

# Seeds of Religious Vocation Nurtured in Diocesan Program

By FATHER ROBERT J. MILLER  
of the Courier-Journal

Many potential religious vocations may be going unrecruited and unfulfilled in United States dioceses. In Rochester one of those dioceses.

Preliminary findings from a survey recently made by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Men in the Peoria, Illinois, diocese indicate much confusion on the role of parents in fostering vocations and on the obligation of following a vocation to the religious life.

Father Joseph Eichler, sociologist at Loyola University in New Orleans, the survey director, commented that "there seems to be a lot of unrecruited vocations, that is, people who would have been potential clerics or religious."

Vocation experts agree that while a vocation is essentially a call from God to serve Him in a specially generous way, the initial seed of attraction and desire planted by God in the heart of a young boy or girl must be cultivated if it is to grow. In the story of a vocation, the home, school and environment all play their part, together with the individual's personal cooperation with God's grace.

The experts also agree that the increased need to foster vocations in our present day world. Paul VI recently stated that



EUGENE E. CUSKER  
Serra Club

"Catholics have a duty to foster vocations not only because of the Church's need for them, but also because the number of vocations to the priesthood are a precise and indisputable index of the vitality of the faith."

Bishop Casey speaking in this year's ordination class said: "The Catholic population of this

Diocese is increasing relatively more rapidly than the number of religious vocations. Many of the parishes in the Diocese are understaffed. Increased enrollment in Catholic schools throughout the Diocese make the shortage of teaching sisters even more acute.

In the face of all this, the Rochester Diocese is not standing still. Over the past few years a many-faceted program has been put into effect to promote vocations to the priesthood, brotherhood and sisterhood. The primary objective is to clarify just what a vocation is, to give encouragement to youngsters, and to answer questions as well as solve objections on the part of parents.

Father Louis Hohman, appointed diocesan director of vocations in September, 1963, reports the following projects: Three altar boy Days of Recollection were held at St. Andrew's Seminary for a total of 325 boys in the Diocese; a census was begun; representatives of ten missionary orders addressed pupils in local Catholic schools; a local priest gave a vocation talk in every elementary and high school of the Diocese; two vocation retreats were held in June at Montour, Falls for seventh and eighth graders. Father Hohman addressed twenty parent groups throughout the past year.

In addition to the above projects this year there are plans for an expanded high school



SISTER ANNE MARY, S.S.I.  
Vocations Director

program, a brochure on the diocesan priesthood, and the formation of a vocation speaker's bureau.

This week Sister Anne Mary was appointed the first full-time director of vocations for the Sisters of St. Joseph. During the past year she served on a committee of three to pro-

vide and direct vocations for her congregation. A vocation director was named in each local convent; a workshop for them was held in November and the high schools and within the grammar schools to a limited extent.

The Sisters of Mercy, with Sister Mary Joseph as Vocation Director, conduct a similar program of promotion. In addition to brochures, slides, open houses, Mercy nuns also have a traveling speakers' bureau during the year an Open House was sponsored in each convent to acquaint the public with the aspects of convent life. Brochures are used throughout and are seeking to reach smaller towns where there is no Catholic high school.

With the advent here of the teaching brothers two years ago, vocations to the brotherhood have taken on new dimensions for the Rochester Diocese.

Brother James Madigan, a Holy Cross brother and principal of Cardinal Mooney High School, reports that in addition to the local clergy, vocation talks during the year, their own regional vocation director spoke to the students in general and the brotherhood in particular. Next year a local faculty promoter will be assigned as the enrollment grows. Brochures concerning the brotherhood are mailed to each student's family.



FATHER HOHMAN  
Diocesan Director

Brother Joseph Clark, an Irish Christian Brother and principal of Bishop Kearney High School, outlined their vocational program as follows: during the year two vocation weeks are observed, with special conferences on the priesthood and brotherhood. A questionnaire circulated at the end of these con-

ferences indicated that twenty per cent of the boy students were interested in the priesthood and another twenty per cent in the brotherhood.

One practical project undertaken this year was the adoption of a deacon at St. Bernard's Seminary by each of the boys' homerooms. The seminarian's picture and biographical details were posted on the bulletin board and the boys prayed for his success throughout the school year.

The fall is not to be outdone in the matter of vocations. In the spring of 1961 the Serra International was founded in Rochester. This is an association of business and professional men whose principal objective is fostering priestly vocations. Eugene R. Cusker, prominent Rochester attorney, is the current president of the Serra Club.

The annual vocation Mass celebrated by Bishop Kearney in March is sponsored by the Serra Club. During the past year their speaker's bureau arranged and conducted workshops in twelve parishes. A panel composed of a priest, sister, brother and layman discussed vocational issues with parents of parochial school students. The Club also exhibits movies on vocations with commentaries to any groups interested.

The Serra Club sponsored the altar boy days of recollection at St. Andrew's Seminary, and distributed over twenty thousand vocation prayer cards during the past year. Further expansion of their effort is planned for the coming year.

To some people these promotional efforts may smack too much of the "Madison Avenue" approach. They will be comforted to know that the Peoria survey also indicated that personal contact with the clergy and religious is the biggest factor in fostering vocations. This same sentiment was expressed recently by Archbishop Philip F. Pocock of Toronto in a talk to the vocation directors of Canada. He said in part: "Promotional techniques are needed to obtain religious vocations, but even more important is that young people see the image of Christ in priests."

