

Rochester Diocesan Laymen's Retreat League Lists Twenty-One Week Schedule For Parishes



As the story of "Our Lady of Fatima," unfolds in play by that name, Robert Bride in role of "Antonio" rehearses talk with children of the apparitions. His "daughter, Lucia," (left) is Mary Elaine Sherwood. Seated on his knee is "Jacinta," Marcia Heffer and listening above, "Francisco," played by Patrick Reddy. Sponsored by Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union, the religious drama will be seen at Mercy High School Auditorium, Sunday, April 3 to Saturday, April 9. (Other stories on Page 7).

Fatima Drama Ready For Mercy High Presentation

Our Lady's message to the world will be brought in vivid, dramatic fashion to thousands of persons next week in the play, "Lady of Fatima," to be staged in Mercy High School auditorium, Blossom Road, Rochester.

Matinees for grammar school children on Saturday and Sunday will precede the opening evening performance Sunday night, April 3. The play is scheduled for evening presentation each night through Saturday, April 9 with matinees on April 9 and 10.

"LADY OF FATIMA" is a powerful religious production, written by the Rev. Urban Nagle O.P., head of the Blackfriars Theater Guild New York City, which tells the famous story of the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to three Portuguese children in 1917.

Since making New York by storm last Spring when its 43 scheduled performances were sold out by opening night and 20 were added, the play has been produced in many parts of the U.S. and Canada.

HIGHLIGHTING THE story are the six appearances of Our Lady to the children, the Miracle of the Sun, and the "play within a play" on a separately-acted extra stage.

Termed by the Catholic World "a pageant as touching as it is heroic" the play is presented by a 40-member cast, many of them veterans of community theater and radio drama groups. Tickets, which are still available, for all performances may be obtained through the Holy Name Society, which is sponsoring the production at 35 So. St. Hamilton 5430. (Details on Page 7).

Buses of the Rochester Transit Corporation will run directly to Mercy Auditorium during the hour before each performance and at its close.

The parish and several schools have chartered special buses through to Mercy High School. Assigned city parishes schools which guarantee a minimum of 50 children for each bus. Arrangements may be made with the Holy Name Society of the parish.

Irene Dunne, Wins Year's Laetare Merit



Miss Irene Dunne, prominent motion picture actress, who is the recipient of the 1949 Laetare Medal, awarded annually since 1883 by Notre Dame University to the outstanding Catholic lay person. In announcing the award on Laetare Sunday, Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., President of the University said: "Miss Dunne is an example of talented Christian womanhood who has never subordinated her conscience to her art, insisting on wholesome pictures." (NC Photo.)

Tokyo Builds New Apostolic Delegation

Tokyo (NC)—A new building for the Apostolic Delegation was under construction in Tokyo, Japan, ready for mid-1949. It was learned here that plans and arrangements for the completion of the building were completed by Archbishop Paul Matsuda, Apostolic Delegate to Japan. The old structure was destroyed by fire during the war.

Express your sympathy with flowers. Call Main 1986, Blanchard and Floral at 38 Lake Avenue, where you will get best value. Daily deliveries to all sections, including hospitals. (Adv.)

PONTIFF TO MARK 50th JUBILEE

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

16 Pages ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1949

Moral Threat To Youth Seen In School Sex Study Movies

Rochester High Schools See Sex Film

Classroom use of sex education movie, "Human Reproduction," condemned by the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, was reportedly discontinued this week in Rochester public high schools, although no expression of policy was made public by Board of Education officials.

"Human Reproduction," singled out by Catholic Welfare Committee reviewers as "extremely graphic" and "under no circumstances to be shown to high school students," has been circulating for several weeks in Rochester high school hygiene and health classes, school officials admitted.

Public school teachers and parents began to question the use of sex films for Rochester children following editorial commentary in last week's Courier Journal on the dangers involved in classroom teaching of sex facts separated from their moral and spiritual aspects.

