



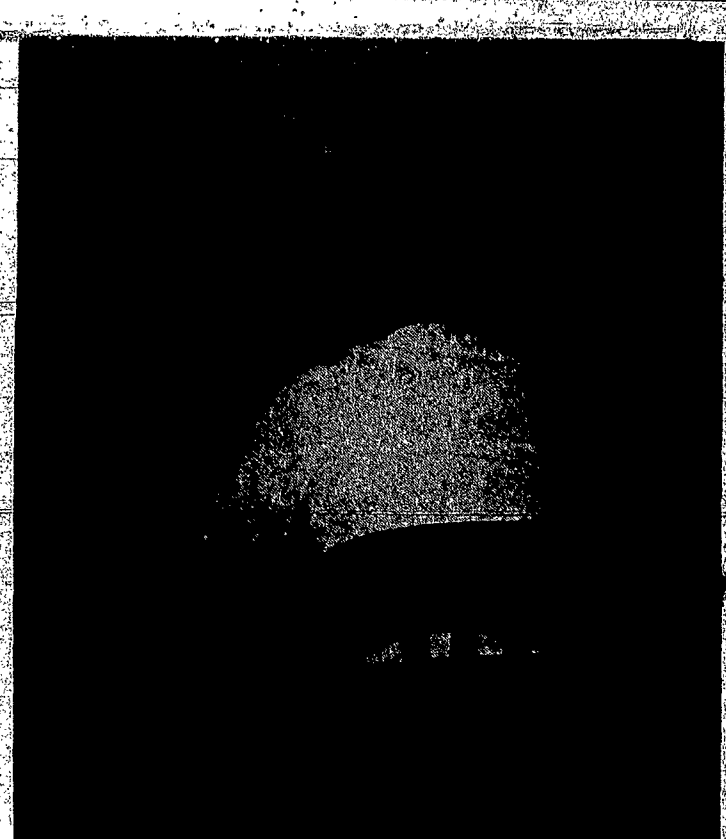
BARS IN HIS LIFE are commonplace for a prison chaplain. Here Father watches a scene in "the yard," as men come in from recreation period.



VISITING THE SICK in the hospital infirmary is part of the chaplain's regular rounds.



MADE IN AUBURN (Prison, that is). Life-like statue of St. Martin de Porres in the chapel was carved by one of the prisoners.



INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTIONS and counseling sessions are an important part of Father Gardner's work.

