

Seminaries Linked for Urban Training

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Beginning in the Fall the program will expand to include two additional parish "clusters": Rev. James A. Rice, community minister of the Presbytery of the Genesee Valley, and Father John D. Dillon, curate at St. Boniface Church, will lead the southeast cluster, and Father Robert G. Kreckel, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, will direct the southwest cluster. A Protestant minister for this area is yet to be named.

The STIR project will be launched against a background of strong ecumenical programs already in operation in several sections of the city.

An outstanding example is the cooperative ministry in the Edgerton Area which is part of the northwest parish cluster.

Christ Presbyterian, Lake Avenue Baptist, St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's have pioneered an ecumenical approach to neighborhood needs for the past few years—linking their clergy and lay people in efforts to reach youngsters who have little or no church affiliation.

A coffee-house called "The Place" is operated at Christ Presbyterian Church on Locust St. Thursday and Saturday evenings for teenagers. Dr. Nelson estimates, "We get 30 or 40 a night and over a few months time we reach as many as 200." Youngsters of junior high school age have a program at St. Patrick's Church Saturday evenings and at Christ Presbyterian on Friday evenings.

No direct religious "sales pitch" is made to these youngsters. Dr. Nelson explained, "If we did, it'd be the last time we'd see them."

Young adults of the Edgerton Area churches are "on hand" for the teenage and pre-teen evening programs and also relate to the youth beyond the four walls of the church in "street ministry."

A combined religious instruction program called NIP (Neighborhood Inter-Parish Program) was inaugurated last summer with a daily attendance of 200 children. This summer, pastors expect a total of 300. Classes were held last summer at Lake Avenue Baptist Church. This summer, added classes will be held at St. Patrick's and Christ Presbyterian Churches.

Seminarians from St. Bernard's and Colgate Rochester have also been meeting Sunday evenings with 50 Catholic and Protestant youngsters of high school age for biblical study at Lake Avenue Baptist Church. These youngsters will add the NIP program with children this summer.

Details of the STIR project



Bishop Sheen and Dr. Bartlett flank the altar with Last Supper carving to sing well-known hymn "Praise the Lord, His Glories Show" at chapel service at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

and of the existing ecumenical pastoral apostolate were given at a press conference this morning and earlier, in Courier interviews with Dr. Nelson, STIR chairman, Father Joseph F. Brennan, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, and Dr. Gene E. Bartlett, president of Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Dr. Nelson explained the name STIR as an attempt to challenge the Church and its members "to trouble the waters of complacency and isolation which have dulled or divided its witness in the world."

He said the acronym is also descriptive of STIR's "central purpose."

"The meaning of the phrase Strategy Training in Renewal is descriptive of this central purpose. The key to participation in the post-Vatican II era is 'renewal' within the life of the church where the reality of reconciliation among people of various religious and cultural backgrounds needs to be demonstrated. Building upon the foundation of wholeness and unity in Christ, the next step calls for a 'strategy' by which the reconciling love of Christ is shared with the world. This need is unusually great in a complex urban society which is full of dehumanizing forces which lead to fragmentation of life in all categories. For this reason the final step calls for 'training' which exposes future clergy to the tensions of urban culture and equips them to mobilize the total resources of the churches on the local and metro-

politan levels. The entire process may be described," Dr. Nelson said, "as Strategy Training in Renewal—STIR."

A statement announcing the STIR project further described why the two seminaries have decided on the partner approach:

Colgate Rochester Divinity School and St. Bernard's Seminary have in separate ways indicated their common interest in exploring new approaches to the training of seminarians for urban ministry. The overwhelming need of the Church for competent men in this area is intensified by the complexity of the contemporary urban situation. Rochester has at least three advantages for the development of an ecumenical training program for urban ministry.

1. The size of the City of Rochester which is an intermediate metropolitan area or "middle city" makes it possible for urban problems to be carefully studied and to some extent controlled.

2. The ecumenical climate of cooperation between Protestants and Roman Catholics in Rochester at the metropolitan and local level provides an added dimension of strength as the Church attempts to make a major thrust into the main stream of urban culture.

3. The presence of a Protestant and Roman Catholic center of theological education opens the door to a consideration of ecumenical training for urban ministry which will equip seminarians to participate more freely in the new mood of the post-Vatican II era.

LBJ Designates Police Week

Police departments throughout the area of the Diocese of Rochester, like police units throughout the nation, will mark Police Week, May 14 to 20, according to a proclamation of President Johnson.

An open house will be held at the Public Safety Building in Rochester, Sunday, May 14, 2 to 5 p.m., and an exhibit will be on display at Midtown Plaza Monday through Friday.

Bishop Sheen has urged observance of the Week, particularly by greater respect for police officers.

