

The Church in the Inner City

First in a Series

Summer Action At St. Bridget's

Parish activity may slow up during the summer in most places—

but not in the inner city. July and August are action-packed months for parishes in this sector, be it Rochester, Elmira or other urban areas of the diocese.

In the next few issues of the Courier-Journal, some of these parishes will be spotlighted, their problems noted and also what is being done about them.

Take St. Bridget's in Rochester, for example.

This 7th Ward parish is centered in the Hand-Gorham area between St. Paul St. and Clinton Avenue North. It is a populous section although the majority of the people are not Catholics.

As far as Father Francis Vogt, the pastor, is concerned, St. Bridget's is there to serve everybody in the neighborhood.

Their summer program shows this.

If you visit the parish any day, you'll find some of these activities in full swing:

Special Education

Pre-school children, 65 of them, are being readied for their fall debut into kindergarten through the federal Head Start program. Two groups occupy classrooms, two groups are bussed to the Academy of the Sacred Heart on Prince St. daily. Sister Virginia, S.S.J. is in charge at St. Bridget's assisted by Miss Gloria Lopez.

The Head Start schedule goes from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. five days a week and includes a hot lunch for the children. After school, the teachers spend another two hours visiting their pupils' homes, getting acquainted with the parents. The program is geared to help the youngsters make a smooth transition from home to school, and literally give them a "head start" in their formal education.

The children of grammar school age get a chance for some day camp experience, through the St. Martin de Porres CYO Day Camp. Arrangements are made to convey 70 youngsters by bus to outlying parks for a day of sports, crafts and swimming. A bus stops at St. Bridget's, and other neigh-

borhood locations each morning. Most of the kids sign up for this program through the nearby St. Martin de Porres Center, directed by Mrs. Margaret Michard.

On weekends, some 55 youngsters who are preparing for First Holy Communion are going to class. St. Bridget's summer deacon, Rev. Mr. Robert Magin, is in charge of this instruction.

Two rooms of the school house special English language classes for foreign-born and Spanish-speaking students. A teacher from the Rochester Board of Education handles this.

A federally-financed program provides adult education classes on three nights a week, using two classrooms.

A brand new program, starting this week, has seen families from Webster taking some 25 youngsters from the St. Bridget's area into their suburban homes for a two week stay.

Even St. Bridget's portable classroom behind the school is being used this summer. It houses a guidance program connected with Project Uplift, into the Church. These are di-



ONE AT A TIME! CYO day camp counselor Mary Skelly, left, checks off her youthful charges as they throng around the bus door, ready for a day of swimming, sports and crafts. Scene is at St. Bridget's Church.

rected by members of the Legion of Mary.

Club Programs

Many of the kids in the neighborhood will get a chance for some fulltime camping, thanks to arrangements made by St. Bridget's. Some will go on an in-mental camp, Camp Content, instruction after being received by members of the Baptist sponsored institution.

Others will go to Camp Stella Maris for a few days after the regular season ends in August. Both camps are on Conesus Lake.

There is a crying need for recreation, training and special education in the inner-city. St. Bridget's plays a big part in meeting these needs.

Father Vogt is quick to express his appreciation for the help he receives from the Diocese of Rochester. His small group of parishioners, probably less than 500 are at Sunday Mass, could not support the various activities which keep the parish busy.

Catholics all over the diocese have helped provide the \$29,000 given to this inner-city parish this year to keep it a vital force where it's most needed.

"Without that help, we just couldn't keep going," Father Vogt makes clear.

With that help, St. Bridget's is doing a real job.



READY TO GO! Counselors and campers, swim suits and towels in hand, prepare to board a bus for a day in one of the city parks. It's provided by the St. Martin de Porres CYO day camping program

Nun Visitors

They're Footsore But Smiling

By MONICA REEVES

While others are concerning themselves with possible violence in Rochester's inner city this summer, four Sisters of St. Joseph are capitalizing upon the hospitably and friendliness to be found there.

Sisters of St. Joseph Francis David, Adelaide Francis, Alfred and Celine are using the summer months to familiarize themselves with the people and the problems of ghetto living in and around St. Bridget's parish. Another sister, Sister David Mary will become the official home visitor for the area in September. Meanwhile, her colleagues

are breaking ground and winning friends for her.

The Sisters go into neighborhood homes on both an informative as well as a social basis.

Urban re-creation information in particular and the opinions of those whom it will effect is a primary concern in an effort to prepare these people for the

changes ahead. Of course shift-lay garb are so valid after all. The nun's habit does mean a lot to these people, since racial and nationality groups here are constantly forming new patterns.

The Sisters have quickly adjusted to the climate of the inner city. Despite the fact that violence is no stranger to the neighborhood, the Sisters have found that the only thing they need arm themselves with are Spanish dictionaries. The religious habit commands almost instant respect and cooperation. After a couple of weeks of this work the Sisters wonder if suggestions for nuns to dress in



While two of the Visiting Sisters are on their rounds they stop to visit Miguel Soto, who greets them at the door of his home. (More pictures on p. 14)

3-Day Seminar At Fisher College

Rev. Richard J. Wojcik, S.T.L., C.G.M., director of music at the Chicago archdiocesan Seminary of Saint Mary of the Lake, Mundelein, Illinois will lecture to a wide cross section of church musicians and educators from 15 states and Canada who will attend the three-day liturgical music seminar conducted by the Gregorian Institute of America at St. John Fisher College, Aug. 30 - Sept. 1.

