Seeds of Religious Vocation Nurtured in Diocesan Program

By FATHER ROBERT J. MILLER

of the Courier Journal

Many potential religious vocations may be going unreached and unrealized in United States dioceses. Is 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 Fichter, sociologist at Loyola University in New Orleans, the survey director, commented that "there seems to be a lot of 'unreached' vocations, that is, people who would have been potential clergy 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 to the increased need to foster vocations in our present day. Pope Paul VI recently stated that

EUGENE R. 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 to 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 300 boys; a diocesan vocation 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 through past year.

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

SISTER ANNE MARY, S.S.J.

Vocation 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 promote and direct vocations for her congregation. A vocation directress 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 vocational director spoke to the students on the subject of vocations 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 questionaire circulated at the end of these conferences 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 laity 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 seventy 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.

St. Declan Heads Notre Dame

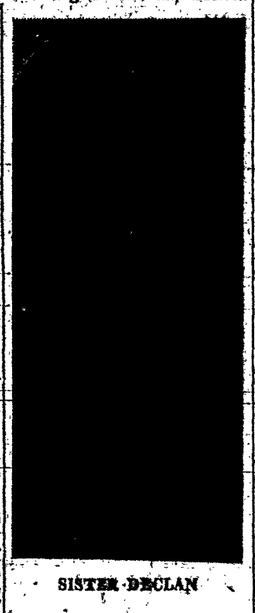
Sisters Appoint New Principals

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 Mercy.

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

NEW PRINCIPALS appointed to parochial schools staffed by the Sisters of Mercy are: Sister Mary Karen, Queen of Peace, Rochester; Sister Mary Irma, St. Ann, Hornell; Sister Mary Conleth, St. Cecilia, Rochester; Sister Mary Brigid, St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; Sister Mary Rosaire, St. James, Rochester.

St. Joseph Sisters named principals to Diocesan Schools include: Sister Mary David, Corpus Christi, Rochester; Sister Anne Maura, Most Precious Blood, Rochester; Sister Doretta, St. Aloysius, Auburn; Sister Marie Stanislaus, St. Casimir, Elmira; Sister Mary Dorothy, St. Mary, Elmira; Sister Mary Albert, Sacred Heart, Perkinsville; Sister Wilma Joseph, St. Joseph, Wayland.

Supervisors Appointed

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

Sister Mary Joseph has been named Community Supervisor of Schools for the Sisters of Mercy by Mother Mary Bride. Sister retains her position as Vocation Director for her order.

Both Sisters will maintain offices at the Diocesan Schools headquarters in the Columbus Civic Center building.

Three St. Joseph Sisters Assigned To Special Posts

SISTER ANNE MARY, secretary to the Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Mother Agnes Cecilia, has been appointed the Community's Vocation Director.

Sister will represent the Community in functions where it would be advisable to have a Vocation Director. She will give vocation talks to parish groups and to students and will work closely with the Mistress of Postulants, Sister Hilda, in the processing of application blanks of prospective postulants.

To help girls develop their potential for God, Church, and Country is the challenge Sister assumes in this new assignment.

SISTER STELLA MARIE, Business Education teacher at Nazareth Academy, has been appointed Secretary to Mother Agnes Cecilia.

Sister earned her Master's degree in Business Education at Boston University. She has also taught on the elementary, secondary, and college levels.

SISTER MARY JOHN has been appointed Public Relations Director of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister has been on the staff of St. Agnes High School, where besides a full teaching program, she was moderator of the School publication, "The Palm."

It is desirable to create a public relations department at this time, a Motherhouse spokesman stated, because the Sisters of St. Joseph is a large organization, numbering almost 1,000 members, whose services are extensive.

This new apostolate will help identify the policies and procedures of the Congregation with the public interest by making better known the Community's care of the handicapped and aged, disturbed children, minority groups, as well as the more widely known areas such as teaching and nursing.

The preparation of vocational literature will also be part of the program assumed by Sister Mary John.

Miss Lockwood Joins Staff

Rita Mary Lockwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Lockwood, 583 Clark St., Waverly received her bachelor of Arts degree in English and Spanish fro Emmanuel College in Boston. She will teach at Notre Dame High School, Elmira, this coming fall.

Wins Scholarship

Henry Clark Lockwood, junior at Notre Dame High School, Elmira, was awarded a full-tuition scholarship in the National Science Foundation program to Northern Illinois University where he will spend eight weeks in science, this summer.

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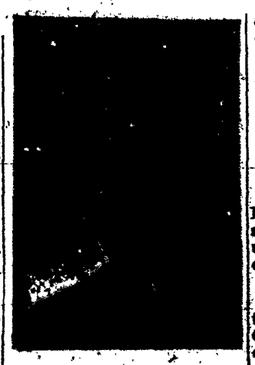
Graduate Work For Sisters

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 Degrees will be Sister Kieran at Marquette University and Sister Marie Raymond at Duquesne University.



FATHER HOGAN

Novena Set

Thirty-second annual Novena in honor of St. Ann will open in St. Patrick's church, Elmira on Saturday, July 18 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Joseph L. Hogan, M.A., S.T.D., a professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, will conduct the Novena and preach the sermons. Daily Masses are at 6:45, 7, 7:30 and 8 a.m. Evening services will start at 7:30.

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. Matuszewski, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen, to succeed Rev. Joseph Hogan as moderator of the Chemung-Schuyler unit DCCW.

Rev. William J. Flynn, curate at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, to succeed Rev. Robert McFiggins in the Tompkins-Tioga area.

Rev. Raymond Ringwood, curate at St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, to succeed Rev James O'Connell, Ontario-Seneca-Yates deanery.

Rev. John L. Coonan, chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, to succeed Rev. William Hickey, Steuben deanery.

Rev. Charles Langworthy, curate at St. Patrick's Church, Mount Morris, to succeed Father Coonan in the Livingston area.

Rev. James S. Russell, curate at St. Michael's Church, Newark, to succeed Rev William Gaynor, Wayne Deanery.

The three priests heading the Monroe, Cayuga, and Corning area units will remain in office — Rev. Robert Kanka of Holy Family Church, Rochester; Rev. Chester Klocek, Holy Family Church, Auburn, and Vincent de Paul Church, Corning. Rev. E. Leo McMannus is diocesan director.

Rev. William Thomas of St.

25 Years Ago

From the files of the Catholic Courier, July 6, 1939

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.

Warning against insidious foreign propaganda designed to draw America into a European War, the Rev. Ignatius Cox, S.J., speaking at the Patriotic Pontifical Mass in Sacred Heart Pro-Cathedral denounced so-called "democratic nations" He called for real American neutrality as advocated by George Washington.

Among 60 floats in Elmira's Diamond Jubilee Parade was one representing the Catholic Churches of Elmira which won fourth place prize.

Curates Honored In Hornell

TESTIMONIAL — Outgoing and incoming assistant pastors of St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Hornell, were guests of honor at a reception in the American Legion Home. From left are the Rev. John Laughlin, newly appointed assistant pastor; Thurlow Gibson, trustee, who presented the testimonial gift to the Rev. Charles Langworthy, center, who is leaving St. Ignatius after five years as assistant pastor; George Dewey, who has been a trustee since the parish was formed, and the Rev. Joseph P. Hafey, pastor of St. Ignatius. (Hornell Evening Times photo)

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