

Dedication, Open House At New Elmira Convent

The new convent for nuns who teach at Notre Dame High School, Elmira, will be open to the public Sunday, Sept. 25, from 2 to 5 p.m.

"Color makes the difference," those who've had a preview say of the new home for 34 Sisters of Mercy.

Bishop Kearney will bless the convent, including the chapel designed by Sister Mary Eric, at a Mass tomorrow at 11 a.m. Haskell and Connor were architects for the convent; Welliver Construction Co. was general contractor.



Sister Rose Alma strides joyfully into Rochester's airport to greet nuns after her two years in Brazil mission outpost. With her is Maria Jose de Macedo from Matela who will attend Nazareth College this year.

Home for Three Weeks

Back in the States for the first time in two years, Sister Rose Alma Hayes arrived in Rochester on Sept. 15 from her Community's mission in Matela, Brazil, for a three-week stay-on business. Sister Rose Alma was the first of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester to be missioned in South America and has served as the Superior of the steadily growing group, now totaling nine Sisters, ever since the convent was opened in December of 1964.



Speaker

Dorothy Day, widely known author and lecturer, will speak at the University of Rochester lower Strong auditorium Wednesday, Oct. 5, at 8 p.m. Her visit to Rochester is sponsored by the U of R Newman Club. Her talk, "Who is my Brother's Keeper?" will be open to the public. She is the editor of the Catholic Worker newspaper and founder of the Catholic Worker movement.

Working with the Irish Oblate Fathers, in the Diocese of Brooklyn-born Bishop Dom Benedito Cascia, the Rochester nuns direct all of the public schools in the two towns of Matela and Sao Simon, with a total enrollment of about 1200 students, as well as conducting clinics and doing catechetical work with adults and children.

This coming December 1968, they will open a second convent in still another town in the area, Cachoeira Alta, where their work will expand along the same lines.

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files, Sept. 25, 1941)

The Hovey Estate, Geneva, was acquired as a site for diocesan Laymen's Retreat House and Mission of the Redemptorist Fathers, Retreat Master of the 30-room house located on the 14-acre estate is Father John P. Murphy, C.S.S.R. Charles A. Tucker is president of the League.

Bishop Kearney presided at religious services and exercises Sept. 23 for the dedication of the new auditorium at Our Lady of Mercy High School.

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Journal

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Syracuse Priest

'Old Pro' in a New Role

(Special to the Catholic Courier Journal)

Syracuse — The priest selected to coordinate the new National Catholic Office for Radio and Television is an "old pro" in the entertainment field.

Monsignor William J. Shannon, administrator of Syracuse's Immaculate Conception Cathedral parish, was a well-known radio singer in the thirties, before he began studying for the priesthood.

As "Jackie" Shannon, he was a popular singer for the CBS radio network from 1935 to 1939. He then entered St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester and was a member of the ordination class of 1943.

The 55-year-old priest recalls directing two or three seminary musicals while he was studying at the Lake Avenue institution.

Monsignor Shannon will be "on loan" from the Syracuse diocese, while he helps the newly established Catholic radio-television office get underway.

A direct result of Vatican II's concern for the communication media, the new office was set

up by the Bishops of the United States last year. Auxiliary Bishop John A. Donovan of Detroit, chairman of the bishop's commission for radio and TV, secured the services of Monsignor Shannon for the new post.

"We aim to put religious radio and TV programs on a par, professionally, with other programs," says Monsignor Shannon of the new national office.

"His office hopes to assist the bishops to use the airwaves more effectively on both national and diocesan levels.

Some national Catholic programs like "The Catholic Hour" radio and TV shows have often reached top standards of quality, Monsignor Shannon feels, "but these programs don't tell the story of the Church at the local level."

He's quick to praise the areas which have done outstanding work on the local level—St. Louis and Chicago would be examples—but feels this is more the exception than the rule.

Studying reports from various parts of the country, he's found that many Catholic programs are using much the same formats they used 25 years ago. "And too many," he adds, "seem to think that you can just take a radio program, do it before cameras, and have a TV show."

