



New Headdress for St. Joseph Nuns

A wide majority of votes may put the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester into a Bergdorf Goodman-designed headdress pending approval by the Sacred Congregation of Religious in Rome. In a preferential balloting last week the Sisters chose from among ten styles the one being worn experimentally by the Motherhouse Sisters. According to the process for essential habit change, the Sacred Congregation requires the expression of preference by the majority of the community. Pictures of the new habit and the traditional one must be sent to Rome. Wearing the traditional headdress is Sister Anne Joseph, assistant-director of novices; in the new headdress, Sisters Alma Mary, Albertus, Maura and Ruth Agnes.

'Come to the Father'

New Concept in Catechism

"Come to the Father"—the catechism of the 70's, a totally new concept in religious education, was officially launched by the Paulist Press at a conference today. The bold new program which has been hailed as a "ten-year leap forward in catechetics" is now being piloted in one-third of the diocese in the country.

After four months of experimentation this program, being piloted in this area at St. Andrew's School, Rochester, has been accepted with enthusiasm and growing interest by the teachers.

"Come to the Father" is the result of collaboration between a team of 30 trained catechists, theologians, psychologists, sociologists and teachers who commenced their efforts in 1961 in Canada. As the program developed it was constantly tested by the fall of 1964 a small group of schools put it into use for a full year. Only a year later in Canada, it was being used by 125,000 students in 6,000 classrooms.

Because of the excellent results it is now receiving in the United States "Come to the Father" is being made available for immediate adoption.

"Come to the Father" is presented as "The first comprehensive catechetical program to reflect the renewal brought about by Vatican II" by the

Paulist Press who is responsible for its development in the United States.

The "Come to the Father" program is a complete departure from the traditional question and answer approach to religious education. It is not a religion textbook nor is it conceived or planned simply as another subject to be studied.

The child's book is psychologically oriented to the six-year old age level and takes into consideration his own personality, his own universe and his own way of knowing. The first year book has been prepared to initiate the child into an attitude of prayer while simultaneously encouraging an ever deepening love of God.

The program brings into use specially recorded music selections as well as colorful artwork which appeals to a child's mind. The child in his drawings expresses personally the message received in the classroom which in turn affords the teacher the opportunity to gauge and evaluate the children's religious development.

Sister Mary Carmelita, St. Andrew's School, who has been teaching for 15 years when asked about the program stated, "I feel the children are having a definite spiritual experience through the 'Come to the Father' program. One can sense their earnestness during prayer time. I often notice a child going to the prayer corner before and after school."

Mrs. Jeanne Alexander of St. Andrew's commented, "Through 'Come to the Father' the children are gaining a real appreciation of the basic religious truths of the life of Jesus—now they seem to feel that Jesus is with them all the time; all reactions from teachers, parents and children have been excellent—I truly enjoy teaching the program."

Mrs. Marcelle Walker of St. Andrew's stated, "The program so beautifully presents the fact of God's love for His children and so ably encourages return of that love with trust, songs and acts of praise, thanksgiving, etc., that the children respond freely. It has great spiritual value."

The "Come to the Father" program to be effective requires the participation and involvement of parents. The children's book is directed to both child and parent. The book contains sections which explain to the parent the religious attitudes being created in the classroom and how these can be deepened in the home. The teacher relies on the parent to help awaken in their children the sense of God, to initiate them into prayer and to form their moral conscience.

In addition to direct parental activities the program calls for total parish involvement in the religious initiation of the child by showing the child, teacher, parent and priest how they can work together for the benefit of the total Christian family. A minimum of four meetings a year between priest, teacher and parent are outlined in a special handbook.

At the official launching of the program Fr. Alvin Illig, C.S.P., general manager of the Paulist Press was questioned concerning the Press's entry into the catechetical field. He stated, "Genuine and lasting renewal in the spirit of Vatican II must begin in the field of catechetics. If the renewal is to be effective, our educational methods must reflect and coincide with the Council. This must begin with catechetics."

"Properly understood and properly used, 'Come to the Father' by involving student, catechist, parent and pastor, is perhaps the single best program now available to begin a genuine renewal of the Church at the grassroots level.

"As the Church today searches for a 'pivotal point' around which to begin the revitalization of the parish family in the light of Vatican II, 'Come to the Father' may just be that central point from which renewal will radiate."

Fr. Bonsignore Ordination In Washington

Father Mark J. Bonsignore will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, Feb. 11 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. Bishop Edward J. Hermann will officiate.

Father Bonsignore will offer his first Mass in St. Ambrose Church on Sunday, Feb. 19 at 12:30 p.m.

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Marcus J. Bonsignore, 2137 Culver Rd., the young priest has two sisters, Mrs. Lillian D. Cestra of Massapequa Park, L.I., and Carol Jean, at home.

Father Bonsignore is a graduate of St. Andrew's parochial school and Aquinas Institute. He studied at St. John Fisher College, St. Bernard's Seminary and Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Conn.