FURTHER PUBLIC reaction leading to the film's withdrawal came when Father Richard Torrey, of the Courier Journal staff, in a weekly WHAM broadcast of Catholic editorial opinion last Sunday reviewed the Catholic stand on sex-education.

He revealed that sex movies were being used in public schools of this community and warned that such films were "dangerous substitutes" for proper home training because the approach was "naturalistic" and lacked the elements of "moral responsibility and religious reverence for the human body."

No formal protest was made to the Rochester Board of Education by Catholic authorities for exhibiting the movie which had been assailed by the state's Catholic Welfare Committee. But city high school principals at their weekly meeting in the board's offices on Wednesday carefully discussed the film, its practical merits and hidden dangers.

Evidently aware of rising public opinion which in several communities of the state and the nation has resulted in withdrawal of the film, the caution was given to the principals not to permit its further use in their classes until school officials could make a thorough review of the problem.

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Laymen Announce Dates For Retreats



Giving newly elected president Elmer J. Bloomer, St. Thomas Parish, Irondequoit, a 1,990 attendance mark to work for, retiring president Frank E. Wolfe (left) turns over direction of Rochester Laymen's Retreat League to his successor. The League promotes closed week-end retreats at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House, Geneva.

By THOMAS H. O'CONNOR

Anticipating that the 973 attendance mark representing 81 parishes set in 1948, the Rochester Laymen's Retreat League has scheduled 21 week-end retreats for 162 communities in the Rochester diocese, according to Elmer J. Bloomer, St. Thomas Parish, newly elected president.

THE CLOSED retreats for laymen will all be conducted at Our Lady of the Lake Retreat House, Geneva, of which the Very Rev. Augustine J. Ayscough, C.S.R., is rector.

One mid-week retreat is scheduled and two colleges have requested week-end retreats. A scheduled one for Notre Dame Academy and one for Dominican Catholics in the Rochester area. (Complete schedule in Page 7)

ELECTED WITH Bloomer who succeeds Frank E. Wolfe as president are Vice Presidents, Rochester: Frank R. Davis, Holy Rosary Parish; John W. Bogus, St. Charles Borromeo Parish; Fred J. Erwin, St. Ann; Dave Paris, John W. Miller, St. John Evangelist Parish; Elmer J. Norton, St. Monica Parish; Ensign T. Slayton, St. Margaret Mary Parish; Oscar J. Trabold, Sacred Heart Parish; Vice Presidents: Towns, James B. Gleason, St. Rose; Lima, John F. Gleason, St. Francis de Sales, Geneva; Frank J. Lesch, St. Mary's Aquarian; Daniel C. Malone, St. Jerome; East Rochester, Al W. Schmitz, St. Louis; Pittsford, Fred F. Shortleaver, St. Patrick's; Elmira, W. Arthur Sprague, Immaculate Conception; Phoca, Joseph Sweet, St. Patrick; Canjann and Harvey J. Wood, St. Columba; Carletonia.

Treasurer in Clarence R. Piehler, Holy Apostles Parish, and Secretary George P. Schmidt, St. Augustine's Parish.

Started in 1942, the diocesan retreat house has had gradually increasing attendance from 162 of that year representing 33 parishes to the 973 mark last year. A goal of one million 1900 has been set by the president, Bloomer states.

constant efforts which the Catholic Church, one of the largest national groups in Yugoslavia had made since World War I for relative independence from the dominating tendencies of the Catholic Church.

ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC, as a patriotic Croat naturally tended to favor this spirit in so far as was in keeping with his sacred office, the lecturer admitted. But the Archbishop always has shown himself above petty discrimination. Nowhere did that appear more clearly than during the late war when he extended relief and protection to Jews.

Catholics Hit School Sex Film Program

Albany—(Special)—Public School showings of two sex educational films is a program fraught with "great spiritual and moral harm to children and youth," the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee warned in a special statement issued here.

Text of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee's statement on the use in schools of the sex educational films, "Human Growth" and "Human Reproduction," is on the editorial page 4.

The two films, "Human Growth" and "Human Reproduction," are listed in the State Department of Health film library and are being distributed through the state on specific request from recognized organizations or health and educational authorities.