Monsignor Shannon sees his particular role in the Church's new radio-TV office as that of liaison man between the broadcasting world and the bishops.

He'll be working hand in glove with Charles H. Reilly,

who will be executive director of the New York office. Reilly is a youthful veteran of TV and public relations works, will deal mainly with the networks and advertising agencies.

"Our office, we hope, will provide a pattern for similar diocesan offices throughout the country," Monsignor Shannon notes. There will be a skilled layman from the broadcasting field working along with a priest, who should be conversant with the radio-TV field and can represent the interest of the Church in religious broadcasting, he explains.

Monsignor Shannon fits the description well. Although his personal professional career ended with entrance to the seminary, he has maintained an active role in the radio-TV field. In Syracuse, he has served as diocesan director of music, radio and television.

His first big job will be to review a research study of Catholic shows now being offered on radio and TV. Next step will be to provide a series of regional seminars for those in the religious broadcasting field, to open up new horizons for them, help them with current problems, etc.

While he's getting the new office off the ground, he will retain his post as administrator of the Syracuse cathedral, and try to get back to his parish on as many weekends as possible. His senior assistant pastor at the cathedral, Father Joseph F. Kane, will assume Monsignor Shannon's duties in his absence.

—Father Robert Kanka



Bishop's Blessing of Courts

Judges Thomas P. Cullhane and Joseph Fritsch greet Bishop Kearney after Red Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Rochester, last week. The Bishop's Mass continued a custom he inaugurated soon after his coming here in 1937 to give his blessing to jurists and law enforcement officers at the beginning of each court term.

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RECALLING OLD TIMES at a ceremony in Syracuse this summer were Monsignor William J. Shannon, left, who last week was appointed coordinator of the National Catholic Radio and TV office, and Bishop Kearney. They've been friends since Monsignor Shannon's seminary days here at St. Bernard's. The occasion that brought them together this year was the 50th anniversary celebration of Syracuse Bishop Walter A. Foery.

32 Clergy Confer

Alcohol Perils Youth

Hornell — Father James P. Collins, chaplain of Elmira Reformatory, was one of three clergymen participating in a discussion which highlighted the annual meeting of the Hornell Council on Alcoholism, Inc.

There were 32 Catholic and Protestant clergymen at the open meeting on Sept. 17 in the New Sherwood Hotel, Hornell. The Rev. Richard Stone, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Hornell, was moderator. Program arrangements were in charge of Edward S. Mason of Almond.

THE THREE CLERGYMEN who comprised the panel, the Rev. Charles E. Bollinger, vicar of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Henrietta; Father Collins; and the Rev. Orville Johnston, Methodist chaplain of Alfred University and the State Agricultural and Technical Institute, all are graduates of the Yale-Rutgers School on Alcohol Studies.

Father Bollinger emphasized the dangers of amateur counseling in dealing with the alcoholic. He said:

"The average clergyman, as well as any average adult, should act as a referral person when consulted on the subject of alcoholism. Usually the clergyman is approached by a member of the alcoholic's family who turns to him for comfort and advice.

"Unless he is especially trained, the greatest service he can give is to refer the individual to a clinic or an agency such as Alcoholics Anonymous where he can secure the benefits of years of training and experience.

"Clergymen, especially, may become too anxious and genuinely hinder rather than help unless they are specifically trained in the complex problem of alcoholism. It is encouraging, however, to realize that the church more and more is recognizing that alcoholism is an illness and not a moral problem," Father Bollinger concluded.

SPEAKING ON "Alcoholism and Youth," Reverend Mr. Johnston quoted statistics showing that 90 per cent of high school students are users of alcohol.

"Users of alcohol" are defined as those who drink at least once a week, the Alfred minister explained. He added:

"Two to six per cent of our high school students are averaging a drink a day and 95 per cent of our young people are exposed to drinking before they graduate from high school."

The problem of teenage drinking, becoming more acute annually, still has no overall solution, Reverend Johnston said.

(Continued on page 11)

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