

# Welfare, Charities Program In Germany Mgrs. Burns To Speak Viewed By Diocesan Family Center Head At Saturday Luncheon



**Luncheon To Mark End Of Drive**  
RESERVATIONS for the Mercy Guild luncheon closing the membership campaign to be held at Hotel Sheraton, April 9 at 12:15 p. m. are headed by Mrs. Justin Williams (left) to Mrs. J. Edward Hay, luncheon chairman.

## Mercy Guild Member Drive To Close April 9 At Sheraton

The Mercy Guild of the Little Flower of St. Theresa will close the membership drive at the Sheraton Hotel, Starlite Roof on Monday, April 9 at 12:15 p.m.

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Germany has made a 100 per cent recovery in its housing problem created by the ravages of World War II, according to George W. Montgomery, Jr., executive secretary of the Rochester Diocesan Catholic Family Center, who recently returned from a four week stay in West Germany.



**GEORGE MONTGOMERY**

Montgomery was a member of a group invited to study Church and Welfare by the German Federal Republic. Schedule for the Catholic members of the group was planned by Deutsche Caritasverband, the National Catholic Charities of Germany.

Over thirteen and a half million housing units have been built in Western Germany to replace the 12 million destroyed during the war, Montgomery said.

This record suffers only from the influx of refugees from the Eastern zone, which requires more and more housing projects. Over 12 million have already crossed into the West to date, he stated.

MONTGOMERY'S tour began at Bonn, where he and the other American welfare officers were briefed by government representatives. The Catholic members of the group were then turned over to the Deutsche Caritasverband and taken to the chief and most representative welfare centers of the German charities system.

The study took the Americans to Frankfurt, Heidelberg, Mannheim, Stuttgart, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Dortmund, Dusseldorf and Cologne.

The work of the national organization is extremely important in the social welfare program of the nation, Montgomery said. In Germany, health and welfare activities are organized largely on a sectarian basis—Catholic, Evangelical and Jewish Agencies.

Some financial support is given by the government, but most of the money needed comes from membership fees, and annual collections in every diocese.

Of these collections, 50 per cent is retained by the parish for welfare purposes, 30 per cent by the diocesan agency, and 20 per cent by Caritas.

The diocesan agencies operate many types of programs, including day care centers, kindergartens, which are more child-care centers and are part of the welfare

programs. Since 80 per cent of the married women in West Germany work, these centers are extremely important in the social program.

Most parishes have one or more nuns as parish social workers. The diocesan agency has the brand offices in every community to cooperate with the parishes.

EVERY DAY, Montgomery stated, some 1500 people leave the communist held areas of Germany and flee to the West Zone of Berlin. At Berlin, Marienfelde, the Emergency Reception Camp for Refugees, they register and are given a preliminary physical examination.

They are then assigned to a camp of which there are 43 in West Berlin alone to await an appointment for screening. The camps are operated by various voluntary welfare groups, Catholic, Protestant and Red Cross. The Federal Republic pays 85 per cent of the cost of care, and the government of Berlin 15 per cent.

According to Montgomery, the camps are clean and as comfortable as such crowded living quarters can be. The food is good and plentiful. But, to the refugees, the most important thing is that they are free, Montgomery said. At the camps, the staffs take pains to treat each refugee as an individual, he said.

Each refugee is given an appointment for screening. If he can show that he fled because of danger due to his democratic views, he is officially "recognized" as a refugee. He is then eligible to be flown to West Germany for resettlement.

IF HE CANNOT be officially recognized, he is sent to a permanent refugee camp. No refugee is returned to the East Zone. The Federal Republic usually guards the right of asylum for those who flee from behind the Iron Curtain.

"That's the law," one official told the American visitors, "but more important, it is humane." To return would be to face a possible lifetime of imprisonment. People are sentenced to 25 years in prison for even suggesting that flight to the West is possible or desirable.

Nearly half who flee are people under 25 years of age, Montgomery said. The Soviets do not object to their flight.

ject to the old or ill leaving, but the exodus of youth of working and military age is creating a problem for the Communist authorities in the East.

Production is hampered in the East, but more important, the action of the good life under communism is difficult to maintain when 45,000 per cent of the population prefer the uncertainties of flight to life in the People's Democratic Republic. Population of the East Zone has decreased by 2 million since the end of the war.

THE RISKS of flight are great, Montgomery stated. If apprehended, a long prison term is certain. Family members left behind are harassed and often punished.

Montgomery was told one story of a widow with five children whose oldest son fled to West Berlin, where his mother visited him frequently.

She was finally arrested, beaten severely three times and questioned for days. Refusing to give her son's address, she was sentenced to hard labor for 25 years. Her family did not know what happened to her, and eventually the other children also fled.

