

The Nuns' Story—1967

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going into Newman Club work two full-time at R.I.T. and Ithaca College, and the other part-time at the U. of R. Still another will be a guest lecturer at Russell Sage College this coming year.

In the Mercy order, talented nuns have been allowed to work in commercial art, and according to Mother Brice, may one day have their own studios at the Motherhouse, or may even make a display of their work in local department store. Home Economics teachers from Mercy High School go once a week, on a volunteer basis, to the State Hospital to teach sewing, etc. to the patients. Similarly, music teachers and students from the school present programs at the County Home.

In the parishes, both orders have much more contact with adults than before, not only through the catechetical program but through home visits to give practical help where needed. At two parishes, nuns act as assistants to the pastor. It is hoped, says Mother Brice, that a new image of the nun will evolve—one that is more authentic than the old stereotype of the past.

Another rather radical change is the entrance of democracy into religious life. This is evidenced in the freer choosing of superiors in the various convents, the allotment of modest sums of money, the "taking turns"

at managing the convent budget, even the absence of "seniority" in seating arrangements. The time schedule too is more realistic—oriented toward the particular work one is doing. For those in special assignments, this results in later hours for rising and retiring, changes in meal-times, less asking of "permission" to come and go.

Altogether there is a greater regard for human nature in all its aspects—with more attention given to good health, wholesome food, entertainment, and a "family" spirit. Gone is the idea that gloominess and drabness in convent decor are virtues in themselves. Instead of the perennial palms, the painful figurative "art" and the ramrod furniture in convent parlors, we now observe a more home-like atmosphere with color lavishly displayed.

Though there is still great emphasis on the primacy of prayer, this prayer is apt to be personal rather than community-directed as formerly. With a few exceptions, in addition to the Mass, it may take any form—either devotions or spiritual readings—and may be said wherever and whenever the individual nun chooses. General reading too (that is, outside one's particular field) is no longer considered a luxury but a necessity.

Perhaps the whole spirit of renewal can best be summed up in the words of two spiritual

directors quoted in "Dialogue": "The walls of the sanctuary known as religious life have been splintered into shards and we find ourselves exposed to the terrible responsibility of truly adult Christian living. We are forced, thank God, to lead grown-up lives, with grown-up senses of values. And if this has been a long time coming, our acceptance of it cannot be a long time delayed." "We see everyday in ourselves and in most Christians—institutionalism, pettiness, arrogance and the corruption of authority. . . . It is no comfort to us that we may be efficient teachers, nurses, etc. or that we never omit our special devotions. If we are not kind human beings, all else profits us nothing."

Picnic, Fashions At Nazareth

Nazareth College campus will be the scene of an outdoor picnic and fashion show, Saturday, May 13. Picnic fare will be supplied by Saga Foods of California, suppliers of food for colleges and hospitals from coast to coast.

The fashion show will feature "sun and fun" clothes selected by students of Nazareth from E. W. Edwards collection. Swim wear, sportswear, dressy suits and bridal wear will be shown. Bonnie Michaels, fashion coordinator at Edwards will be commentator.



Ecumenical Seminar Planned

New Notre Dame Retreat House at Canandaigua will be the location for two ecumenical events later this month. A May 22 to 25 Clergy Colloquy will link Catholic and Protestant clergy and a weekend seminar May 26 to 28 will bring lay people of different churches together for study and prayer. The two programs are arranged by the Ecumenical Institute of Chicago. Reservations may be made with Rev. Marvin Chandler of the Rochester Area Council of Churches or with Retreatorist Father Richard Moran at the Retreat House. Photo shows a typical session of the weekend seminar program.

Day for Challenge

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Now the plan is that each group will "adopt" an inner city family.

Becoming involved with these families will entail such things as visiting them periodically and getting to know the whole family; helping them to become acquainted with methods for the proper care of the house; acquainting the family with a knowledge of how and when and where to secure professional advice and services where special problems are encountered; helping the family to get assistance on financial problems; educational difficulties, child care, etc. To sum it all up: The CFM couples will be their friends.

Why this type of activity for CFM? Actually, this kind of thing is a natural for this group. Here is a group interested both in discussion and Catholic Action. Meetings are held every two weeks for each group. They average about six couples each and there are three groups at St. John's.

