

**Urban Vicar Says Present Need Is**

**More than 'Angels of Mercy'**

"Life will never be comfortable for very long. We will never 'have it made' as long as we are real Christians," Father P. David Finks stated last Sunday evening to a capacity crowd at St. Cecilia's Church Hall, Elmira.

Father Finks recently appointed Vicar for Urban Ministry in the Diocese, was the final speaker in the current lecture series sponsored by Father Leo Mannus, pastor of St. Cecilia's.

The biblical idea of judgment, and the historical evidence that civilizations bring judgments on themselves, were both cited by Father Finks in emphasizing our social sin as a white, middle class church with no real theology of poverty.

"The Christian church must be the church of the poor," he said, and pointed out that we have not faced the fact that the "new poor" are not supported by our church, with its agencies established in the past for dealing with the poor immigrant groups. "What do you do with Catholic Charities when the new poor are not Catholics?" he challenged.

Reminding the audience that the national mood has cooled toward civil rights, and that the upper and middle classes have always resented the disturbing of the status quo (because their needs are satisfied), he quoted the British economist Barbara Ward from her book Rich Nations and Poor Nations: "The affluent are ready to resist change with all the force at their command..."

We must live up to the spirit we profess, Father Finks repeated. Poverty in the midst of affluence is a moral wrong, and we must heed Pope Paul's warning in his latest encyclical stressing the obligation of the nations that "have" to the "have not."

In the past we have met immediate needs of the poor without changing their situation. But this "angels of mercy" role is no longer sufficient; we need an awakening of social justice,

and the Church must support organizations for social change.

This means listening to God's voice in the signs of the times, even when it is disturbing. It means accepting the idea of conflict as a part of any developing community of men. Tensions are necessary for creative growth, Father Finks said. The challenge is to provide creative outlets for these tensions, or destructive outlets will be found and then violence will be inevitable.

Father Finks described the role of FIGHT, the grass-roots organization of Negroes in Rochester founded by Saul Alinsky two years ago at the request of the National Council of Churches. FIGHT provides the Negro ghetto with leaders and bargaining power, both vital in the struggle for equal opportunity. This community organization of the poor attracted little attention from the white citizens when it was working for better garbage collection or better treatment by slum landlords within the ghetto, he pointed out, but as soon as it extended into the area of job training in private industries, opposition became vocal.

"We say we want the Negroes to 'pull themselves up by the bootstraps'—but we mean only one at a time," he stated. We say that they need to be motivated; FIGHT leaders promise to do this, if the companies will provide the job training for the hard core unemployed, but doors are being closed in their faces.

WHAT CAN WE DO? Father Finks suggested some positive points which should be followed in a true Christian spirit:

- Integrate the Church into the poor community, not the poor community into the Church; the poor have heard proselytizing, but need to see the Gospel "lived."

- Actively support any viable community effort for social change. "There is no place for neutrals anymore," he said.

- Listen to the new leaders, and don't be judgmental because

cause of the way they dress or speak. The harsh word has often been the word of God. It's the process of social change that is important, and that is their message.

- Stop trembling at the words "Black Power" as a symbol of violence. Here, by way of illustration, Father quoted Minister Franklin D. R. Florence, president of FIGHT, who remarked that the Negroes in America are all for the United States as a melting pot, but "You haven't let us in the pot yet."

- Carefully study the Pope's latest encyclical, "The Development of Peoples," in which he urges speed in remedying the imbalance between the world's rich and poor.

- Support private industry in developing a social conscience. Father Finks here praised several officials: Joseph Wilson and Sol Linowitz as pioneers in this regard.

- Read basic literature to become more knowledgeable; "Crisis in Black and White" by Gilbertman, "Autobiography of Malcolm X," "New Creation as Metropolis" by Winter and "Rich Nations and Poor Nations" by Barbara Ward.

In the question period following the lecture, Father developed further the need of educating our Catholic priests, religious and lay people to support social change. "So far the support has been largely negative," he said.

