

Catechists Feted On Anniversary, Hear Monsignor Byrne In Ithaca

Ithaca — Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Byrne, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, paid tribute to 23 lay catechists who were his guests at a bar-

beque chicken dinner commemorating the third anniversary of the catechists' graduation. In his talk, Monsignor Byrne said: "We are dedicated to the spread of Christianity here tonight. The territory in which you are now teaching the gospel of Christ was once known as 'No Priest Land.'"

According to a missionary map printed by the Glenmary Missionaries of Glendale, Ohio a few years ago the territory between Ithaca and Waverly was considered missionary territory because of the scarcity of priests in that area. Today the Rev. Michael Reder of the Capuchin Fathers is pastor of St. Pius X Church in Van Etten. The Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart and certified lay catechists teach weekly release time classes to the children of Van Etten and Spencer Central schools. This may well need revision before its next printing, the speaker said.

"The Gospel of Ascension Thursday tells us to go forth and preach the Gospel everywhere — not only in the city but along the highways and byways. The catechists today are doing the same work as the Apostles performed centuries ago. In assuming the responsibility as commissioned teachers of religion you have made no mistake. It is my prayer that more catechists will be trained this coming year because the harvest is great. We need to enlarge the scope of the catechetical work."

Father Reder congratulated the catechists on their anniversary and expressed his admiration for their zeal in carrying out the noble work of teaching. Father asked for prayers for his territory as nests of underground Communists are busy at work in the area. But the Real Presence of Jesus in the Blessed

Sacrament and the good example of Catholics will eventually win over this subversive element, Father said.

Rev. Robert J. Downs asked the catechists to be vocation-minded in teaching the young, as the seed of vocation is often planted in fifth grade. Father spoke of the tremendous need of vocations to the priesthood, sisterhood and brotherhood. He pointed out that the number of vocations from a parish tell the tempo of the spiritual life of that parish.

Rev. Otto J. Vogt, Rev. William M. Thomas and the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart were also present. Mrs. Clare Smith, president, conducted a brief business meeting following the dinner.

Plans were formulated for the children's participation in a four day Sacred Heart Retreat commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Feast of the Sacred Heart in June. Mrs. Elizabeth Zeller, vice-president; Mrs. Nell Bedell, secretary; and Mrs. Clinton Stinson, treasurer are the officers of Sacred Heart Catechetical Guild.

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Slater Maureen, M.H.S.H. commended the catechists for their invaluable service and dependability during the past two years. This scholastic year the catechists assisted the priests and sisters in teaching 32 of the 77 weekly release time classes in Van Etten, Ithaca and the surrounding area.

At present there is an enrollment of 958 students in release time and after school classes. "Confraternity School Year Religion Course" for the elementary grades and "Advanced Course for Catholic Living" for the high school grades are the texts being used for the 12 year Christian Doctrine Course.

Women's Club To Install Officers At Dinner
Painted Post—Mrs. Joseph R. Smith will be installed as president of the Catholic Women's Club of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church at the annual dinner meeting on June 4.

Notre Dame News Notes
By GERALD BROWN
Spring-Interim—Notre Dame's first Senior Junior Prom is on its way to Elmira. It will arrive on the evening of May 28 at the Mark Twain Hotel.

Czech Reds Make Church Warehouse
Reichenberg, Germany (NC) — The church of the Franciscan convent at Hostinne, Czechoslovakia, has been converted into an artificial silk warehouse, according to word reaching here.

Elmira Area Deaths
Stephen Nemets, 61, of 116 Washington St., Sunday, May 13, 1956. He was a retired crane operator at American Bridge Division of U. S. Steel Corp. Survived by daughter, Mrs. Howard Hoagland of Nashville, Tenn.; two stepdaughters; five grandchildren. Body was by Charles F. Hughes & Son Funeral Home.

