

Mercy Nuns Conduct Clinic For Students With Reading Problems

By FAWN SCHEFFEL
Children from city, suburban and parochial schools in the Rochester area are seated side by side at the Reading Laboratory being conducted this summer by the Sisters of Mercy. Difficulties in some or all of the phases of reading are ironed out at the clinic, according to Sister DePazzi, clinic director, who points out that every school finds pupils whose slowness in reading hinders their educational progress.

The clinic now in session at Our Lady of Mercy High School boasts the most up-to-date reading aids available. THE LABORATORY staffed by eight Sisters of Mercy functions year around, with lessons conducted on Saturdays during the school term. Each lesson, one hour in duration, is geared to solve the individual problem of each pupil.

"All children can fit into two patterns," Sister DePazzi said, "the younger group (through fifth grade) are unable to attack the written word; and the older group have the inability to understand what they read."

Each child is tested before being admitted to the sessions to determine his capabilities and problems. Among the tests given are a capacity test, achievement test, Binet I. Q. test, Durrell Reading analysis, and a personality test. The children enrolled in the clinic are of high I. Q., and have fine learning capacities, Sister said.

The informal approach to the correction of the reading difficulties has proved successful. The clinic restricts its classes to three or four pupils and where additional attention is required private tutoring is given.

"The first thing the instructor in this work must do is break down any shyness in the pupil," the teacher said. "One of the most important roles of the reading laboratory is to show the child that he is among friends and build up his confidence."

ALL METHODS of reading instruction are used, Sister said. Sight vocabulary, phonetics, and syllabication are all part of the program.

We have a wonderful group of children this summer from both the public and parochial schools," Sister DePazzi said, "and we are giving 265 lessons a week at present."

*When full registration was reached on June 23, we were forced to turn dozens of hopefuls away."

Tape recordings have proven an invaluable aid. "Hearing oneself read on these recordings exposes one's failures in reading," Sister pointed out. "Pupils are always conscious of another's ability to read and the tape recorder serves as a means to criticize one's own failings."

THE EXCHANGE program within the clinic provides the opportunity for the teacher to send her pupils to another instructor for special attention in a particular phase of reading skills. Sometimes a child is given an hour of private tutoring to concentrate on his personal problem.

Among the special approaches in the field of education, film strips are noteworthy. Children in the lower grades are taught to read pictures and express what story the picture tells.

The Our Lady of Mercy Reading Laboratory has all basic reading aids in any school anywhere, Sister said. The children are never allowed to use the same set that they have used in their own school in order that the work will be fresh and will open an entirely new field of endeavor to the child.

AMONG THE books used are the Readers Digest which has been compiled complete with reading, a vocabulary preceding each selection. Current events, human interest stories and other features paralleled to regular Reader's Digest editors are written to correspond with the level of the child's ability.

The Easy Classics Series including Lorna Doone and Ivanhoe, are popular among the pupils. The Real People Series, telling the story of people outstanding in our country's history, are another series geared for high interest and low ability in reading.

The current sessions will close August first. Registration for instruction after school and on Saturdays during the regular school term will open early in September, it was announced. There are two teachers regularly teaching all year round with a staff of eight instructing on Saturday.

Australian Geologist Sydney, Australia — (NC) — Peter Howard, an Australian geologist, has been awarded a resident scholarship in the Harvard graduate school for arts and sciences during 1952-53.



MERCY NUNS READING CLINIC—Film strips are used in teaching syllabication in the Sisters of Mercy Reading Laboratory in the photo at left. In picture at right a high school pupil is shown recording her reading to acquaint herself with her own reading difficulties.



The sessions are being conducted at Mercy High School where 265 lessons per week are given.

Stay Home, U. S. Priest Tells Irishmen

Dublin — (NC) — Irishmen should, if possible, remain at home in "the most Christian land in the world." If they decide to emigrate, they should settle in rural areas rather than in the cities.