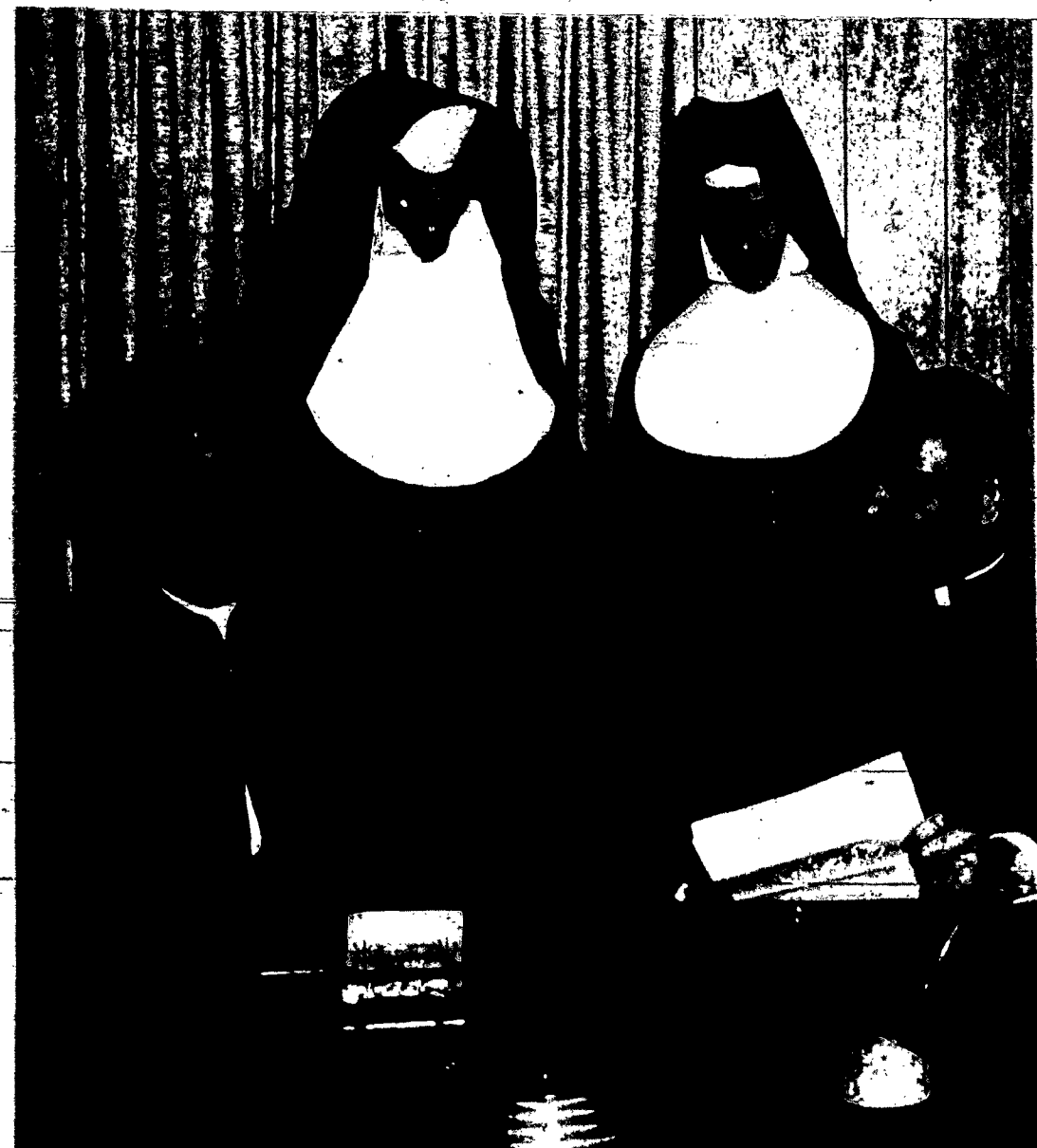
The Catholic COURIER

Journal

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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PAGE 5



HOME-SCHOOL PANEL. Behind this panel for the May 15 CEC Conference are these principal figures: (from left) Mrs. James Scott, panelist, Sister Mary Joseph, RSM, coordinator, Sister M. Caritas, SSI, recorder, and Monsignor Albert L. Simonelli, moderator. Other panelists will be Father Eugene Weis, Sister Mary Terrance, RSM, and David J. DeMarle.

Parental Zeal Sparks May 15 School Confab

A year-long exploration in depth of the problems and needs facing Catholic schools, will culminate in a unique venture on Saturday, May 15, at Nazareth College — the Spring Conference of the Catholic Educational Congress (CEC).

The new group is made up of parents and educators, who are searching for ways to promote cooperation between home, parish and school toward the overall goal of increasing the excellence of Catholic education.

Basically a grass-roots development, the C.E.C. steering committee has been working in an "open forum" meeting, was closely with Father William M. Roche, Superintendent of

Schools in the Diocese, who has been providing counsel and encouragement to its members.

GROUNDWORK for the May 15 conference was laid by a series of interviews with parents, pastors, principals and teachers, arranged by the steering committee headed by Gardner Wales, of St. Thomas the Apostle parish. This was to get a survey of viewpoints and opinions as to the most pressing needs of Catholic schools in our diocese were, and to elicit positive suggestions.

A preliminary discussion on the feasibility of having a diocesan "open forum" meeting, was held in December at Nazareth College. Representatives from

parishes and the three teaching orders put their heads together, and the result was the decision to hold the Spring Conference.

"Education Belongs to the Whole Community," is the theme of the conference, which will start at 9:30 a.m. with a presentation of "The Role of Pastor, Principal and Parent."

After luncheon in the college cafeteria, participants have a choice of six panels, three at 1 p.m. and three at 2:15 p.m. Each of them is planned to afford a thorough discussion of some vital area in Catholic education.

The earlier panels will deal with:

- "Meeting Individual Needs in the Catholic School";
- "Role and Problems of the Lay Teacher";
- and "Finances in the Catholic School."

The 2:15 p.m. panels deal with:

- "Function of the Home-School Association";
- "Communication between Home and School";
- and "Use of Community Resources."

The panel co-ordinators are gratified by the enthusiasm shown for the Conference idea, not only by parents but by pastors and teachers. They feel that they've lined up six panels with knowledgeable people, who can focus on some of the most vital subjects of concern in Catholic education.

A similar type of organization has been pioneering in diocesan wide involvement, the Westchester County Educational Conference. It was from hearing of the success of this group, that the Rochester counterpart was motivated into being.

"We feel that this cooperative effort will lead to creative and dedicated action by parents in those areas where the school can use their particular abilities," stated steering committee chairman, Gardner Wales.

"The C.E.C. seeks to provide the atmosphere for active and

positive involvement of parents, pastors and teachers," he explained.

