

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 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 Richter, 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 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 is planted by God in the heart of a young boy or girl. It is to 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 in the increased need to foster vocations in our present day. Pope Paul VI recently stated that



EUGENE M. COAKLEY
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 problem and indisputable index of the vitality of the faith."

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

Diocese is increasing rapidly, more rapidly than the number of religious vocations. Many of the vocations in the Diocese are unrecruited. Increased enrollment in C. M. H. S. I. C. schools throughout the Diocese makes 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 Holman, 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 220 boys; a diocesan vocation camp was held in the summer of 1963; a diocesan vocation director was appointed; a diocesan vocation director was appointed; a diocesan vocation director was appointed.

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 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 religious vocation 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 MOHMAN
Diocesan Director

Brother Joseph Clark, a 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 directed 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 lady 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 vocation. Eugene M. Coakley, 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 speakers' 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 the personal contact with the clergy and religious is the biggest factor in fostering vocations. This same sentiment was expressed recently by Archbishop Philip P. 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.

25 Years Ago

From the files of the Catholic Courier, July 4, 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" as the Monroe, Cayuga and Corning area units will remain in office — Rev. Robert Kanka of Holy Family Church, Rochester; Rev. Chester Kloczek, Holy Family Church, Auburn, and Vincent de Paul Church, Corning. Rev. E. Leo McManus is diocesan director. Rev. William Thomas of St. Fourth place prize.

Amog 60 floats in Elmira's Diamond Jubilee Parade was one representing the Catholic Churches of Elmira which won Rev. William Thomas of St. Fourth place prize.

St. Declan Heads Notre Dame

Sisters Appoint New Principals

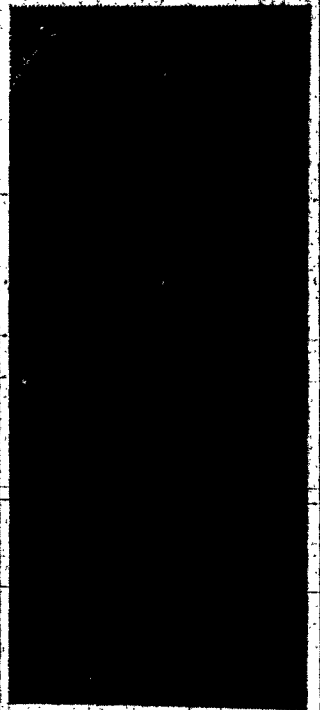
Rochester's two Diocesan orders of nuns received appointments last week for the coming year. Assignments were made by Rev. Mother Agnes Cecilia, Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy, and Rev. Mother Mary Bride, Mother General of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

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 1958, 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.

NEW PRINCIPALS appointed to parochial schools staffed by the Sisters of Mercy are: Sister Mary Karen, Queen of Peace, Rochester; Sister Mary Irma,



SISTER DECLAN

St. Ann, Hornell; Sister Mary Conleth, St. Cecilia, Rochester; Sister Mary Bridget, 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 Mauri, Most Precious Blood, Rochester; Sister Dorothy, 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 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 Hilja, 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

Miss Lockwood Joins Staff

Rita Mary Lockwood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert N. Lockwood, 533 Clark St., Wayland, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Spanish from Emmanuel College in Boston. She will teach at Notre Dame High School, Elmira, this coming fall.

Wise 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.

The Catholic COURIER

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE, Journal

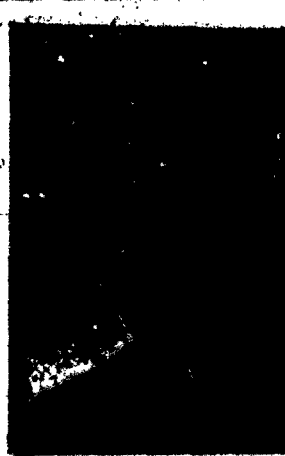
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Graduate Work For Sisters

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 ROGAN

Novena Set

Thirty-second annual Novena in honor of St. Ann will open in St. Patrick's church, Elmira on Saturday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Joseph L. Rogan, M.A., S.T.D., professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, will conduct the Novena and preach the sermons. Daily Masses are at 6:45, 7:30 and 8 a.m. Evening services will start at 7:30.

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, 55 Scio St., Rochester 4, N.Y.

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

Curates Honored in Hornell

TESTIMONIAL — Ongoing 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 Loughlin, newly appointed assistant pastor; Thurlo 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. Hakey, pastor of St. Ignatius. (Hornell Evening Times photo)

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