This was the advice given here by Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference in the United States.

THE AMERICAN prelate stopped off in Ireland on his way home from the International Eucharistic Congress at Barcelona, Spain.

In a press conference, Monsignor Ligutti declared that the number of Irish people who had gone to the rural areas of the United States in the past had been small, and there was a danger that the Irish strength would be seriously impaired in the cities to which they had scattered.

HE SAID HE was interested in a project that would aim at putting Catholic boys in good Catholic homes in the rural areas, so that within a few years they could have farms of their own and settle down on the land.

Spain Foreign Chief Cites Church-State 'Brotherhood' Bond

Burgos, Spain — (NC) — The Spanish Foreign Minister has expressed concern over what he described as the failure of fellow Catholics in other parts of the world to understand the "perfect brotherhood" between Church and State in Spain.

Foreign Minister Alberto Martin Ariza voiced this concern as he conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Isabella the Catholic on Archbishop Luciano Perez Platero of Burgos in this northern Spanish city. The ceremony was held in the archiepiscopal residence.

MR. MARTIN ARIZA stated that Spain enjoys "an interweaving and perfect brotherhood between the religious and civil spheres, between the two powers, the Church and the State." He added that each of these is sovereign in its respective field and is ready to help the other.

"In order better to serve God and at the same time to serve the fatherland," he continued. "That our enemies do not understand this or pretend not to understand it need not concern us. But it must concern us that some of our brethren, Catholics like ourselves, do not understand and even are scandalized by this fact."

"There is such confusion of ideas in the present state of the world, and such great concessions have had to be made to the lesser evil in order to avoid greater evils, that the idea of religious unity has had to be supplanted in the majority of countries by the hypothesis of an equality of religions."

"But there is one country, ours, which did not succumb because of the mercy of God, the heritage of our fathers and the blood of our best sons, who died in a war of crusade (Spanish Civil War). There is one country, I repeat, Spain, which can permit itself this grand luxury—let us call it that—of maintaining its religious unity. This country is ready to defend it in the face of hostility from our enemies and lack of understanding from our friends. "Some people think that in

College To Train Textile Workers

Manchester, N. H. — (NC) — A new department of textiles to train personnel for mills in this industrial area has been opened at St. Anselm College here, it was announced by the Rev. Bernard G. Holmes O.S.B., dean. Courses will be held in the evening and will start with the fall semester in early October.

Catholic Women Set Seattle Parley

Washington — (NC) — Over 160 women have already sent in their credential cards for the 28th national convention of the National Council of Catholic Women in Seattle, September 20-24. They are from 28 different States, from New York to California and from Minnesota to Texas.

Theme of the convention, based upon the 1951 Statement of the U. S. Bishops, is "God's Will, Our Work." Each day's session will be devoted to a specific aspect of this statement: "Our Responsibility to God," "Our Responsibility to Our Fellow Man," and "Our Responsibility to Ourselves."

Bible School — (NC) — A two-week Bible school for Mexicans was held in St. Mary's Parish here and in its missions by the Rev. Gustavo Sota Carillo, S.J., of Montezuma Seminary, N. Mex.

Georgetown Grad In German Post

Washington — (NC) — The newly-named U. S. High Commissioner for Germany, Walter J. Donnelly, is a former student at the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service here.

Mr. Donnelly, career diplomat who served as U. S. Minister to Austria and High Commissioner of that country since August 1950, succeeds John J. McCloy in Germany. Mr. McCloy is retiring for personal reasons.

Succeeding Mr. Donnelly in Austria is Llewellyn E. Thompson, Jr., for the past two years Minister-Counselor at Rome.

Mr. Donnelly is expected to become the first postwar U. S. Ambassador to Germany when the new peace contract takes effect. He attended Georgetown from 1919-21.

German Bishop Freiburg, Germany — (NC) — The Rev. Eugene Selterich, member of the German hierarchy here, has been named Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Freiburg-in-Breisgau.

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