Pastors in the diocese have been asked to send a working team to the conference, to include a priest, the school principal, teachers and parent representatives.

Individual registrations may be made at any rectory, or by calling Mrs. John Saxe at GL 8-0286. The \$5.00 fee includes luncheon, workshop kit and a copy of the proceedings to be published after the conference. Sing Sing prison, 54 men and 1

Finds, TV, Deep Freeze in Pueblo Village

You can't tell a book by its cover.

This was the conclusion of Army chaplain Father Gerard Gefell, who was recently invited to come to a simple Indian adobe house in Pena Blanca, New Mexico, for a post-baptismal "feast."

Father Gefell, a native Rochesterian now making a career as a military chaplain, was spending a few days visiting an old chaplain-friend, now pastor of the Franciscan mission at Pena Blanca. Father Gefell had said the last Mass on Sunday, baptized two infants after Mass, and been invited to their parents' home after.

"The Pueblo Indian village is deceiving. On riding into it, all homes look alike — square, flat adobe walls and flat roofs — rather uninviting appearance," he said.

To his surprise, the interior were quite different!

"Open the front door, and you find a modern home, with plastered and painted walls, TV, deep freezer and modern kitchen," he reported.

Not only was the appearance of the home a pleasant surprise, but so was the food — "delicious and plentiful," the appreciative chaplain said.

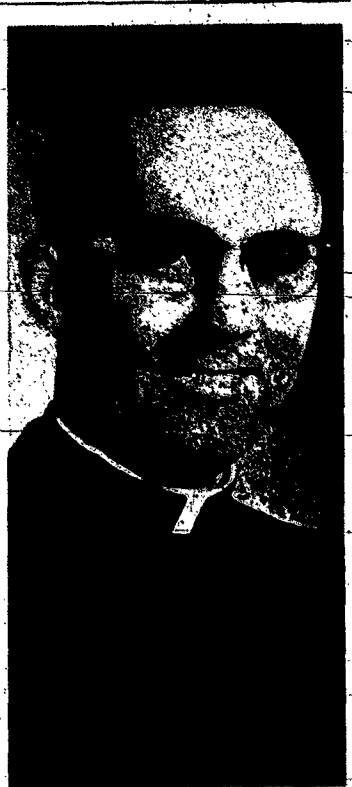
There was one drawback. After the meal was over, the family told him cheerfully:

"Now we go to the home of the other child who was baptized!"

Father Gefell's appetite wasn't quite up to another full meal, but he went along to be convivial!

The pastor of the Franciscan mission at Pena Blanca is Father Angelico Chavez, who served as an Army chaplain with Father Gefell in Germany in 1950. He asked the Rochester priest to officiate at the closing of his 40 Hours devotion, before Father Gefell returned to his post at Fort Lee, Va.

En route, Father Gefell managed a quick reunion with his twin-brother Father Joseph, at Atlanta, Ga. Father Joseph expects to be assigned to Suttgart, Germany next month as Deputy 7th Army Chaplain.



FATHER MORAN Appointed To Retreat House

Father Richard Moran, C.S.S.R., has been appointed a Retreat Master at the Notre Dame Retreat House, according to the Rector, Father Michael Downing. He comes to Rochester after two years in retreat work in the Hartford, Conn. area.

"Father Moran was a student of mine in the Redemptorist minor seminary in Northeast Pa.," commented Father Downing, "and I know that he will do a great job here."

The new appointee succeeded Father William Jamison, leaving due to ill health, after 12 years at the Rochester retreat center.

Father Moran was ordained in 1961. His first assignment was in parish work at Most Holy Redeemer Church in New York City. From there, he went to Suffield, Conn. to St. Alphonsus College, Redemptorist philosophy house. Residing at the college, he has concentrated on retreat work for the past two years.

Father Gardner

His Flock is Under Lock and Key

If the Diocesan Census gets to Father Clarence Gardner's flock, he will be able to report instantly just how many Catholics he has in his charge. (As of last week, the total was 850.)

All his parishioners are under lock and key!

Father Gardner is Catholic chaplain at Auburn State Prison in Auburn.

While Father Gardner has no trouble keeping track of his flock, this doesn't mean that they are all attending Mass. He estimates that about 200-225 men come to Mass each Sunday.

"I'd be amazed if most of them did come," he says with a wry smile. "Let's face it—if they were all good Catholics, they wouldn't be here!"

Nonetheless, the rugged-built chaplain works hard at developing strong religious attitudes in the men who are trying to be sincere about their faith.

"As I see it, a big part of my job is trying to replace criminal attitudes with well-grounded Catholic attitudes," he explains.

