

Moving With The Times

By GERARD McMAHON

(This is the third in a series on the Legion of Mary in the Diocese of Rochester. Today's article deals with the spirit of renewal now being felt in this apostolic organization.)

Members of the legion of Mary never tell the elevator man that they see he is having his ups and downs. They never ask tall people how the air is 'up there,' and they would not even consider asking a barber if he runs a clip joint.

Charity is one reason, but a special feeling of camaraderie is another. Legionaries know how these people must feel because legionaries are frequently asked "Will the Legion of Mary be able to change in a changing Church?"

Legionaries feel that the answer is obvious, and somebody is just 'funnin' them, but too often the question is asked with a serious face and it's apparent that the questioner really means it.

The Legion of Mary may appear unchanging on the surface, but let us look at a few of the new works now being done in Rochester and it's vicinity, and at some of the Legion rules which have been changed to meet the demands of the times.

New Works Underway

Some legionaries are now helping alcoholics and the families of alcoholics. They are preparing themselves for the task by seeking professional guidance from A.A. and other organizations and individuals.

Other Legionaries are studying Spanish so that they may be better able to speak with the Puerto Rican people who have come to Rochester in large numbers in recent years.

There are Legionaries teaching elderly men and women to make things with their hands in an occupational therapy approach.

There are Legionaries befriending down-trodden men at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. (See accompanying picture.)

There are Legionaries manning Catholic information booths at both the Monroe County and Chemung County Fairs this week.

There are Legionaries working long hours with retarded children.

There are Legionaries asking people of all races, nationalities, and religions if they would care to know more about the Catholic Church.

This list is just a sample. Some of the works that are being done are old, like visit-

ing the sick and signing Auxiliary members to say the Rosary asked for by the Blessed Mother at Lourdes and Fatima.

The Legion abandons no work simply because it is old. The Legion closes its eyes to no spiritual work, no matter how new.

Last month, at a meeting of Rochester area officers, it was reported that fifty persons from a comparatively small section of the city had returned to the Sacraments after Legion of Mary visits. There is something so old, yet ever so new, about a soul returning to God.

Every month, at the meeting of Legion of Mary officers, the question is asked, "Have any new works been undertaken?" Each month the list grows longer. Usually, the work is inspired by some change in the Church. Last month, a group reported organizing and participating in ecumenical discussion.

Can the Rules Change?

Legionaries have always worked in twos, but because of need and circumstances, it is

now permitted for individual members to visit hospitals and nursing homes and to give catechetical instructions.

Legionaries always held their meetings and performed their work within the boundaries of their home parish, but now, due to circumstances, Legionaries from 'outside parishes' are working in the inner city.

Legionaries have always used the handbook as a guide for discussions at the meetings, but now well established groups are using discussion periods to learn more of the Bible and the New Liturgy.

When, with the experience gained throughout the world, a change in Legion rules is thought necessary, there is excellent machinery to set it in motion.

If you meet members of the Legion of Mary, and you have to ask them if the Legion can change in a changing Church, go right ahead, but please smile when you ask!

Next week: What the Legion of Mary means to the individual member.



JUNIOR LEGIONARY Tom Driscoll, helping out with youth program at St. Martin de Porres center, checks to be sure everybody has enough to eat at a little party.

The Right to be Generous

Dallas — (RNS) — Religious groups must cooperate with the government in relief and social welfare programs for the common good, but the church-state separation principle should never be ignored, a Roman Catholic bishop told the United Church of Christ Council for Health and Welfare Services here.

Bishop Raymond J. Gallagher of Lafayette, Ind., delivering the keynote address before denominational welfare workers,

said that government assistance is a matter of the state contributing to the welfare of society when people at the local level are unable to provide the needed help.

Today, said the prelate, it is now a question whether welfare programs should be public or private.

"It is a necessity of both," he stated. "It is not a matter of one progressing at the expense of the other, it is a demand that

they develop together. It is not a matter of hitching oneself to the other's star, it is a matter of both being clearly identified in the national firmament."

Bishop Gallagher, a former secretary of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, Washington, D.C., noted that the Catholic Church has made "considerable progress in redefining our welfare programs so as to recognize the necessity of federal, state and local programs in meeting the increased needs of individuals and families."

In his former position with Catholic Charities, he said, he early appreciated the welfare efforts of other religious groups and their representatives.

"I must say, not as a declaration of fact, but as an admission of my own limitation, that I was truly amazed at what I learned from my association with men and women of faiths differing from my own," the bishop continued.

"I learned that love thy neighbor was not an exclusive thing with Roman Catholics, but the central motivating force of spiritual and material concern for the welfare of all.

"I learned that my own efforts could only be strengthened from my association with brothers and sisters of other faiths and that previous isolation served only to limit and weaken whatever good there was in the things about which I was concerned."

4 Denominations Build a Church

Kansas City, Mo. — (RNS) — Plans were announced here for a new inner-city church to be built and operated jointly by Roman Catholics and three Protestant communions.

The new structure, expected to cost about \$400,000 to build and furnish, is believed to be the first such cooperative venture ever undertaken on the local parish level.

Participants include the regional bodies of the Episcopal, United Presbyterian and Catholic Churches and the United Church of Christ. To be called St. Mark's church, the new structure will be used as a place of worship by all four bodies.

In addition, the new church is expected to feature regular ecumenical prayer services and religious education activities. Other services planned for St. Mark's include home care, counseling, service to parolees, pre-school and youth programs, services for the elderly, job and housing placement and tutorial services.

For Roman Catholics in the area, St. Mark's, according to the announcement, will be a "chapel of ease." Under Catholic regulations, such a chapel is a place of worship apart from the regular parish church, established for the convenience of the people.

Within a five-block radius of the new church are some 15,000 residents, most of whom are Negroes with low incomes, living in low-rent public housing projects. Most residents of the area are not now active in any church, according to the planners of the new project.

Technically, St. Mark's will be constructed and owned by the United Church of Christ and the United Presbyterian Church. The two have been working together locally in the United Inner City Services (UICS), a joint venture of First

Presbyterian and First Congregational churches. Staff services during the planning period were provided by UICS.

Buildings now housing First Presbyterian and First Congregational will be sold to provide approximately \$200,000—or half the construction costs of St. Mark's. In addition, the Board for Homeless Ministries of the United Church of Christ and the Board of National Missions of the United Presbyterian Church have each pledged \$50,000 to the venture. The remaining \$100,000 is being sought from corporations, foundations and individuals.

Operating costs, estimated at \$100,000 a year, will be shared equally by the four participating church bodies—the Western Association of the Missouri Conference of the UCC, the Kansas City Presbytery of the UPUSA, the Episcopal Diocese of West Missouri and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

Polish Pageant At Paterson

Paterson — (NC) — Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson will celebrate a solemn Mass in St. John the Baptist cathedral here Aug. 20 to mark the 1,000th anniversary of Christianity in Poland. Bishop Alexander M. Zaleski of Lansing, Mich., will preach.

A pageant depicting the 1,000 years will be held the following day at Montclair State Teachers College, at which Gov. Richard J. Hughes will be the principal speaker.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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