The meetings are prepared ahead of time by the chaplain, Father John T. Reif, and the "lead couple" for that particular meeting. During the meeting time is given to reading and discussion to Scripture and Liturgy. These discussions are followed by the presentation of a particular social challenge, a

challenge pertinent to Christian living in the 20th Century. This challenge is acted upon by the group and a report of the action is given at the next meeting.

The CFM people at St. John of Rochester are especially happy with the challenge given them by the CIC Housing Corporation. They hope that other CFM groups in the Rochester area will also be interested.

Already the challenge is being considered by these groups and others. Father P. David Finks has sent material about the project to priests and lay people. Callahan reports that at this time about ten different groups have shown interest in this undertaking.

The day-for challenge and the day for commitment!

Anyone who is interested in

Forty Hours

Devotees of Forty Hours in the Diocese of Rochester:

Sunday, May 14 — St. Thomas the Apostle, Rochester; St. Aloysius, Auburn; St. Mary, Corning; St. Joseph, Livonia; St. Catherine, Mendon; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls.

6A COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, May 12, 1967

Rings, Awards Ceremony Held at Fisher College

Bishop Kearney offered the traditional Senior Mass and blessed the class rings Thursday morning (May 11) at St. John Fisher College and also officiated at the Awards Assembly which followed.

Seven Fisher seniors received Student Board of Administration awards consisting of gold keys and scrolls for outstanding contribution to student life during their four years at the college.

They are: C. Michael Bryan, St. Marys, Pa.; Gerald C. Eckert, Albany; Albert E. Geralt, Jr., 277 Barrington St.; Daniel M. Kinsky, 80 Lochnavar Park, Pittsford; Robert C. McCoy, Tarrytown; Edward W. Tracy, Lockport; Gennaro J. Vassio, Auburn.

Additional honors presented at the assembly include: The Rochester Teachers As-

sociation Award for the Outstanding Candidate in Teacher Education to James L. Brown, 455 Hollenbeck St.

The Financial Executives Institute Financial Career Award to Paul L. Cramer, Buffalo.

The St. John Fisher College Alumni Memorial Prize to Frank T. Van Morreigem, 74 Brookfield Rd.

The Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award to Dennis J. Byrne, 102 Tyringham Rd.

What's

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE, Irondequoit. Home-School Association meeting Wednesday, May 17 at 8:30 p.m. in school auditorium. Vote on slate of officers. Audio-visual presentation by Jerry Knaut, "Instructional Material in the Future." Refreshments by Mrs. William Archibald and her committee.

ST. THOMAS MORE, Rochester. Utopian Ball on Saturday, May 13 from 9 to 11. Music by Len Hawley's Orchestra. Donation, \$5 per couple. Refreshments included. Chairmen: Messrs and Mesdames M. Schifino, Tom O'Connor, J. Adam, Tom Resutti, Ed DeLoe, Jim Farrell.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE, Rochester. Altar Society banquet May 24 at 8:30 p.m. in the Rochester Club. Fashion show by "Mildred's." Installation of officers. Chairmen: Mr. Alfred Pistoecchi and Mrs. William Huberle.

ST. MARY, Bath. Rosary Altar Society Communion Breakfast was held May 7. Wagner Motor Inn. Chairmen: Mrs. Henry Adamowicz and Mrs. Eleanor Rowe. Program: M. C. B. Rice. Guest speaker: Judge Domenick L. Gabriele. Father John P. O'Malley, moderator.

ST. PIUS X, Van Etten. Ladies of parish will conduct rummage and white elephant sale May 18, 19 and 20 from a.m. to 9 p.m. in church hall. Proceeds for church building fund.

ST. JOSEPH, Penfield. Rary Guild Mass of Thanksgiving May 24 at 6:30 p.m. followed by buffet. Wine demonstration. O'Neil Da Vineyard. Chairmen: Mrs. Francis Larkin, Mrs. Jo Fermholt, and committees: Reservations, Mrs. Gerard Hall, LU 6-2623.

CORPUS CHRISTI, Rochester. Mothers Club banquet May 21 at Max Strain House at 6 p.m. Installation of new officers: Viola Winkler, Sue Indona, Helen Patterson, Mar Dereskievicz and Mary Ann Vison.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY, Rochester. Rosary Society Communion Sunday, May 14 at 8 a.m. Mass. Breakfast follows school hall.

