

## State Regents Advocates Public School Prayer

Albany, N. Y.—(RNS)—The Board of Regents, governing body of New York state's public schools, has formally recommended that every school day begin with a prayer.

In a statement of policy the Regents urged that school programs also include the stressing of America's moral and spiritual heritage.

The Regents suggested the following prayer to accompany the morning pledge of allegiance to the flag:

"ALMIGHTY GOD, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our teachers, and our country."

Governor Thomas E. Dewey endorsed the Regents' suggestion, and in a statement released to the press, said:

"In these days of world-wide conflict between the free world and the slave world of Godless Communism it is more vital than ever before that our children grow up with a sense of reverence and dedication to Almighty God."

The Board of Regents, whose thirteen members include Protestants, Roman Catholics and Jews, was unanimous in its recommendation, which was adopted after several months of discussion.

THE BOARD'S statement said the Regents were convinced that the fundamental American belief and dependence on God was the best security in this critical time.

"We believe that the school day thus started," the statement declared, "might well include specific programs stressing the moral and spiritual heritage which is America's, the trust which our pioneering ancestors placed in Almighty God, their gratitude to Him from whom they freely and frequently acknowledged came their blessings and their freedom, and their abiding belief in the free way of life and in the universal brotherhood of man based upon their acknowledgment of the Fatherhood of their Creator, Almighty God, Whom they loved and revered in diverse ways."

"We believe that thus constantly confronted with the basic truth of their existence and inspired by the example of their ancestors, our children will find all their studies brought in to focus and accord, respect for lawful authority and obedience to law will be the natural concomitant of their growth, and each of them will be properly prepared to follow the faith of his or her father, as he or she receives the same as mother's knee, by father's side, and as such faith is expounded and strengthened for them by his or her religious leaders."

"We believe that thus the school will fulfill its high function of supplementing the training of the home, ever interesting in the child that love for

## Regents Stand Approved By Welfare Head

Commendation of the New York State Board of Regents statement recommending that the public school begin the day with prayer is contained in a statement issued by the Most Rev. William A. Scully, Coadjutor of Albany.

As chairman of the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, Bishop Scully wrote:

"The Board of Regents of the State of New York must be congratulated for the courage they have shown in presenting this forthright statement on Moral and Spiritual Training in the Schools."

"In these difficult times, men can find comfort and hope in the American tradition of faith in God. The founders of this nation were religious men."

"The whole concept of democracy, which they set forth, with its insistence upon rights and obligations as free men, is rooted in God, the Creator."

"Every boy and girl in our schools should be taught this truly American tradition of reverence, love and obedience to God."

"The freedom which we enjoy can be preserved only if we pass on to our children these precious truths of religious faith. The Regents of the State of New York have again pointed the way."

God, for parents and for home which is the mark of true character training and the sure guarantee of a country's welfare."

## Area Young People To Attend Yule Fete

A Christmas party for the Catholic young people of Elmira and vicinity will be held in St. Peter and Paul's school hall, Elmira, on Wednesday evening Dec. 12 from 8:30 until 11:30 p.m.

A program of dancing, community singing and entertainment has been arranged. Specialty numbers will be provided by talent selected from those present at the affair.

Music will be provided by Louis Muccigrosso and his "Parishioners." Refreshments will be served.

The committee in charge will be headed by the Priests of the parish and members of the Immaculate Heart and Holy Name Societies.

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## Open First Saturday Club In Elmira



LEADING ROLES in the inauguration of the First Saturday Luncheon Club in Elmira at Mark Twain Hotel, last week, were above: (From left) Rev. Hubert A. Bisky, chairman of the advisory committee of Catholic Family Service; Miss Frances Battersby, president of the Ladies of Charity; Rev. J. Edmund O'Brien, luncheon speaker; Miss Mary Fitzgerald, executive director of the Catholic Family Service; Miss Fitzgerald is holding a statue from the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.

## Message of Fatima Told 200 Elmira Area Women At First Saturday Club Opening

More than 200 women from Elmira and Chemung County heard an address by the Rev. J. Edmund O'Brien, Chaplain of the Dominican Monastery of the Perpetual Rosary at the initial meeting of the First Saturday Luncheon Club.

Father O'Brien spoke during program, following the luncheon which was sponsored by the Ladies of Charity at Mark Twain Hotel.

Miss Frances Battersby, President of the Ladies of Charity, who presided introduced the Rev. Hubert A. Bisky, Moderator of the Ladies of Charity and Miss Mary E. Fitzgerald, Executive Director of the Catholic Family Service, both of whom spoke briefly.