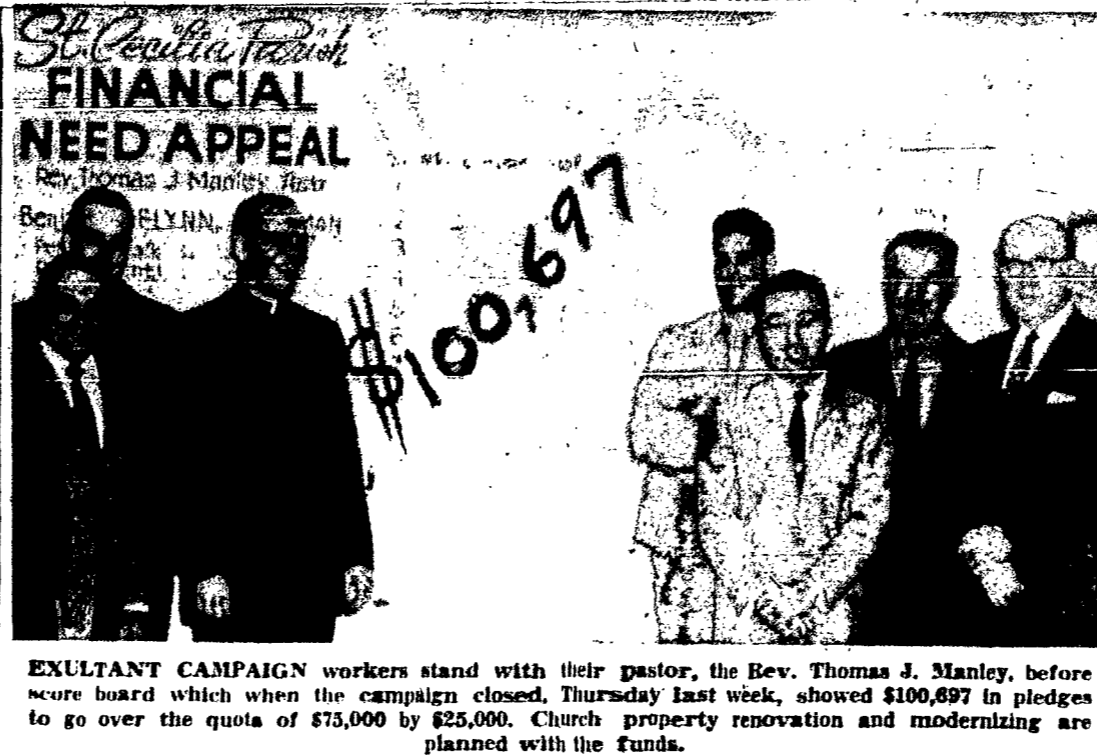
Mrs. Buffomante Heads Rosary Unit Of Coming Church
Corning — Mrs. Angelo Buffomante, newly elected president of the Rosary Society of St. Mary's Church, presided at the first time at the business meeting held in conjunction with the regular monthly gathering May 10.

Horseheads Unit Lists Breakfast
Members of the Altar and Rosary Society of St. Mary's Church, Horseheads, will hold their annual Communion breakfast Sunday morning at 10 in the Mark Twain Hotel.

Hornell Mothers Group Elects New Officer Slate
Hornell — Mrs. Raymond Moretti was elected president of St. Anne's Mothers Club at a meeting in the school recently.

Christians In India Double In 40 Years
New Delhi (NC) — The number of Christians in India has increased from 3,876,000 in 1911 to more than 8,000,000 in 1951, according to statistics published in a Hindu journal.

St. Cecilia Fund Drive Reports \$100,697 Pledged
A total of \$100,697 in pledges was reported at the campaign victory dinner of St. Cecilia Church, Elmira held in the church hall, Thursday night, last week. Funds raised will be used to renovate and modernize the church school, convent and rectory.



EXULTANT CAMPAIGN workers stand with their pastor, the Rev. Thomas J. Manley, before score board which when the campaign closed, Thursday last week, showed \$100,697 in pledges to go over the quota of \$75,000. Church property renovation and modernizing are planned with the funds.

St. Cecilia Fund Drive Reports \$100,697 Pledged

Goal of the campaign was \$75,000 with the campaigners topping it by \$25,000. The Rev. Thomas J. Manley pastor said plans for the major renovation of the school are completed and that bids will probably be asked in the near future. He added that work will be started the day school ends for the summer recess.

May Coronation Rite Conducted In Hornell Church
Hornell — Our Lady of Fatima symbolically was crowned Queen of the May Sunday evening in special ceremonies at St. Ann's Church.

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Msgr. Gannon Addresses Hornell Holy Name Society

Hornell—The increase of personal sanctity by imitation of the example given by Christ and His Blessed Mother was advocated by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Lawrence W. Gannon, V.F., at the Hornell Holy Name Society Communion breakfast Sunday.

Msgr. Gannon addressed 92 members of the society in the Pine Room of St. Ann Church, following Mass in St. Ann Church. "Our Blessed Lord can be our

constant example in our daily living. He, too, lived as a human to teach us how to live among men," Msgr. Gannon said. "Take Christ into your hearts with a warm, vibrant devotion. Approach Him with a child-like confidence, since He has told us that we should become as little children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven," he continued.

"Christ also gave us the perfect example of the love He wishes us to show for His Blessed Mother, with the magnificent generosity which characterized His every act. He gave us, on His deathbed on Calvary, His Mother to be our Mother now and for all eternity," he concluded.



Carrier Pilot

QUALIFIED as a carrier pilot, Navy Ensign Edward C. Lebig, Jr., is the son of E. C. Lebig of 26 E. Third St., Corning. A graduate of the U. of R. before entering the navy, Ensign Lebig qualified by completing six landings aboard the light aircraft carrier USS Salpan in the Gulf of Mexico.

St. Mary Society Plans Installation

Rosary Altar Society of St. Mary Church-Elmira—will hold its annual installation dinner on Wednesday, May 25 at 6:30 p. m. in the school auditorium.

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