

'Pious Blackmail' on Skid Row

Toronto — (RNS) — Nine clergymen of various denominations transformed themselves into "Skid Row bums" for a week end to find out how the "other half" lives and what the church can do about it.

The adventure was part of the Canadian Urban Training Project.

Including one Roman Catholic priest, the group assembled at a local community center, dressed in old clothes and sporting unshaven faces.

One of them was the Rev. Keith Whitney, assistant at Metropolitan United Church here.

"I thought we looked like a bunch of bums," the minister grinned.

Just in case they looked real enough to police officers, each man carried an identification card and \$5.

Mr. Whitney said the "loneliness and aimlessness" of the existence of a "Skid Row bum" hit him hard. Bums, he found, have absolutely nothing to do and all day in which to do it.

Growing hungry, he just couldn't bring himself to beg for the price of a meal. Finally, he bought a bowl of soup in a cheap restaurant.

He slept in a hostel where, after registering and showering, he was handed a clean pair of pajamas. The dormitory held 75 beds, but only 20 were filled.

Mr. Whitney said he didn't sleep much. The men were awakened at 6 a.m. fed gruel, coffee without sugar and doughnuts for breakfast and at 7 a.m. were back on the streets.

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Instead of sleeping, he wandered the streets all night.

"A couple of women tried to pick me up, but I didn't want to over-extend my research," he laughed.

On Sunday morning, his breakfast was a cup of coffee and lunch at a mission "where you must attend service to eat. They had a captive congregation of 300 hungry men."

Mr. Whitney made no secret of his distaste for the proceedings. There were three hymns, two prayers, a Scripture reading, a vocal solo, a choir, a 20-minute homily and witnessing by a young woman about what Christ had done for her.

"I was appalled," the minister said. "The people running the service and the men in the pews were living in two different worlds. It was pious blackmail."

That Sunday evening the minister finished his wanderings in time to climb into his pulpit for the evening service. He said he preached a sermon prepared before his Skid Row experiences and "it seemed so irrelevant . . . that I was almost nauseated. I could hardly preach, it seemed so unreal."

His conclusions: "The unemployed and drifters, the winos and others are human beings and it's the Christian responsibility "to do for them what they apparently cannot do for themselves."

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Debate League Laurels For Blessed Sacrament

Blessed Sacrament's orators strung together five victories against a single defeat to emerge with top laurels at the third meeting of the Blessed Edmund and Good Counsel in third with a 5-1 record and 26 speakers' ranks. Fourth place resulted in a tie between St. Ambrose A and B squads. Both had records of 5-1 with 27 speakers' ranks.

The top speaker of the day was David Hayes of Blessed Sacrament. Richard Marton of St. Anne's finished second, while third place was awarded to Peter Mayer of St. James.

In overall league standings—a total of a school's record for the three meets, St. Ambrose B squad occupies first place with a record of 11-3 and 55 ranks, followed by St. Anne's A squad, 12-6 and 66 ranks in second, while third place is held by St. James' A squad with a 12-6 record and 75 ranks.

To date there are 13 schools and 21 four men squads in the Campion League. The next meeting will be on Saturday, March 11 and is open to the public.

In going to speakers' ranks, Blessed Sacrament finished first with a 5-1 record and 23 ranks, closely followed by St. Anne's A squad 5-1, 24 ranks in second.

Should a team tie in won lost records, the ties are then broken by adding the total number of speakers' ranks earned by the team's four debaters throughout the three rounds of competition. As in golf, low score wins.

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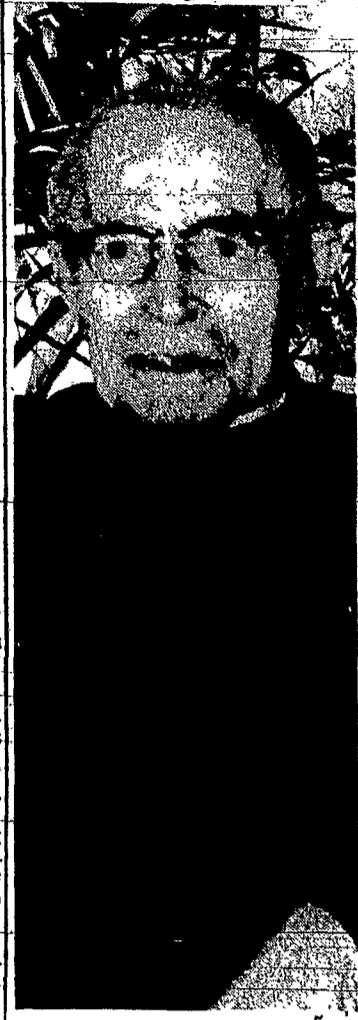
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Friday, Feb. 17, 1967



