



MAITRE D' at the House of Hospitality is Dick Keene, Resident Director. Here, he's getting ready to set the tables for the evening meal.



BEHIND THE SCENES at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality is its Board of Directors. Representatives of the board shown here are from left: Ann Zagaib, Arthur P. Farren (President), Rev. Raymond M. Kenny (Chaplain) and Thomas F. Scahill.

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality Where Church of Poor is Reality

By FATHER ROBERT KANKA

Be it ever so humble, there's no place like St. Joseph's House of Hospitality at 402 South Avenue.

It's rather drab exterior hides a story of Christian concern for the poor that goes back more than a quarter of a century to the days of the Great Depression.

The House has had an interesting history, which includes not only its well-known "bread-line" but also a spectrum of social and apostolic interests which have been sparked or in some way shaped by the House.

Back in the summer of 1933 while attending one of the Socially Summer Schools of Catholic Action at Fordham U. in New York City, Father Benedict Ehmann, music professor at St. Bernard's Seminary met Dorothy Day.

"This woman, who'd founded the Catholic Worker movement with Peter Maurin, was the talk of the summer school," he remembers. "A former Communist, now a convert to the Church, she was giving her life to serving Christ in the poor."

Invited by the Rochester priest to come here to discuss the apostolate to the poor, Miss Day electrified an overflow crowd who'd come to hear her at the Columbus Civic Center.

Her challenge to "do something" found a responsive echo in a group of young Catholics who'd been studying the social

encyclicals of the Church under the direction of Father Ehmann and Father George Vogt. They decided to start a "bread-line" for the destitute men walking the streets of Rochester in large numbers in those depression days.

The first place they worked from, was the St. Peter Claver center on Rome St. Established by the pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Father George Weinmann, this was a center for catechetical and social work among the Negroes. Almost immediately the line was feeding 200 men daily.

Later a store front on Clinton Avenue North was rented for the breadline location, and still later an abandoned Protestant church hall on Almira St. offered a site for the work.

"The Group" which is about as formal a name as the participants working in the project have ever had, finally located a 3-story site on South Avenue in 1941 and has held forth there ever since.

JAMES E. CUFF, then Monroe County attorney and a generous friend of the House, helped obtain this building. The move into the new quarters was made on the feast of St. Joseph, Mar. 19, 1941. The house was named after him and placed under his special patronage.

Support of the House has been "by Divine Providence, with special help from St. Joseph," smiled Art Farren, now serving as president of the House's Advisory Board. It's often been in debt, but not too far, usually operating on a hand-to-mouth basis, but as "The Group" says: "Somehow, we've kept open!"

When the House moved to South Avenue, it was incorporated as a non-profit, tax-free corporation. One of the few formal steps that has characterized its rather casual history, it was taken in order to avoid any unnecessary taxes, and it surely has been non-profit!

Most of the time, St. Joseph's House has been fortunate enough to have a Resident Director, Thomas Scahill was the first to take the responsibility in 1941, with several successors

since. Present incumbent is Dick Keene, who's in his 3rd year on the job.

"We're lucky to have Dick," said Father Raymond Kenny who acts as priest-advisor for the House. "He's done a responsible and competent job."

At present the House provides an evening meal at 5:30 p.m. daily for everyone who shows up, no questions asked. The line varies from 60 to 100 "guests", depending on the time of the month. ("Small pension checks are usually used up near the end of the month," Farren said.) They don't keep a regular count, but when someone checked for a week recently, the average was 93 men a day.

The House of Hospitality has done more than hand out meals and clothing to indigent men, however. It has also served as a burning-glass to focus Catholic zeal in many areas.

In the late '30's, the House was the home of "The Rochester Catholic Labor College." Main aim was to acquaint people with the social doctrines of the church. A staff of lecturers rotated in speaking, and the "College" presented a weekly article in the Catholic Courier.

Among their regulars in those days were Monsignor Erasmus Burns of St. Bernard's Seminary and Dr. Aaron Abel, head of Nazareth College's History department. This venture went on for three years, with lectures at the House and also at St. Andrew's Seminary.

"The Group" themselves maintained a Tuesday night weekly discussion club for over 10 years, utilizing the talent of many local priests and laymen, as well as sharing the services of any visitor to the city who had something to offer.

In the early '50's, a praesidium of the Legion of Mary was started at the House. Father Raymond Kenny was its first spiritual director, followed by Father William Jamison, Redemptorist priest. The Legionaires were working on two different apostolates, one with the

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Nazareth Professor

High Award for Miss White

Miss Rosemary White, professor of English at Nazareth College, will receive the Commander's Award of the Order of St. Genesius from Bishop Kearney at the annual Theatre Day luncheon this Saturday, April 3 at Cardinal Mooney High School.