A member of the Missionaries of the Holy Apostles, he completed his studies at Catholic University in Washington.

Education Meets Slated for Area Teachers

Educational Conference Day for Secondary school teachers will be held at St. Agnes High School on Monday, Feb. 13. The Conference will open at 10 a.m. with addresses by Father James J. DiGiacomo, S.J., and Dr. Francis C. Bauer, M.D.

Father DiGiacomo, of Brooklyn Preparatory School, will speak on "Teen-Age Revolution in Religion." He has been teaching at Brooklyn Prep since 198 and was awarded a Diploma de Lumen Vitae, International School of Religious Formation, Brussels, 1964-65.

At present he is the Head of the Religious Department, Religion Teacher and Guidance Counselor at Brooklyn Prep; Instructor in Christian Anthropology at Fordham University (School of Religious Education) and at Loyola University of Chicago (Institute of Pastoral Studies).

Dr. Francis C. Bauer was awarded his M.D. degree from Georgetown Medical School. He did graduate work in Psychiatry

at Pilgrim State Hospital, and the New York State Psychiatric Institute. He was formerly the Director of the Manhattan After-Care Clinic in New York City and Director of the Child Guidance Clinic in Bay Shore, Long Island.

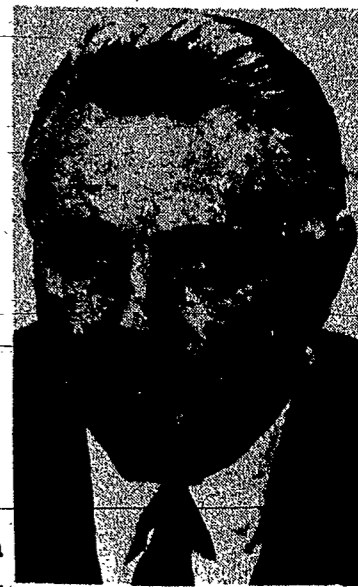
Dr. Bauer is a professional lecturer at St. John's University, a Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association, a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and Youth, and serves the Dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Center in the capacity of psychiatric consultant to the Tribunals. Currently, he devotes full time to serving as Director of the Student Adjustment Center which provides psychiatric, psychological and social casework service to fifteen school districts comprising the Third Supervisory District of Suffolk County.

Sectional meetings will be held at 1:30 p.m. in Religion, Science, Business, English, Modern Language, Social Studies and Mathematics.

Thirteen hundred teachers from the Catholic Elementary Schools will convene in the auditorium of the Columbus Civic Center for Educational Conference Day on Monday, Feb. 13, at 10:00 a.m.

Bishop Sheen will be the keynote speaker. After the address the teachers will convene for luncheon at the Manger Hotel. At 1:00 p.m. they will attend one of seven sectional meetings and reconvene in the auditorium to hear Dr. Nicholas Nyaradi, director of the School of International Studies at Bradley University, Peoria, Ill.

The day will come to a close with celebration of Mass on the stage of the Columbus Civic Center auditorium.



DR. NYARADI



FATHER DI GIACOMO

DR. BAUER

The Catholic COURIER

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Catholic School Board Weighs Common Calendar

A resolution to meet with public school officials to consider a common school calendar was passed Feb. 1 at the monthly meeting of the Catholic School Board in Elmira. Representatives from each parish endorsed the move after previous consultation with pastors and principals.

