pope Francis was very much taken with a painting of Holy Mary, Our Lady Undoer of Knots that he first saw in the Church of St. Peter in Perlach, Augsburg. In the painting Mary is surrounded by angels, stands on the crescent of the moon, and is crushing the head of the serpent Satan. In her hands is a long ribbon and Mary is untying a large knot, one among many. The pope brought a copy of the painting back to Argentina and the devotion was adopted by his flock re-

sulting in what has since become a worldwide movement, and a source of healing and grace for countless families,” Deacon Latour said. “The theology on which this devotion is based



PHOTOS | ANNETTE TRACY

PRAISING MARY IN SONG The Day of Reflection at Resurrection Parish in Randolph concluded with the trio of Rick Edinger, Jean Hubley and George Chang singing, Hail Holy Queen Enthroned Above. Followed by Jean Hubley singing, “Ave Maria” solo.

originated in the writing of St. Irenaeus of Lyons in the second century wherein he spoke of how the knot of Eve’s disobedience was loosened by Mary’s obedience. Eve, by her disobedience, tied the knot of disgrace for the human race; whereas Mary, by her obedience, undid it. Mary was the new Eve whose ‘yes’ gave flesh to God’s Word.”

Deacon Latour singled out elements that can help untangle the knots — frequent celebration of the Eucharist; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament; praying the rosary; pondering the Scriptures, and silence — “enable us to find our home, to center our lives on God’s will for us,” he said.

Reuben Blanco and Becky Smora, parishioners, shared their love for Mary and how she has been with them through their joys and struggles. They witnessed how Mary has

brought them into a closer relationship with her Son, and how “she can help each of us on our faith journey.”

“The Day of Reflection far exceeded my expectations,” said Kim Rizzo. “The program made me think of the Blessed Mother first as the Mother of God, but also as a fellow human being. Knowing she is the Mother of God, we don’t always stop to think of Mary in terms of how difficult it might have been for her to say ‘yes’ to God — the confusion, fear, rejection and danger she might have experienced because of her faith and her willingness to do God’s will.”

The day ended listening to the history of the Angelus, and praying Angelus and rosary in the church.

The parish’s next Day of Reflection is scheduled for March.