Ecumenical Retreat Set

A Jesuit priest and a Presbyterian minister will conduct an ecumenical retreat at the Cenacle Retreat House, 693 East Ave., Rochester, June 10 and 11.

Father Albert P. Bartlett of McQuaid Jesuit High School and Rev. John Hughes of Christ Clarion Church, Pittsford, will give the conferences and lead in the prayers.

Information or reservations may be made at the Cenacle

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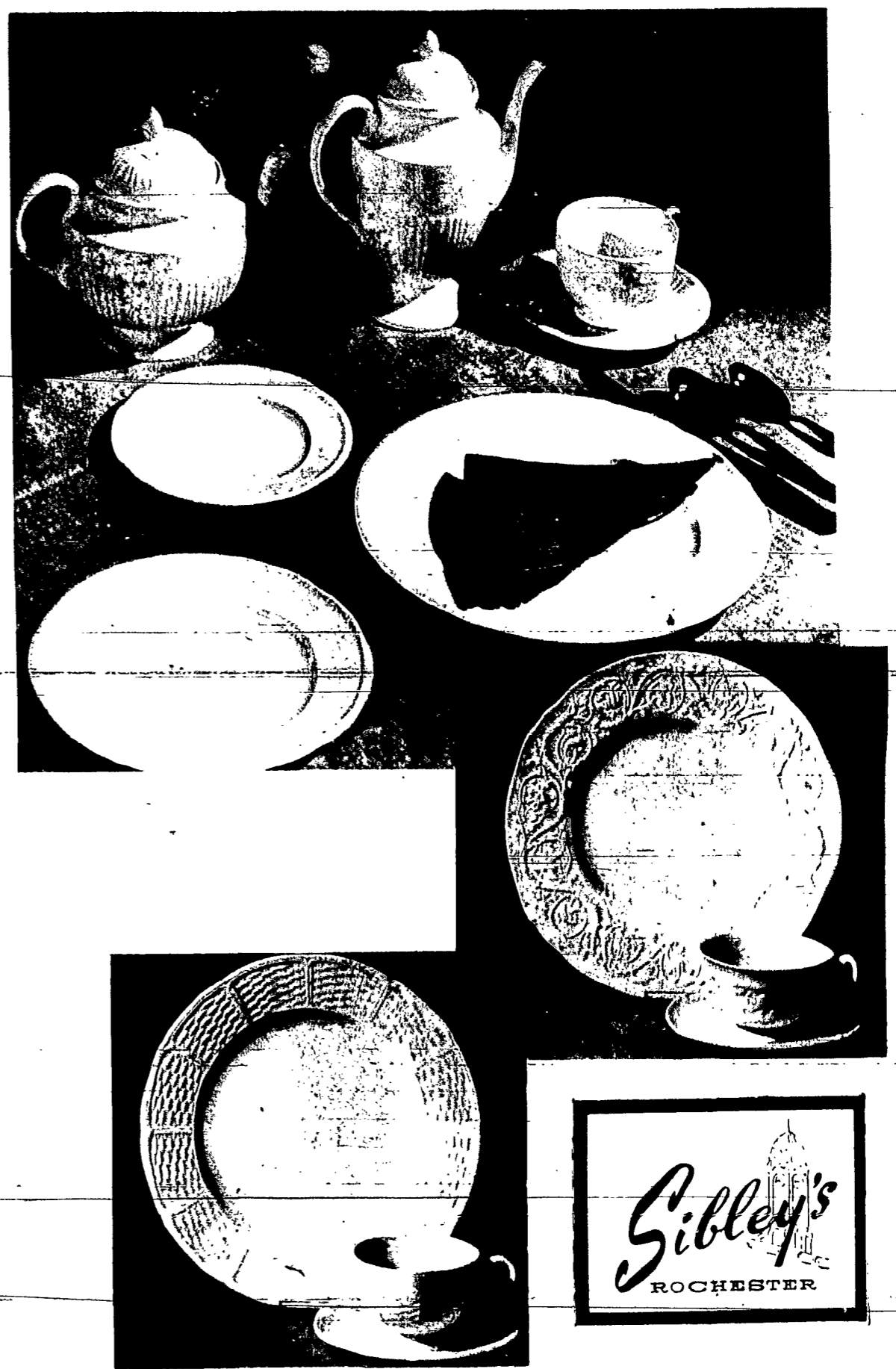
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Wed 50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Noll, 2826 St. Paul Blvd., will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, May 14. They will repeat their vows at a 12:15 Mass at Holy Rosary Church and at 5 p.m. they will be honored at a party at the Welcome Ranch, given by their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Noll, and their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. William Archibald. The Nolls have seven grandchildren.



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