He also mentioned Bishop Sheen's directive not to duplicate anything already being done by another group, but to work ecumenically whenever possible.

"What is it going to cost?" "Where is Christ?" These are questions we must answer for ourselves, Father Finks referred to St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians: "For you have been given the favor on Christ's behalf — not only to believe in him but also to suffer for him, while engaged in the same struggle in which you have seen me and now have heard of me."

**Rector Explains Vocation Needs**

Bishop Sheen's letter read in parish churches last week on the present shortage of religious vocations awakened Catholics of the Rochester Diocese to a problem that is growing more acute each year.

Reaction to his letter was in the quick check we were able to make, a conviction that

"something needs to be done" and all agreed that consistent prayer is a major step to a remedy.

Very Rev. Joseph P. Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, gave the sermon at Sacred Heart Cathedral, explaining from his firsthand experience with the vocation problem.

"Our Lord has watched over the Church in the past as a shepherd," Father Brennan said, "and He continues to fulfill this shepherd role at present through the Gospels and the Eucharist."

"Every generation faces new problems, new challenges.

Priests must help the faithful find answers to today's problems. These are the problems of change, even bewilderment. The Church is not in a vacuum, sealed off from the world. Every generation has to hear the Gospel in a relevant way—through priests who understand change, priests who are not resentful but who understand what is good in the old, good in the new."

Father Brennan told the Cathedral congregation, "Our (St. Bernard's) Seminary points to a pattern in the priesthood of great variety, to be moved by the Holy Spirit, to bring the Gospel to people where they are. Mere buildings are not the Church. You are the Church! Each has a share. The Church is everything the Holy Spirit inspires you to do as Christians."

"This is why we need in the Church priests who will work with lay people, understand lay people and share with lay people."

"Our priests must be men of faith," Father Brennan continued. "Men to whom God is a reality in whose lives God is present, living — men who can live without security, without parents, without a wife, but not without God."

"We join our Bishop in today's prayer that the Good Shepherd will raise up in this Diocese men who will know and love the flock. His Church," Father Brennan concluded.

Father John S. Hayes, Cathedral rector, said he has inaugurated the practice at the Cathedral of inviting priests to preach there on special occasions who are specially associated with the topic of the sermon.

**Women's Convention In May**

Affiliations of the Rochester Diocesan Council, National Council of Catholic Women, have received letters this week, calling their members to meet in convention Monday, May 22, and Tuesday, May 23, at Vinces 50 Acres, 7500 West Henrietta Road.

Chairman of the two-day convention is Mrs. Theodore Strohmeyer, and honorary chairman is Mrs. Ronald Gledhill, president of the Rochester Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

Theme of the convention is "The Challenge of Change in Women's Widening World." Convention committees, under the direction of Mrs. Strohmeyer and Mrs. Gledhill, are planning workshops on family life, community action, and personal formation in the new atmosphere of "ecumenism and Vatican II."

Tickets for the convention are available through affiliated organizations of the Council of Catholic Women. Tickets are \$4 for the 8 p.m. supper meeting Monday, May 22, and \$3 for the workshop program and luncheon Tuesday, May 23. Reservation and ticket chairman is Mrs. Martin Conheady, 470 Genesee Park Boulevard.

**Forty Hours**

Devotions of the Forty Hours in Diocese of Rochester.

Sunday, April 16 — Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, St. Mark, Rochester; St. Gregory, Marion.



**'The Word of My City'**

Six folk singing Mercy Sisters from Elmira schools are shown rehearsing for "The Word of My City," a production depicting the growth of America in music and drama. The 130-member cast of Sisters will be seen tonight (April 14) in Mercy High School auditorium at 8:30 p.m. Performances are also scheduled for April 15 at 8:30 p.m. and April 16 at 3 p.m. All seats are reserved, call 482-5442.

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**Teenage Talk-Out Set For April 23**

"Talk-Out '67", a series of group discussions for high school juniors and seniors will be held at Aquinas Institute, Sunday afternoon, April 23, 1967.