Ordinarily, he feels, a crime is preceded by a "criminal attitude." While not easy to define, this means a mental attitude in which a man is likely to react to serious stress or to solve his problems, by committing a crime.

"If I can persuade a man to build his attitudes on religious motivation, he won't turn to crime to solve his problems," Father Gardner believes.

After six years as a prison chaplain, Father Gardner has no illusions about the difficulty of this goal. On the other hand, he is not cynical or despairing.

"I know enough men now who are out, who have gone straight after leaving here, and whose lives look promising for the future, to keep up my confidence," he smiles.

True enough, the figures show that about 40 per cent of the men now at Auburn Prison will be back again later on some new sentence, but this doesn't discourage Father Gardner.

"This is a maximum-security prison. Nobody is here who isn't serving at least a year or more. And by the time most of our inmates arrive here, they've already been in several other institutions along the trail."

The prison in which Father Gardner spends his working days is one of New York State's oldest. (It will be 150 years old next year.) It was within these walls that the first electric chair for executions was developed. One William Kemmerer was its first victim on Aug. 6, 1890. Before the state decided to transfer all electrocutions to Sing Sing prison, 54 men and 1

woman were executed at Auburn.

One of the distinguishing features of the Auburn jail is a large copper statue of a Colonial soldier, standing guard atop the administration building. The "current model dates from 1848, when it replaced a similar wooden figure. Weighing 600 pounds, the rifle-carrying soldier is known far and wide as "Copper John."

The problem of helping rebuild lives which, at this point, are failures, is a constant one facing a prison chaplain.

"If a man wants to make a new future, he has the help available here. He can continue his education — we have high school courses up to a Regents diploma, and college courses by correspondence. He can qualify for parole by good behavior. (The majority of the men who leave Auburn Prison, go out on parole.) And, most important from my viewpoint, he can rebuild his life on moral and religious principles, if he really wants to," Father Gardner commented.

Father Gardner has a personal interview with each new Catholic prisoner, soon after the man's entry to Auburn. He is available for counseling whenever a prisoner asks to see him.

The high point of his religious program—as it is anywhere in the Church—is when his flock is gathered together for Sunday Mass.

A huge auditorium (capacity, 1,400) doubles as a chapel and at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, it manages to look pretty much like a Catholic church.

The transformation is accomplished by pulling back the curtains on a recessed altar, and by rolling out four individual altars complete with vigil lights. Add to that, small stations of the cross which fit the windowills of the auditorium,

and you have a very devotional setting for the Mass.

"The men have made most of our chapel shrines, stations, etc.," Father Gardner states proudly, "and we feel they've done a fine job."

Father Gardner says that what he likes best is to talk to a man who is really trying to change his life for the better.

"And what I like least," he said grimly, "is to see a familiar face returning to prison. It makes me wonder if I've failed him in some way."

After six years in prison work, Father Gardner admits that the job is often frustrating.

"But," he says philosophically, "as I tell the men, in this life, you don't have to succeed to please God, but you have to try to succeed. I tell myself that Christ Himself wasn't successful in winning over all His own contemporaries."

The occasional successes that do emerge, help keep up his morale, he mentioned:

"It's like fishing for muskies," (inland game fish) he summarized, "You don't get a strike very often, but when you do, it makes all the fishing worthwhile."

—Father Robert Kenke



CONFERRING WITH WARDEN J. E. LaVallee is Father Gardner in this shot. Cooperation on part of the prison authorities with the prison chaplains is "excellent," Father Gardner notes.

Do You Want Your Picture In The Courier?

Our product has proved to be too successful!

Every lady with a pretty face or a pretty hat—or both—wants to have her picture in the Courier now that it's printed on the Christopher Press's new offset equipment.

Our photographer, Paul Contestable, has been flooded with phone calls—"Our parish is having a card party, can we have a picture of the committee in the Courier?" "Our club is having a fashion show..." "Our school is going to have a special meeting..."

We're certainly glad there's so much activity in our Diocese and we want to continue to report it all in words and pictures—but we just have to tighten up and we're sure you'll be glad to help us.

We will continue to have our photographer cover diocesan events—and parish, school or other group events of diocesan significance. But we'll have to rely on groups who are promoting a cause or a project to arrange for their own photographer to take their pictures and send the photo along with the story to be published in the Courier.

When you stop to realize there are now 156 parishes in our Diocese and at least twice that number of organizations you can understand why we have to make this our rule.

And because reproduction is so clear, be sure you send us a sharp, well posed picture. If your event is worth time and effort to make it a success, we think you will also consider it worth investing in a professional photographer to take the picture for you.

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