ST. MONICA, Rochester. Mothers Club meeting Monday, May 15 at 8 p.m. in rectory room. Installation of officers. Wine demonstration. O'Neil Da Vineyard.

HOLY TRINITY, West Branch 1319 L.C.B.A. Mothers and Daughters banquet was held May 2. Mrs. Elinor Trum president. Toasts by Mrs. Je Barringer and daughter. Entertainment by Mrs. O'Connell and Mrs. O'Connell. Chairman: Betty Cranston and Mason.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA, Rochester. Holy Name Society Mother's Day Communion Breakfast on May 14. Breakfast starting at 9:30 a.m. in school hall. Catered by Tuck Louis J. Tartaglia, 454-9157; bastian Fichera, 254-3837, o door. Donation: \$1 adults; cents, children under 12.

ST. PIUS X, Rochester. Holy Name School meeting Tuesday, May 16. Open house from 7:30 p.m. in classrooms. Election of two new school board members from four nominees at 8 p.m.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Rochester. Rosary Guild annual quiet Tuesday, May 16 at 8 p.m. in Colonial Inn Restaurant. Installation of officers. Guest speaker, Attorney John P. lanan. Mrs. Duane John chairman. Tickets in advance.

ST. JOSAPHAT, Irondequoit. Historical Ukrainian Cost show, Saturday, May 13. Y.W.C.A., 175 Clinton Ave. at 5 p.m. Diocesan Car Drive May 14 to 21. Zapor Sitch Society meeting in Kral American Club. Holy Name City of Corporate Communion Sunday, May 14 at 9 a.m. Breakfast at Downtowner taurant. \$2.25 per person. Reservations, Charles Bastuk, 7767.

HOLY NAME OF JEHOOR. Our Lady's Guild quiet Monday, May 15 at 8 p.m. in Ridgeway Country Club. Guest speaker, Bishop James E. Kearney. Installation of new officers: Messrs Lewis Fischer, John Timm Oscar Steger, Paul Wannan. Chairmen: Mesdames Herring, Thomas Harwill, and Herring, James Stein, art Mueller, James Barrer.

Sister Formation

Nun Superiors Meet

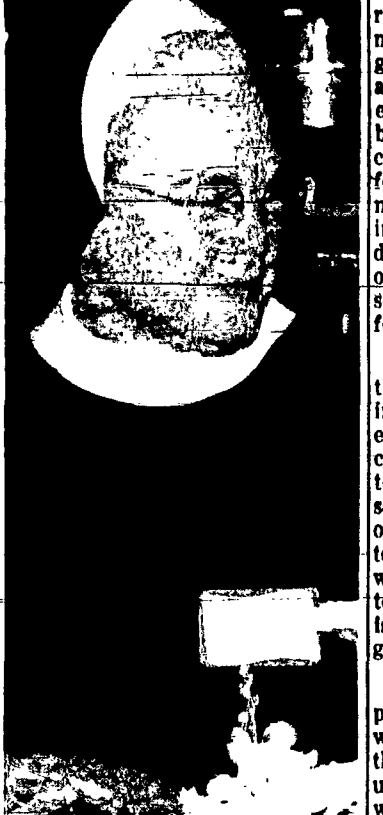
Ninety religious women, Major Superiors and Community advisors, met in Rochester on Thursday, May 4, to hear a report of the first meeting of the International Union of Superiors General termed "a landmark in the coming of age of religious women in the Church."

Mother M. Thomas Aquinas Carroll, R.S.M., Mother General of the Sisters of Mercy in Pittsburgh and one of three American delegates to the international assembly, addressed the group at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of Mercy, sponsored by the Sister Formation Conference Lake Sub-Region.

"The fact that the International Union (IUSG) exists is the first place, I think, to attribute to women religious and their very great influence in the Church—in a very subtle, humble, almost hidden way," Mother Thomas Aquinas said.

"It is a recognition on the part of the Church—since the IUSG was called into being by the Sacred Congregation for Religious—that women religious are beginning to come of age."