The program which features a number of prominent clergy and layman speakers will begin at 2 p.m.

The afternoon program will be divided into three conferences-discussion periods lasting from forty-five minutes to one hour in length. A folk Mass in the Aquinas Auditorium will climax the afternoon.

Speakers moderating some of the 17 discussions include: Father David Finks, Vicar of the Inner City; Father David Connor of the Cornell University Newman Center; Sergeant Burkott, a Viet Nam veteran; and Father W. J. O'Malley, S.J., of McQuaid Jesuit High School.

All high school juniors and seniors wishing to attend should contact the respective heads of their sodality or youth group. Tickets must be secured beforehand for admittance.



**Singing Nuns Go On Tour**

"The out-of-town tour is rugged, but it's a lot of fun, too, and the people in all of those towns and cities seem very pleased that we make the extra effort to come that far."

This is the consensus of the 107 Sisters of St. Joseph who are singers in their Community's annual concert. This year, the out-of-town performances precede the Rochester ones with a 4 p.m. appearance in Ithaca on Saturday, April 15 and an 8 p.m. one in Elmira that same day. Sunday, April 16 will see them in Geneva at 4 p.m. and in Auburn at 8 p.m.

The Rochester performances of this choral concert will take place on April 22 and 23 at St. Agnes High School, with a children's performance at 2 p.m. on Saturday, and regular performances at 8:15 p.m. on Saturday and 3 and 8:15 p.m. on Sunday. All seats for the Rochester performances are reserved and may be obtained by calling 473-2728.

**Report Dinner Set by Scouts**

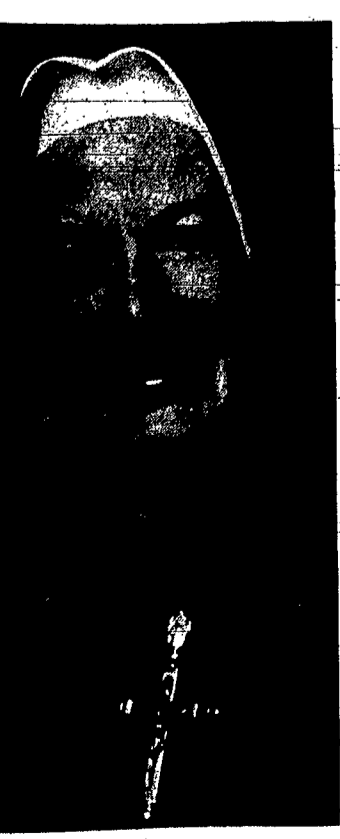
Twentieth annual report dinner of the Catholic Committee on Scouting will take place Thursday, April 27 at Vinces 50 Acres, 7500 West Henrietta Rd. at 6:30 p.m.

Sister Mary Andrew Hartman, Ph.D., of the Grey Sisters of the Immaculate Conception will be the principal speaker. Sister is a well-known teacher, lecturer and author in the fields of psychology and counseling.

Sister Mary Andrew's public speaking activities started with talks to Scouting groups. A great believer that the mutual "breaking of bread" and singing help develop Scouts and Scouters, psychologically, she has attended over 45 Scout Conferences and has participated in more Wood Badge reunions than virtually any scouter.

Father James M. Moynihan, Chancellor of the Rochester Diocese, will present the St. George Award, the highest award to Catholic Scouters recognized for their outstanding contribution to youth in the community.

Chairmen of the event are: Victor Gesner, Steuben Area Council; Robert J. Randall, Cayuga Council; and Bert L. Thaine, Otsego Council.



SISTER MARY ANDREW



**A Star for a Pastor**

The Italian Government recently honored Father Joseph P. Beadini, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester, making him a Knight of the Order of the Star of Italian Solidarity. This honor was in recognition of Father Beadini's work among the Italian-Americans and especially for his assistance to new Italian immigrants over the years. The honor was conferred by the Consul General, Vittorio Montezemolo, at the Italian General Consulate in New York City.

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