Also at the Speaker's Table were Presidents of the Parish organizations, the Catholic Daughters, and the Ladies of Columbus.

Decorations were two beautifully arranged shrines of Our Lady of Fatima. Favours were

small leaflets, outlining the special devotion of the Fatima Rosary.

FATHER O'BRIEN speaking on the Story of Fatima, opened his remarks with a quotation from an address made by Pope Pius XII during a Radio Address at the close of the Silver Jubilee of Fatima in 1942.

"Bless ye the God of Heaven, giving glory to Him in the sight of all that live"—were words said the speaker that could well be applied to those who had gathered together to give honor to our Blessed Lady on her First Saturday of December.

He pointed out that this Devotion had been outlined in detail by Our Blessed Lady to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta on the occasion of the second apparition on June 13, 1917.

"IN THE LAST ENTRY," Father explained, "of the chronology of Fatima, which is dated the 13th of September, 1930, the Bishop of Leiria made public this request

of the Lady of Fatima, confided particularly to Lucia in secrecy."

Referring to "Fifteen Minutes of Meditation," which is one of the requirements of the Novena of First Saturdays, Father O'Brien said in part:

"Meditation need not conjure up the figure of a Nun in a cloister, nor silence and solitude. Daily without the shadow of the forbidding label 'meditation' we meditate on many practical questions. So in keeping with the admonition of Our Lady, we ponder preferably on one decade of the Rosary each month. We think about all we have heard and read—for instance on the Birth of the Infant Jesus—and find we have meditated for even more than fifteen minutes."

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## Diocese Doubles Clothing Donations In First Report

A total of 71,785 pounds of clothing, more than twice last year's total, has been dispatched to the New York warehouses by 46 parishes of the Rochester Diocese according to the first report received from the Rev. John T. Callahan, executive director of the Transferring Work Clothing Campaign.

Leading with a total of 8,300 pounds, was St. Augustine's Parish. Among the top 10 in Rochester were St. James, Immaculate, Blessed Sacrament, St. Charles, St. Peter and Paul, St. Anthony, St. John the Baptist, St. Mary's Parish, Albany, reported 4,013 pounds.

Material collected in the drive is distributed to the poor in Europe and Korea without regard to race, creed or color. Many of the donations were sent to the parish centers by non-Catholic neighbors among them reported were the Ballantine Presbyterian Church at Scottsville, which brought seven cartons to St. Patrick's Parish, Canton, Plymouth Ave. South, Rochester.

Reports were received from deacon directors, the Rev. Father Daniel McGarry, Albany; Daniel Hogan, Cortland; Joseph McNamara, Elmira; Robert Fennerty, Geneva; along with the Rev. Charles Nangle's report from Rochester.

The drive is sponsored nationally by the War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference which handles the distribution.

## 2 Youth Groups Slate Reception

A reception for new affiliates in the Boys Club and Daughters of Mary will be held in St. Anthony's Church, Elmira, on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 7 a. m.

All high school freshmen are eligible. Members of both groups will receive Holy Communion at the 8:30 Mass and attend a Communion breakfast immediately after the Mass.

After the evening ceremonies, a vaudeville performance comprising local talent will be held in the Audio Visual room. Officers for both groups will be elected for the coming year.

A special meeting of St. Anthony's P.O. C.W.V. will be held on Monday evening at 7:30 in the Annex.

Plans were completed for a clam bake to be held at Club 13 in Elmira Heights on Sunday afternoon.

## 46 Parishes Make First Report On Clothes Drive

First report on the Transferring Work Clothing Campaign, sponsored by the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in the Diocese of Rochester, shows the following parishes:

Parish	Pounds
St. Augustine	8,300
St. James	4,013
Immaculate	4,013
Blessed Sacrament	4,013
St. Charles	4,013
St. Peter and Paul	4,013
St. Anthony	4,013
St. John the Baptist	4,013
St. Mary's Parish, Albany	4,013
St. Patrick's, Canton	4,013
St. John's, Cortland	4,013
St. Joseph's, Elmira	4,013
St. Michael's, Elmira	4,013
St. Rose's, Elmira	4,013
St. Vincent's, Elmira	4,013
St. Francis, Elmira	4,013
St. Ignace, Elmira	4,013
St. Basil's, Elmira	4,013
St. Clare's, Elmira	4,013
St. Elizabeth's, Elmira	4,013
St. Ann's, Elmira	4,013
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