Sixty Years

Divine Word—Father Augustin Loechte celebrated his 60th anniversary as a priest at his order's seminary, Conesus, N.Y., Friday, Feb. 10. He was ordained in Vienna in 1907 and has devoted his priestly life to preparing young men to be missionaries. One of his pupils was Father Clifford King, pioneer U.S. missionary to China in 1919. Father Loechte lives in retirement at the Conesus seminary.

Funeral Mass For Mrs. Senz

Funeral Mass for Mrs. Kathryn Bealrd Senz was offered by Monsignor J. Emmett Murphy in Holy Apostles Church, Friday, Feb. 10. Also attending were Father Edward Steinkirchner and Father Gerard Hafner.

Mrs. Senz, 64, of 700 Glide St. was killed in an automobile accident in Mendon, Feb. 6, 1967. Bearers were her nephews.

Surviving are: her husband, Raymond C. Senz; one sister, Mrs. Frances Sala; Hornell; an aunt, Mrs. Dora Bovian, Elmira; one nephew, Francis Sala; three nieces, Miss Catherine Sala and Mrs. Patricia Emerson of Hornell and Mrs. Elaine Grazoplene, Batavia.

Monsignor Murphy gave the blessing at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Haubner and Stalknecht Funeral Home.

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Fr. McLaughlin Funeral Held

Father Daniel McLaughlin, SS.C.C., Mission Procurator for the Fathers of the Sacred Hearts in Fairhaven, Mass., died Friday, Feb. 3, 1967 from severe chest and head injuries suffered in a collision with a truck in Groton, Mass. Father McLaughlin was returning from Jaffrey, N.H., to the Monastery in Fairhaven.

Father McLaughlin entered the Sacred Hearts Novitiate in September of 1957. Following his Profession in 1958, he entered Queen of Peace Mission Seminary in Jaffrey, N.H., where he completed his studies in philosophy and theology. He was ordained at Sacred Hearts Seminary in Coptehill, Ireland, on June 14, 1964. He was assigned to Our Lady of Victory Church, Rochester, N.Y., for his pastoral year of theology. In 1965 he was assigned as Mission Procurator.

The funeral took place on Tuesday, Feb. 7, at St. Joseph's Church, Fairhaven, with burial in the cemetery on the grounds of Sacred Hearts Monastery, Fairhaven.

Florence Ugino Funeral Held

Funeral Mass for Mrs. Florence Ugino was offered by Father John J. Hempel in Holy Cross Church, Feb. 4. Mrs. Ugino, 3686 Lake Ave. died Feb. 1, 1967.

She was a member of Holy Cross Rosary Society.

Surviving are her son, Frank Ugino; her daughter, Mrs. Carl (Edith) Minola; five grandchildren; one sister-in-law, Mrs. Bessie Gossage, several nieces and nephews.

Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Arrangements by Alvah Halloran & Son Funeral Home.

Color Guard Wins Trophy

Bishop Kearney High School Color Guard won the third-place trophy at a competition in Kenmore, N.Y., Feb. 11. Twelve guards from New York and Canada competed in the contest sponsored by the Shamrocks color guard.

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Bishop Kearney presented the 1967 Collette of Columbus Fourth Degree Memorial Chalice to Father Joseph Gorman of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Rochester, at a Lincoln Day dinner Sunday, Feb. 12. Father William J. Schifferl and Faithful Navigator Thomas Shea witness the presentation to Father Gorman who is at left in photo.

Pepsi-Cola cold beats any cola cold!

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