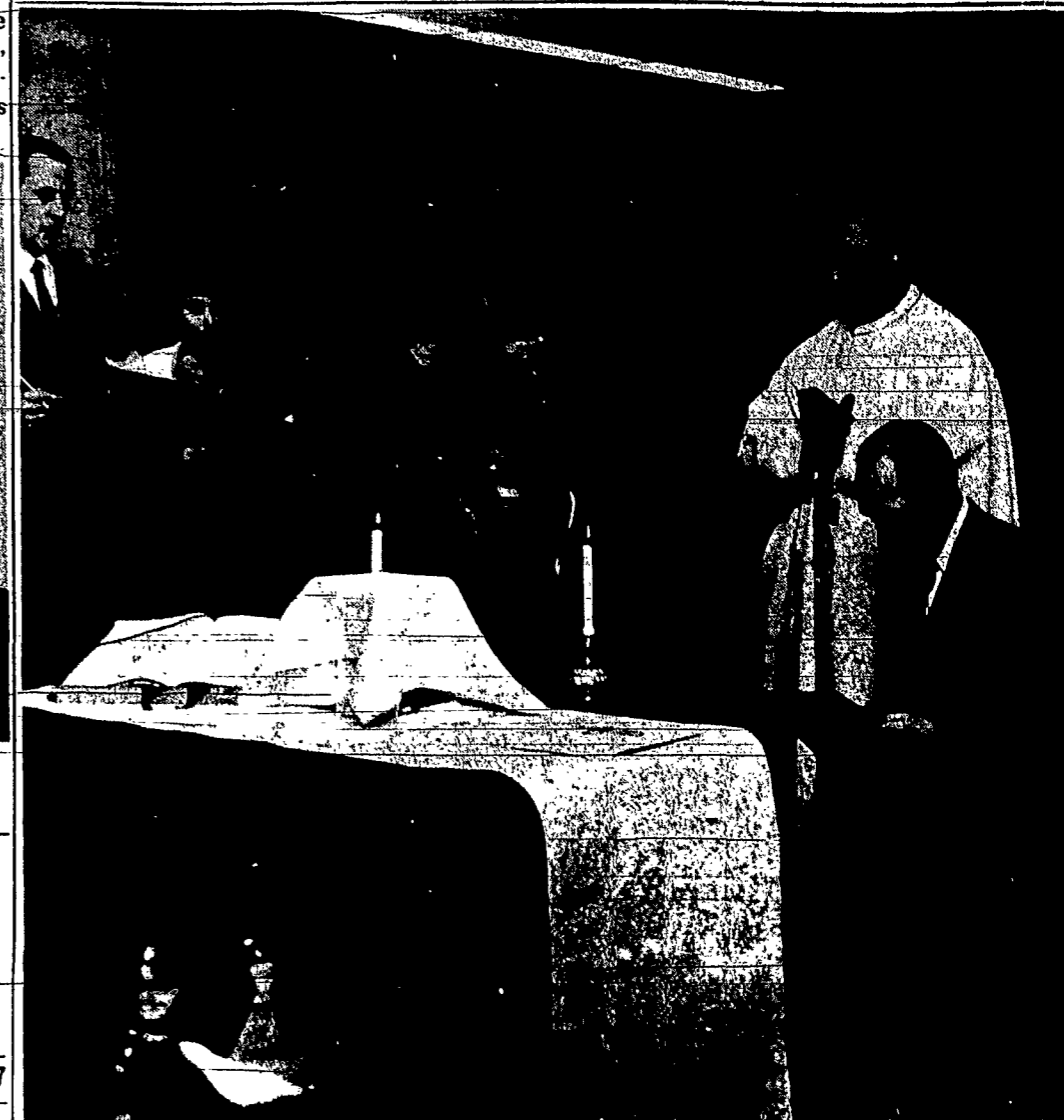
Unresolved problems connected with a common calendar are school sessions on holidays of obligation, and an earlier dismissal date in June to ease the burden on teachers who have to begin summer school sessions early.

In the past, holidays of obligation have been parochial school holidays. A majority of the 15-member county board said that their pastors and principals favored school attendance on these days. If June dismissal could be earlier, this would still permit the schools to meet the 180-day requirement of the State Education Department. This idea, however, does not have the unanimous support of all pastors.

An earlier dismissal in June would affect 2600 students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grades of the eight Catholic elementary schools in Chemung County. This move involves a request that the dates of the inter-diocesan examination be advanced to mid-June.

This plan would permit the teachers to remain until the end of the term, grade the examinations, and finish recording of marks, etc. Last exams this year fall on June 20, but schools do not close until June 23.

At present, many teachers, both lay and religious, have to leave for summer sessions for further study before the school year has closed. Public schools which have the same problem generally excuse the teachers and employ substitutes for the final week or 10 days. In the Catholic schools, the remaining staff "doubles up" to share the burden of the final days.



Mass in Classroom

Adult Education Workshop was held in St. Lawrence parish on Friday, Jan. 27. Theme of the evening was "The Role of Catholics as Christians." Mass was offered in a school classroom by Father John A. Murphy, pastor. Acolytes are John Tschiderer and Norbert Jagodzinski.



At Cornell

Archbishop Helder Camara of Recife, Brazil, a personal friend of Pope Paul, and often accused by his critics as being a Communist, was a speaker at this week's "Conference on International Education and Development" held at Cornell University. The noted prelate of the poor is an outspoken adversary of the military government in Brazil and the land owners who exploit the peasants there. A report of his Cornell talk will be published in next week's Courier.



Father Charles J. McCarthy, pastor of St. Andrew's Church and chaplain of the "Come to the Father" program, is shown with Sister Mary Carmelita, first grade teacher, as they join with children in a "friendship chain of the friends of Jesus."

Nurses Plan Alumni Club

A meeting to discuss the formation of a Catholic Alumni Club of Rochester for single Catholics, who are college graduates or registered nurses, was held at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13, at the Downtown Restaurant.

A guest speaker from the Chicago CAC described the organization's history and program. There are presently forty Catholic Alumni Clubs in other cities throughout the country, with over 10,000 members.

The first social event of the newly formed Rochester Chapter of the CAC will be a get-acquainted party to be held in the Sibley Room at the Treadway Inn, East Ave., on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 6 to 10 p.m. Music will be provided by the Don Jones Combo. Tickets will be sold at the door. Temporary chairman of the Steering Committee is Bob Manieri.

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