THE FILM, "Human Growth" is intended for school children in grades from six to nine. "Human Reproduction" is intended for parents and adults.

"Any attempt to broaden the curriculum of the public school program to include sex education, as given in the two films under consideration, must be condemned," according to the statement of the Catholic Welfare Committee.

Explaining its opposition to the films, the committee states that "sex education is so important that the instruction of each child must be directed and controlled by those who are designed by God for this purpose."

"The physical aspects of sex are so closely associated with morality and religion there can be no proper sex education unless the moral implications and obligations are sufficiently explained."

This in the committee's view "cannot be done in the public educational system because of the varying and contradictory ethical viewpoints of the teachers."

ACCORDING TO the Catholic statement, which is signed by Bishop William A. Scully, Committee Chairman and Coadjutor Bishop of Albany, the "Human Growth" film "should not be viewed by junior or even senior high school boys and girls."

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HIS HOLINESS, PIUS XII "Fifty Years A Priest"

World Joins Holy Father In Prayers Of Atonement

Catholics throughout the world will join this weekend in felicitating Pope Pius XII on the 50th anniversary of his priesthood.

Just one month ago, the 78-year-old Pontiff completed ten years as visible head of the Catholic Church—one of the most momentous decades in the Church's 2,000-year history.

Vatican diplomats and high ecclesiastical dignitaries will assemble this Paschal Sunday to witness the Pope, robed in gold embroidered vestments presented by the Japanese Catholic hierarchy, celebrate the jubilee Mass at the papal altar in St. Peter's Basilica.

THE POPE will also offer a special votive Mass as an act of expiation for "the crimes of the enemies of God," which, in Europe and elsewhere, have created problems regarded as the gravest faced by the Church and religion generally in modern times.

Similar votive Masses have been ordered said in Catholic churches everywhere, in compliance with an "exhortation" by Pope Pius in February when, shortly after the trial and imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary, he warned of the atheism and hatred of God "which contaminates our times and merits a truly fearful punishment."

BESIDES EMBODYING prayers that the Pontiff will be strengthened to bear the burdens and responsibilities of his office, the special Masses will also be in thanksgiving to God for what Catholic leaders regard as the providential choice of a Pope singularly gifted by background, training and temperament to guide the Church in a period of great crisis.

Elected to the See of Peter on the eve of the second world war, Pius XII, from the very beginning of his pontificate, has sought to promote the cause of peace and reconciliation among nations. He continues today to be a unique figure on the world's stage as he was during the war—a foremost advocate of human dignity in the face of totalitarian pressures.

BORN ON March 2, 1876 of a noble Roman family, Pope Pius, as Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, had been serving as Secretary of State to his predecessor, Pius XI, when he was elected to the papacy. He was the first Secretary of State to be chosen Pope since the election of Clement IX in 1667. He was also the first native of Rome to ascend the throne of Peter since Innocent XIII became Pope in 1721.

Pope Pius has many "firsts" to his credit. He is the first Pontiff ever to have visited the United States. That was in 1936, before the second election of President Roosevelt, when he was Cardinal Pacelli. He was the first Pope to have been a guest of an American President, to have visited all the American states, to have claimed a citizen of the United States. (Continued on Page 6)

Bishop Kearney Asks Prayers For Pope Pius

A special program in observance of the Holy Father's fiftieth anniversary in the priesthood has been ordered this Sunday (Apr. 3) in all churches of the diocese by His Excellency Bishop Kearney. According to the Bishop's directions sermons at all Sunday Masses will be on the Vow of Christ and faithful of the diocese are urged to receive Holy Communion for the Holy Father's intention. Following the last Mass, all churches will conduct Solemn Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament concluding with an evening Holy Hour of atonement with special prayers for the welfare of the Church and the intentions of the Holy Father. The Bishop also suggests that special services be held in the afternoon for the children so that they may join their prayers with those of the Pontiff. Permission is granted to all priests to celebrate two Masses on Sunday. The first Mass, the Paschal Sunday Mass, will include a prayer for the Holy Father. The second Mass will be the votive Mass for "the remission of sins" and will be offered for the general intention of "overcoming atheism and expiating the sins of our age."