By this event "The Sacred Congregation for Religious" has said that Mothers General of women's religious communities are a voice which should be heard in the Church and that these women should not be



MOTHER THOMAS AQUINAS

brought together to be talked to but to be listened to. Now this is a great revolution in the relationship of women and women religious to the Roman Curia. It did represent a new approach of the Sacred Congregation for Religious to women religious."

Mother M. Thomas Aquinas relayed the "present posture of the Sacred Congregation" with respect to (1) the Constitutions of religious congregations (often referred to as their "Rule"), (2) Canon Law, (3) General Chapters (the elective and legislative business sessions of religious communities, held every six years and more frequently when there is "extraordinary" reason, as at present), and (4) the Formation program of communities (their manner of preparing young women to be members of their religious communities and contributing, in a meaningful Christian witness).

Speaking of the contemporary relevance of previous formulations of religious Constitutions, Mother said: "We were all sort of like men with eyes held. Now there is need for Constitutions that are 'full of life, not just patched up but rewritten.' With respect to the task ahead Mother Thomas Aquinas told the superiors: "Our attitude

should not be what it was in the past; that we wait to see what Canon Law says but rather that the whole purpose of General Chapters is to have rise up from the ground roots whatever are the best ways for us to live."

Mother M. Thomas Aquinas cited the statement of a Cuban religious at the time of the Cuban crisis as a "symbol of the failure of all of us." "We were so busy doing our work that we had no concept that we were neglecting 98 per cent of the country."

In attendance at the Rochester meeting were representatives of religious women from Syracuse, Rochester, Buffalo, Hamburg and Erie, Pennsylvania. Major Superiors present were Mother Ames Cecilia, S.S.M., Mother Mary Xavier, S.S.M., and Mother Mary Brice, R.S.M., as well as the Chairman of the whole Eastern Region of the Sister Formation Conference, Mother M. Cornelia, O.S.B., of Elizabeth, N.J. The Sister Formation Conference, an association for cooperation and mutual renewal among religious communities of women, recently established a new Lake Sub-Region in this area. Co-Chairmen of the sub-region are Sister Mary dePazzi, S.S.M., of Rochester and Sister Marie-Julienne, S.S.M.N., of Kenmore, N.Y.

Mother Thomas Aquinas described the present position of religious women: "Every single member of every single congregation is being called upon in a very real way to be a founder. I'm not sure we're going to be able to reach this ideal because we tend to look upon founders as people who are very much open to God, to the working of the Holy Spirit and who don't cut off the Spirit by their own deficiencies, by their own selfishness, their own seeking for ease, pleasure, whatever."

"But what it means really—the great challenge that is being thrown out to us—is that every single member of every congregation ought to be busy, terribly busy, trying to put herself entirely at the disposition of the Holy Spirit, trying really to reflect a direct relationship with God which will enable her to say, to help to decide, what is the will of God for this congregation."

"It's giving a dignity to every person in our communities which is almost unheard of, unthinkable when you really measure it. The problem will be, if we don't live up to this first big spiritual dimension of being immediately at the disposition of the Holy Spirit and if we let all these more natural, more worldly rationalizations dictate what we do."

Responding to a question concerning religious life and the social apostolate of the Church, Mother said that a final resolution of the IUSG meeting had clearly advocated: "participation by (religious women) in the solution of the great social problems of man: war, poverty, social injustice, educational inequality and religious disunity."

She went on to say: "We're not looking at big issues. We're afraid to take a stand. . . . If we mean it when we say that we are women in the Church and that we want to be an active force for good, we want to promote the cause of Christ then, it seems to me, it's on these issues that we have to stand up and be counted. And when you come down to it, there are mighty few issues on which the Sister, any Sister, has stood up and been counted. . . . Let us get our congregations in order and more on to these important issues."

Among the 104 participants at the Rome meeting, Mother M. Thomas Aquinas noted the responsible and optimistic efforts of the United States representatives: "the three American delegates met every night

to prepare their work for the next day and were one of the best prepared groups."

She also felt it to be a self-education in relations between authority and the Sisters—in which members of the Sacred Congregation made "it possible for these Sisters to see that you could disagree with a member of the hierarchy in a situation like this and that he would still respect the fact that we disagree and respect our point of view in disagreeing. I felt it was one of the most important things that was done in the whole Conference. . . . It was a very optimistic, very positive, very forward-looking meeting."

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