For those who remain, life is hard and unpleasant. Those who "cooperate," who follow the party line can eke out a bare existence. Those who do not "cooperate" are made to suffer.

As one priest told Montgomery, the people can endure privations, but cannot accept the loss of freedom. So day after day, the Reception Camp takes in these newcomers to freedom.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Richard K. Burns, pastor of St. Thomas Parish, will be the guest speaker for the April meeting of the First Saturday Luncheon. Msgr. Burns will be presented by the moderator, the Rev. Albert J. Shamon, of St. Andrew Seminary.

The luncheon, open to all Catholic women in the diocese, is held at the Powers Hotel Ballroom, April 7 at 12:15.

The Rosary Society of St. Thomas Parish will be hostess this month with Mrs. William Gasser presiding as toastmistress. Mrs. Carl Schmancke has charge of making reservations for women of St. Thomas Parish. Mrs. Melbourne J. Porter is in charge of table decorations.

The luncheon is sponsored by the Monice Deany Council of Catholic Women.

MONSIGNOR BURNS

**Seminary Choir Set On WHAM**  
The St. Bernard Seminary Choir, under the direction of the Rev. Charles McCarthy, will be heard in a program of Good Friday music on March 30 over Rochester radio station WHAM from 9 to 9:30 p.m. Narrator will be the Rev. Msgr. Wilfred T. Craugh, rector of the Seminary.

**Play For Missions**  
ACCORDIAN TRIO (above) from left: Richard Torti, Rene Van Muler and Joseph Di Prima, performed recently in a Talent Show put on by the students of McQuaid Jesuit High School. Show was presented by the students at a school assembly as part of the Lenten Mission Drive.

**Legion of Decency Listings**  
CLASS A-1 — Unobjectionable for General Patronage

CLASS A-2 — Unobjectionable for Adults

CLASS B — Objectionable in Part

CLASS C — Objectionable

**Edmund Gwen To Star On Family Theatre**  
Edmund Gwen will play the leading role in "The Story of Little Tree" on Family Theatre heard over the Mutual Network on Wednesday, Apr. 4, 10 to 10:30 p.m.  
Dick Contino will host the broadcast.  
St. Patrick, St. Bridgid and St. Columba are the patron saints of Ireland.

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## Retreat For Blind Women Scheduled At Cenacle

A retreat for blind women will be given at the Cenacle Retreat House, 698 East Ave., Rochester, over the week-end of April 13 to 15. Rev. Frederic P. Rothlauf, S.J., of Canisius College, will conduct the exercises.

THE RETREAT opens with supper at 6:30 p.m. on Friday and closes at 4 p.m. Sunday. The generosity of others who have made retreats, and particularly of the college girls who serve as guides, makes it possible for the Religious to offer this retreat to any blind woman who wishes to

## Family Rosary Radio Leaders

Friday, March 30 — His Excellency Bishop Kearney; Saturday, March 31 — Bishop Kearney; Sunday, April 1 — David Furioso, St. Francis Assisi, accompanied by children of St. Francis; Monday, April 2 — Raymond L. Wille, St. Salome; Tuesday, April 3 — Jerome Sarafino, Holy Rosary; Wednesday, April 4 — James Huether, Most Precious Blood.

make it, whether she is able to make the usual offering or not, a spokesman said.  
Transportation will be arranged on request. Write or telephone Browning 8755 for reservations.  
Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Rose of Lima are patron saints of the Americas.

3 Nazareth Women To Attend Debate, Speech Festival  
Three students from Rochester's Nazareth College, Miss Kerise Murphy, Yonkers, N. Y., Miss Maureen Smith, South Hempstead, N. Y., and Miss Candida Pilla, Trenton, N. J., will participate in the National Debate and Speech Festival at St. Peter's College, Jersey City, N. J., on Thursday and Friday, April 5 and 6.

St. Anne Rosarians List Meeting, Play  
Members of the Rosary Society of St. Anne's Church will meet Thursday, April 5 in the School Auditorium.  
Mrs. Elmer Schmidt, President, will conduct the meeting.  
After the business meeting they will be entertained by the Catholic Theatre with a one act Lenten play.  
Refreshments will be served by Mrs. Arthur Lalonde and Mrs. Clayton Zachman and their respective band members.

Theatre Guide  
PARAMOUNT  
Anything Goes A-1  
LOEW'S  
The Last Hunt B  
REGENT  
Love is a Many Splendored Thing B  
Summertime B  
New Summer Theatre  
Bills 'Plain and Fancy'  
Eight musical comedies will comprise the 1956 schedule for Niagara Melody Fair, new summer theatre at Wurlitzer Park, North Tonawanda.  
Opening show will be "Plain and Fancy" running from June 15 to July 1.