The award is the highest given by the National Catholic Theatre Conference.

A Nazareth Academy graduate, Miss White is an alumna of the University of Rochester. She did graduate work at Radcliff College and received a B. Litt. degree from Oxford University.

Other features of the day will include the awarding of the Urban Nagle Memorial Award as well as various individual school awards.

Program includes productions, panels, workshops and lectures aimed at children's educational and community theatre groups.

Brother Humberto Almazara, former Mexican movie star now studying for the missionary priesthood, will give the major address.

Production of "Fantasticks" will be given by Music Theatre of Rochester.

Sister Edwina, R.S.M., is theatre day chairman. Rochester Unit chairman of N.C.T.C. is Sister M. Claudia, S.S.J.



MISS ROSEMARY WHITE

St. Simon's Rector

Cleric Cites Need For Improved Race Dialogue

There are fewer lines of communication between Negroes and whites in Rochester than in most northern cities, a Negro clergyman told the Catholic Interracial Council (C.I.C.) last week.

Rev. St. Julian Simpkins, Jr., rector of St. Simon's Episcopal church, said that while there is some dialogue going on in a few areas, "for the rank-and-file of either group," there's little natural, easy communication in Rochester. He was guest speaker, and his parish acted as host, for the C.I.C. gathering.

(A news story in the Times-Union of March 30 reported that Father Simpkins is working with Mayor Frank T. Lamb on plans for a new committee designed to promote interracial understanding. "It would be patterned after the Mayor's Friendly Relations Committee in Cincinnati, where the Father Simpkins served, before coming here.")

The Episcopal cleric told an overflow crowd at the meeting that he'd had spent two weeks in January studying the Woodlawn community organization in Chicago. This is the locale of an Industrial Areas Foundation project, which has been the subject of much discussion in Rochester since Saul Alinsky was invited to come here by the Council of Churches.

"When the new chapel is built and we start saying Mass there, I'll remind the people to remember their prayers, their factors of Hilton in their Masses and prayers," Father Graser wrote.

"Organization is one way of dissolving the ghetto, mentally," he concluded. "The other way is chaotic disturbances."



FATHER SIMPKINS 'some dialogue'

community, they must have some power, he went on. If they don't have money or prestige, they must rely on their numbers in some organized way in which the Negro can enter into the areas of community life which really effect him, the veteran pastor reasoned.

Basically, community organization is a grass-roots thing, using local leadership potential and developing it.

Former pastors include, Rev. Walter Kenny, Rev. Benedict Ehmann, Rev. Joseph F. Hogan.

Bishop Casey To Dedicate Odessa Church

Odessa—Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey will dedicate the new St. Benedict's Church at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, April 4, according to the Rev. Leo J. Matuszewski, pastor.

The parish began in 1948 with children being given religious instructions in a cleaned-up chicken coop. Later on classes were held in the old offices of Cotton-Hanton, Horton Funeral Chapel and several private homes in Odessa.

The next really large step was in 1956 when the basement church was built at a cost of \$20,000 and Masses were said here until December of 1964.

The upper church was started in July of 1964 and completed in December at a cost of \$45,000. Due to many projects and the hard work of many people the parish debt has been reduced from the total \$65,000 to \$12,000 at the present time.

The Decker Construction Company of Elmira was contractor of St. Benedict's. A parish buffet dinner will follow the dedication and Reverend Leo Matuszewski, pastor of St. Mary's of the Lake, Watkins Glen and St. Benedict's urge you to make this a real parish celebration.

Former pastors include, Rev. Walter Kenny, Rev. Benedict Ehmann, Rev. Joseph F. Hogan.

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Hilton Couple Donates Chapel To Missions

A chapel will be built in east Africa as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Clemens Rosenbach of Hilton. The couple's will gave \$2500 for the missions.

Rev. John F. Duffy, diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith Society, forwarded the fund to the Maryknoll missionaries who announced they will build the chapel in Musoma, Tanzania.

The mission pastor, Father John Graser is a native of Syracuse. He is now using a cotton storehouse for Sunday Mass.

"When the new chapel is built and we start saying Mass there, I'll remind the people to remember their prayers, their factors of Hilton in their Masses and prayers," Father Graser wrote.

25 Years Ago

Father Edward Lintz of the Rochester Diocese achieved the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Father Lintz was ordained to the priesthood in Fribourg on Mar. 27, 1938. He had been a member of St. Bernard's Seminary, Class of 1938 but completed his studies at Fribourg. He is a former member of the faculty of Aquinas Institute.

The Catholic Schools of Cookery started their second group of parish evenings at the Holy Apostles Church Hall. Many of their tempting recipes were printed in the Apr. 4th issue of the Courier.

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