

Women's Union To Meet 50 Members

The members of the Women's Union will be received into the new Local No. 55 of the International Federation of Laborers on Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Casino Club.

The program will be conducted by the new members.

Officers of the new members are: president, Michael J. ... secretary, ... and ... will conduct the initiation.

Members of the Christopher ... will participate in the ...

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MEMBERS OF THE Junior Lay Apostolate are helping the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity with the card party, scheduled Wednesday, Jan. 23, in Columbus Civic Center Auditorium for the Sisters' new motherhouse. Three of the Censule Apostolate above are being briefed for their work on the party. In photo (from left) seated, Sister St. Anita and Nancy Dick, standing (from left) Patricia Hart, Sister St. Lucia and Shirley Welch. (Courier Staff Photo).

Convert Commends Information Series At Hotel For Directing Him To Faith

By **DAWN SCHEFFEL**
Howard Wheeler, a assistant manager of the Personal Finance Company and a recent convert to Catholicism, claims that membership in the Church is like learning to know God after knowing only "of Him."

One of the many converts to the Catholic faith through the work of the Catholic Information Series in Rochester, Mr. Wheeler credits his conversion to the Rev. Francis Marks, director of the series.

The series, in its fourth year at Seneca Hotel, provides non-Catholics with the answers to their questions on Catholic doctrines and practices.

Howard Wheeler was married to a Catholic in December 1930 and shortly after their marriage his wife suggested that he investigate the Church and her teachings.

"THAT'S where I was lucky," the convert points out. "Too many Catholics refrain from asking non-Catholics if they are interested, and those outside the Church are reluctant to make inquiries."

"I'll admit that I had many forebodings when it was first mentioned to me, but Father Marks soon put me at ease."

The Wheelers moved into St. Boniface parish and a school church of Mr. Wheeler's, the Rev. Guy Wertz, was at that time serving as assistant pastor in that parish. Father Wertz, now at St. Mary's Church, Elmira, was generous of his time according to Mr. Wheeler, and it was Father Wertz who baptized him on March 18, 1951.

Particularly influential in bringing Mr. Wheeler into the Church was a Margaret Eickhorst, also an employee of the Personal Finance Company. Miss Eickhorst encouraged the potential convert in attending the information series lectures.

BEFORE HIS marriage Mr. Wheeler admits he had no interest in the Church because he knew nothing about it. "I didn't have the vaguest idea what the Catholic Church was."

The manner in which the information series is conducted is commendable, according to Howard Wheeler. In the first five lectures Catholicism is never mentioned, he said, and there is nothing repugnant to any reasonably good Christian. The classes are informal and informative.

As the course progresses, the truths of the Catholic Church are explained to the inquirers and detailed explanations are given later on in the course.

Each class is conducted in an informal impersonal way, giving plenty of opportunity for questions and discussion. "Some of those attending must spend all week thinking up questions to try to stump the priests in charge," the convert said. "However, any and every query is answered clearly and simply. You just can't stump them!"

ACCORDING to Mr. Wheeler, a Catholic need only sell one outside the Church the idea of attending the lecture once. "They won't have to convince them to go back. They'll want to," he claims.

Mr. Wheeler pointed out that those outside the Church always feel that they know "something" about the Catholic faith. They really know only as much as a person does about a book after reading a review of it. "After the information series you know as much as though you'd read the book four times," he said.

The zeal of Father Marks and Father Richard Quinn, who regularly preside at the lectures, particularly impressed the young convert. Father Marks conducts make-up classes for those who miss the regularly scheduled ones, to enable them to keep up to date.

Outlines and reading matter are provided free of charge to the inquirers and additional reading lists for those interested in further research are made available.

Mr. Wheeler's sister, Katherine, is also a convert. He has a brother and another sister.

Howard Wheeler served with the infantry in World War II and spent one year in Europe. He and his wife and daughter, Carol Ann, 1 month, reside at 630 Meigs St.

The next regularly scheduled lecture will be held in the Seneca Hotel Monday Jan. 21, at 8 p.m.

Building Fund Card Party At St. James

A card party sponsored by the Rosary and Altar Society of St. James Parish will be held Monday, Jan. 21, in the parish hall. Proceeds will go toward the building fund.

Mrs. Leon T. Ward, chairman, has named the following committee: tickets, Mrs. Frederick Burrows; prizes, Marie Catenuto; cards and tallies, Mrs. Victor Chimento; refreshments, Mrs. Clarence VanEppa.

Tickets may be obtained from members of the society or at the door.

Sacristy Extension Need Cited In B. S. Parish Paper

Need for extending the sacristy of Blessed Sacrament Church is stressed in "The Parish Weekly," Jan. 6, 1952 issue.

The parish publication points out that 30 or more altar boys are congested in a restricted space on Sunday and warns of fire hazards made possible by lighting candles.

Crowding about the baptismal font of sponsors, relatives and friends at the hours of baptisms on some Sundays makes it difficult for the priest and those present to carry out the ceremony.

ENLARGEMENT of the sacristy will make possible the modern method of preserving Church vestments, some of which are very valuable, the parish weekly said. The vestments suffer more or less damage in being crowded into insufficient space at the present time.

"This improvement if carried out will add greatly to the Church indebtedness at the end of the year," the article stated.

Travelogue Film
A Burton Holmes travelogue film on South Africa will be shown at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Sunday afternoon, January 20, at 2:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Ham Supper Set At St. Cecilia's

Families of St. Cecilia's parish have been invited to a ham supper to be served from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, in the parish hall, 7332 Culver Rd.

Committee of the parish Men's Club and Ladies Guild, or organizations sponsoring the supper, were encouraged by the attendance of more than 800 persons at the first ham supper held by the parish a few months ago. Unforeseen delays in serving which were experienced at that time, they announced, will be eliminated for the Jan. 12, supper.

Admission is \$1.10 for adults and 55 cents for children.

Dean Entertains Colledge Guild Unit

The Council of the Nazareth Colledge Guild was entertained by Sister Rose Angela, Dean, at a luncheon recently.

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