The priests, sisters and brothers of the Rochester Diocese are seeking to form this image of Christ in their lives. Countless homes are characterized by a generous Christian spirit. These factors and the diocesan promotional program insure that the seeds of God's grace will bear much fruit in the years to come.

## Graduate Work For Sisters

Four Sisters of Mercy in the Rochester Diocese have been assigned to graduate studies for the coming academic year. Doctorate degrees will be pursued by Sister Rene at Cornell University and Sister Mary Edward at St. Bonaventure University.

Studying for their Master's Degree will be Sister Elean at Marquette University and Sister Marie Raymond at Duquesne University.

## First Communion Class For Exceptional Children

A First Communion class for exceptional and other handicapped children will be organized for Rochester area residents in the autumn.

Parents who wish to enroll children in the class are asked to send name, age, address, parish and school to First Communion Class, 35 Scio St., Rochester 4, N.Y.

## Sr. Declan Heads Notre Dame Sisters Appoint New Principals

Rochester's two Diocesan orders of nuns received appointments last week for the coming year. Assignments were made by Rev. Mother Agnes Cecilia, Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy, and Rev. Mother Mary Bride, Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Mary Declan of the Mercy Sisters has been named principal at Notre Dame High School, Elmira. A member of the Elmira High School faculty since 1959, Sister was chairman of the Social Studies and Guidance Departments.

Before coming to Notre Dame, Sister Mary Declan taught one year at Aquinas Institute and six years at Our Lady of Mercy High School. She is a graduate of Nazareth College and received her master's degree in history this summer from Niagara University.

Sister is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Donovan, 18 Warwick Ave., Rochester.



SISTER DECLAN, principal at Notre Dame High School.

NEW PRINCIPALS appointed

## Supervisors Appointed

Sister Marie Bernard has been appointed Community Supervisor of Schools for the Sisters of St. Joseph by Mother Agnes Cecilia.

## Three St. Joseph Sisters Assigned To Special Posts

Marie Stanislaus, St. Casimir; Sister Mary Dorothy, St. Mary; Elmira; Sister Mary Al. Wayland.

## Carmelites Novena To End At Feast Mass

Solemn closing of the Discepoli Carmelites Novena in honor of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel will be marked at a Solemn Mass in the Carmel chapel, 1931 West Jefferson Rd., Elmira, Thursday, July 18 at 8 a.m.

## 25 Years Ago

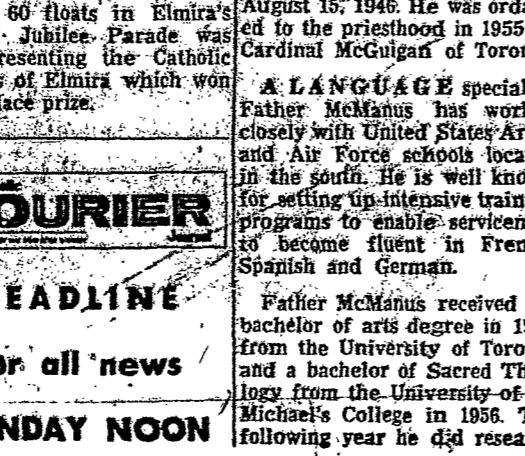
From the files of the Catholic Courier, July 6, 1938:

Sister Mary Rose Miriam Smyth became Reverend Mother Superior of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph. Appointment of Sister M. Helene as Assistant Reverend Mother was announced.

## Franciscan Sisters Rites

Two girls from the Rochester diocese participated in the Reception and Profession ceremonies at St. Elizabeth Motherhouse, Allegany, N.Y., on July 2 and 3.

Miss Kathleen Wallock (right), daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. John Wallock of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Rochester, was one of 24 who received the brown habit of the Allegany Franciscan Sisters and the name Sister M. Christina Michael.



SISTER M. CHRISTINA MICHAEL, one of 24 girls receiving the brown habit of the Allegany Franciscan Sisters.

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## Six Named To Posts On Deanery Units

Six priests were named by Bishop Kearney this week to serve as moderators of deanery units of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

The priests are: Rev. Leo J. Matusewicz, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, to succeed Rev. Joseph Hogan as moderator of the Chemung-Schuyler unit DCCW.

## Basilian Fr. McManus Given Fulbright Award

Rev. John E. McManus, C.S.B., professor of romance languages at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, Texas, and a former faculty member at Aquinas Insti-



FATHER McMANUS

for his thesis on Germanic word origins at the University of Toronto. He was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship to do advanced language studies in Germany, it was learned here today.

Father McManus received his bachelor of arts degree in 1950 from the University of Toronto and a bachelor of Sacred Theology from the University of St. Michael's College in 1956. The following year he did research

## Fisher Names Three To College Faculty

Two associate professors and an assistant registrar have been appointed to the St. John Fisher faculty according to an announcement this week by the Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, president of the college.

EDWARD E. GASSNER will become associate professor of biology and head of the biology department. Julian Granberry was named associate professor of anthropology and linguistics and Joseph A. Valenti assumes the newly created post of assistant registrar of the college.

Gassner, 57, is a native of Utica. He received his bachelor's degree in biology from St. Michael's College, Winoski Park, Vermont. Ten years later he received his Ph.D. from the University of Rochester.

Granberry, 35, received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from Yale University in 1951 and his master's degree from the University of Florida in 1955. He will receive his Ph.D. in anthropology and linguistics from the University of Buffalo this summer.

Valenti, 27, received his bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. Michael's College of the University of Toronto in 1953 and his LL.B. from St. John's University in Brooklyn in 1961.

Valenti lives at 632 Arnett Blvd.

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