The seminar is sponsored by the music commission of the Diocese of Rochester, chairmaned by the Rev. Benedict A. Ehrmann, pastor of St. Michael's Church.

The theme of Father Wojcik's lectures and demonstrations will be "The Musical Reformation of Vatican II." He will emphasize the spirit of conciliar change and point out the historical perspectives in relation to the music of the Church and the resultant rubrics and procedures to be followed.

Father Wojcik, whose graduate studies in church music were made at the Pontifical Institute of Sacred Music, Rome, has had many years of experience not only in directing seminary and parish music programs, but also in outlining and implementing deanery and regional programs in the Chicago archdiocese where he is a member of the music commission. Father Wojcik will emphasize practical solutions in today's

changing music environment and he will point out the musical and artistic values of sung prayers, congregational singing at both high and low Mass, the hymn singing, how to organize existing parish talent for the various roles in the liturgy, and how to gain cooperation and avoid competition.

In addition to his many other duties, Father Wojcik has been editorial advisor of the "Chicago Studies" magazine, edited by the faculty of the seminary and the diocesan priests of Chicago; one of the editors and compilers of the original edition of "Our Parish Prays and Sings," and compiler and arranger of the Gregorian Institute's two-volume edition of "Propers of Sundays and Principal Feasts." He has given many workshops in the Chicago area, and this past winter lectured at the Gregorian Institute's Three-Day Christmas Week Seminar sponsored by the Diocese of Miami, Florida.

Meals will be served at the college during the seminar, and on-campus living accommodations will be available in the residence halls for any clergy, religious or lay persons desiring these accommodations. An illustrated 16-page brochure may be obtained by writing to the Gregorian Institute of America, 2132 Jefferson Ave., Toledo, Ohio 43601. Telephone: Area Code 419/485-6421.

Funeral Held For Father Fox

Funeral Mass for the Rev. Robert J. Fox was held Tuesday, July 18, in SS. Peter and Paul's Church, Rochester where Father Fox had been pastor for the last 17 years.

Father Fox, 64, died Friday, July 14, 1967 in St. Mary's Hospital after suffering a heart attack. Bishop Sheen visited and blessed the stricken priest moments before his death.

Bishop Sheen celebrated the Funeral Mass in SS. Peter and Paul's Church. Concelebrants with the bishop were Monsi- ners William Naughton and Donald Cleary and Fathers John Maxwell, Charles Reynolds, Edward Hartmann and Howard Geck. Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Paterson, New Jersey was in attendance in the sanctuary.

Bishop Sheen's eulogy centered around the idea of the priesthood as an emptying of oneself so that the church might be filled. It is only when the priest returns to his God that what he gave is once again replenished.

During his pastorate at SS. Peter and Paul, Father Fox directed renovation of the church, added facilities to the

parish school and supervised construction of the first church hall. He inaugurated a year-long weekly novena to the Infant of Prague.

Father Fox was born in Rochester in 1903 and attended St. Francis Xavier School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries.

He was ordained on June 9, 1928 by Bishop Emmet Michael.



FATHER FOX

25 Years Ago

(From Catholic Courier files, July 23, 1942.)

A pressing appeal for funds to aid the suffering peoples of war-stricken countries was made by Bishop Kearney who directed a collection for those funds to be taken in all churches of the diocese.

Sale of U.S. War Stamps and Bonds at a booth in the Century Theater in downtown Rochester was begun by members of the Alumnae Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Full-fledged membership in the Chemung County War Council was accorded Catholic boys who had completed the course of the Catholic Youth Organization in the area-defense program.

Walsh of Youngstown in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester.

He served as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, St. Patrick's Cathedral and SS. Peter and Paul Church, Rochester. He was named pastor of St. James Church, Waverly in 1945 and pastor of SS. Peter and Paul's in 1950.

From 1932 to 1942, Father Fox served as Diocesan Sodality Director.

Father Fox leaves three sisters, Mrs. Lorenz Stutz, Mrs. Ralph Stutz and Mrs. Dolores Christoff.

General Chapter Of Basilians In Session

The General Chapter of the Congregation of St. Basil (Basilian Fathers) is now in session at St. John Fisher College. The Basilian Fathers teach at the college and at Aquinas Institute in Rochester.

The General Chapter is the highest legislative body for this community of priests whose apostolate covers high school and college education, parish ministry, and missionary activity in Canada, France, Mexico, and the United States.

This chapter is responsible for electing the central administration of the community. In addition it faces the particular problems involved in renewing a religious community along the guidelines set down by the Second Vatican Council.

One hundred sixteen delegates are attending this chapter from Canada, France, Mexico, and the United States. They have been elected by their local communities at an approximate ratio of one delegate per ten members. It is the first time in Basilian history that seminarians are participating as full members of a General Chapter. Eighteen months of preparation, discussion, and debate have preceded this chapter including a pre-chapter convention held for two weeks last August in this same city.

Areas to be dealt with at this chapter include: admission of new members, formation policy, theology program, evaluation of high school, college, parish, and mission apostolates, an analysis of community life and spirituality, and re-organization of local and general government.

Unity Talks

London — (RNS) — The Joint Anglican-Roman Catholic Preparatory Commission, established to initiate "serious dialogue" between the Churches following the Archbishop of Canterbury's meeting with Pope Paul last year, will hold its second meeting near here Aug. 30.

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