Bishop Kearney's directives for the observance of the Pope's jubilee will be detailed in a letter which will be read on Sunday at all Masses.

Episcopalians Give Organ To Catholics Fairfax, Va. (NC)—When the rector and vestry of Truro Episcopal Church of Fairfax Station learned that St. Mary's Catholic parish needed an organ, they promptly offered to the pastor of St. Mary's an old organ seldom used since the time it was replaced by a new organ donated to the Episcopal church by a wealthy parishioner. The Catholic pastor accepted the gift.

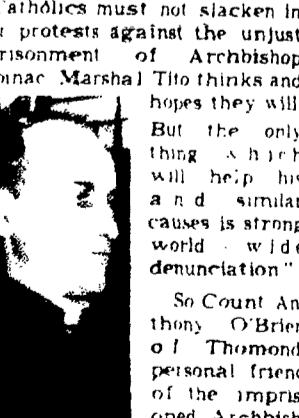
NCWC Reporter Banned by Reds Shanghai (NC)—The Rev. William Hogan, S.V.D., Peiping News Service, is on the list of foreign correspondents prohibited by the Peiping communist regime from gathering or sending news.

Bishop Urges Prayers Apr. 6 For 'Army Day'

My dear People: In your prayers during this week, please keep in mind the officers and men who serve in the Army of our country. Only recently several of our priests left their parishes to don the uniform of the United States Army in order to serve the men in the Army ranks. Our enthusiasm for the welfare of the Army should not be confined to times of emergency. The Army is always alerted for our defense, and should share in the gratitude and prayers of our people. Wednesday of next week will be Army Day. Let us give our Army a special remembrance in our prayers at our Lenten Devotions on Wednesday, April 6.

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ, + JAMES E. KEARNEY BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

Abp. Stepinac Friend Urges Continued Protests



Abp. Stepinac friend, Count Anthony O'Brien, personal friend of Archbishop Stepinac, expresses the belief that American Protestant ministers, who last year visited Yugoslavia and reportedly visited Archbishop in prison, were duped by a communist impostor.

Count O'Brien Reveals Inside Facts On Case Of Jailed Prelate

By REV. ROBERT E. McNAMARA

In this report by Father McNamara, professor of history at St. Bernard's Seminary, Count Anthony O'Brien, personal friend of Archbishop Stepinac, expresses the belief that American Protestant ministers, who last year visited Yugoslavia and reportedly visited Archbishop in prison, were duped by a communist impostor.

Count Anthony O'Brien, personal friend of Archbishop Stepinac, expressed the belief that American Protestant ministers, who last year visited Yugoslavia and reportedly visited Archbishop in prison, were duped by a communist impostor. He laid special stress on the

government which had been set up under Fascist and Nazi auspices. Tito knew this. "Tito's own partisans," he testified, "had broadcast excerpts from the Archbishop's wartime sermons in which he had denounced Nazi totalitarianism. The Yugoslav Government in exile, furthermore, was in contact with Archbishop Stepinac through a secret agent, and concluded arrangements with him for the distribution of funds for relief work. If the Archbishop had been considered pro-Nazi, this would certainly not have been done."

THE SPEAKER pointed out that although there was some government attempt to force the conversion of Serbs who lived in Croatia to accept Catholicism, the Archbishop and the other members of the hierarchy strongly opposed this attempt.

Professor O'Brien referred to the report made last year by the seven American Protestant clergymen, who, after a fortnight's tour of Yugoslavia, came back to the United States. "THIS WAS A false charge, and 'Tito knew it,' the Count stated. "Although the Archbishop made no attempt to disguise his belief that Croatia should have at least a status of autonomy, he did not approve of the auto-

Thomas' selection of statements will please your (adv.) pocketbook. William S. Thomas, Jeweler, 315 East Main. (Adv.)