

Wounded Marine

Thanks Pupils For Support

Memories of cookies, gifts, prayers and letters recently prompted a wounded young Marine to visit the children of Our Lady of Good Counsel School. Desmond Murray, 23, came to Rochester to thank the children personally for their morale-building efforts before returning to St. Albans Naval Hospital for treatment of extensive injuries received in Vietnam.

The young girls baked cookies and bought gifts with money earned baby-sitting and sent them to the Rochester Marine and his buddies in Vietnam. The boys mowed lawns and ran errands to do their part.

Efforts of the children soon spread to other members of Murray's company as each box of cookies contained notes like: "Be sure Joe and Ralph get some of these . . ."

Many of these buddies were not as fortunate as Murray when Viet Cong artillery blasted the demilitarized zone for several hours last May. He dove head

first into a foxhole as shrapnel ripped into his legs causing multiple wounds and fractures.

Murray was high in his praise of the group of school children who brought so much cheer to the boys in Vietnam. He also mentioned the fine part being played by so many young men in Vietnam. "You hear so much about the behavior of teenagers today," he said, "but these same teenagers are doing a whale of a job under most adverse conditions over there."

Just a week before, his buddy Sgt. Dennis J. Keenan was killed in Vietnam. He received the Bronze Star. Both young men worked part-time at Good Counsel School.

Murray is typical of the many men serving in Vietnam who didn't have to be there. Born in Dublin, Ireland, he lived in America for 12 years. He graduated from Aquinas Institute and attended St. John Fisher College on scholarship for a little over a year before return-

ing to Dublin to help his ill mother.

Later, Murray realized that the war in Vietnam was becoming serious and decided to do his part. He returned to America to enlist in the Marines even though he was not required to serve. "because it was my responsibility, and if I didn't go, someone else would have to go in my place."

On hand to meet Murray when he arrived at the airport were George Blackburn, an employee at Good Counsel School, and three of his morale-builders, Betty Gallagher, Mary Gallagher and Ann Goodwin. Blackburn and the youngsters became friends with Murray when he worked part-time at the school while attending college.

Following his discharge in March, 1969, Murray plans to visit John Fisher College and continue his education at St. John Fisher. He eventually hopes to become a reporter. Following his release from the hospital, he hopes to visit his mother, sisters and brothers in Ireland.

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Bishop Sheen At Seminar

Bishop Sheen will be among the local figures speaking at the Rochester Institute of Technology's ninth annual management seminar series December 11.

The topic of his speech will be "Ethics in Business."

Also to address the 60 top management officials expected to attend this 10-session series are Francis E. Drake, Jr., president of Rochester Gas and Electric and Donald A. Gaudion, president of Ritter Pfaulder Corp.

The series is sponsored by RIT's Extended Services Division and is to be held at the Tradeway Inn.



Albany — Left to Right: David Rivera, a Bronx parent of 5 children, and Robert J. Scholz of Buffalo, president of the New York State Federation of Citizens for Educational Freedom, presented 225,000 Blaine Amendment repeal petitions to Convention President Anthony J. Travia.



Here Good Counsel students Betty Gallagher, Ann Goodwin, Mary Gallagher and George Blackburn visit with Marine Cpl. Desmond Murray on his recent visit to Rochester.

Con-Con Votes To Repeal Blaine

As far as the State Constitutional Convention is concerned, the controversial Blaine Amendment is dead.

The ultimate decision is now in the hands of the voters, who will vote on the new Constitution on Nov. 7.

The Constitutional Convention voted to replace the Blaine Amendment (Article XI, Section 3) this week with a provision modeled after the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The delegates signaled their intention to repeal the Blaine Amendment on Tuesday, when they overwhelmingly rejected an amendment which would have retained the present strict ban on state aid to church-affiliated schools. The amendment, pre-

sented by Delegate Donald S. Harrington, a Protestant minister who led opposition to the repeal measure, was turned down 130-48.

The stage was set for debate on the Blaine proviso when the Bill of Rights and Suffrage committee of the convention voted 15 to 3 recently to report out a proposal to repeal Blaine. The proposal would substitute the wording of the first Federal Amendment and permit citizen suits to prevent unconstitutional spending of federal funds.

Petitions Pour In

Petitions supporting repeal of the Blaine Amendment poured into the office of Constitutional Convention chairman Anthony J. Travia in the last week before floor debate started. Robert J. Scholz of Buffalo headed

a statewide delegation which presented the petitions, amounting to 225,000 signatures, to Travia. The signatures brought Blaine repeal requests to a total of more than one half million.

The former president of New York City's Board of Education, Charles H. Silver, expressed his opposition to the Blaine Amendment in a letter to all the delegates. Citing the need to develop to the fullest "the potential of our State's most precious resource — all of our children," Silver added, "it is the child who counts and not the label on his school."

Silver emphasized that New York City taxpayers are saved almost \$1 billion each year because almost 600 religiously-affiliated schools accommodate 450,000 pupils.

A Conservative - Republican delegate to the convention, Charles E. Rice of the Bronx, noted that the Conservative party was "firmly opposed" to the Blaine amendment.

Rice also introduced a proposal to require tuition tax credit would result in a reduction of the state income tax payable by such parents.

"After we remove the Blaine Amendment from the constitution," he said, "we must be careful not to adopt unwise programs of public aid for parochial schools. . . . Supporters of parochial schools (should) realize that only a program such as the tuition tax credit offers a promise of maintaining a vital and independent parochial school system."

The Church in the Inner City

Community Ministry

City Church Moves Toward New Role

"What is the role of the Church in the world today?" This question is being faced on many fronts today, but nowhere more than in the inner city parishes.

With many of their old parishes moved out to the suburbs, financial resources cramped and surrounded by crucial problems, these parishes can't afford a "business as usual" attitude.

Rochester's Immaculate Conception parish for one, is moving toward a community-oriented approach. Not easy to define, it means a willingness to serve the neighborhood in the most realistic way possible.

The spiritual needs of men are by no means overlooked, but they are not treated in isolation, either.

"We are trying to find out how the Christian community can best serve the people of a neighborhood," stated Father Robert Kreckel, pastor of the 3rd Ward parish, this week.

Action is Ecumenical

One facet of this "community ministry" as it is termed, is that it tends to be strongly ecumenical.

Clear evidence of this at Immaculate Conception is the presence on the parish staff of a Protestant seminarian, Larry Coppard. Formerly assistant pastor of a Presbyterian church in Batavia, Coppard was hired in June by Father Kreckel. As the parish's "community minister," he coordinates the Plymouth Ave church in its neighborhood approach.

As Coppard describes the community ministry, three points are salient:

• Ecumenical action is essential. "There's too much to do for any parish to go it alone," he says simply.

Father Kreckel added another note: "The most pressing problems are basic human problems, and the solutions don't depend on denominational stands."

• This ministry should depend more on laymen, should

stress lay responsibility. Clergy should inspire and encourage laymen, but not preclude the layman's initiative.

• The most vital issues in each area must be faced. "Around here, we think that the youth, the aged and housing must be our first concerns," he explained.

Larry Coppard has coordinated a home-visiting program in the parish that has included both priests, (Father Kreckel and his assistant pastor, Father Paul Brennan), a deacon on summer duty, David Kunz, four St. Joseph nuns and eight Mercy nuns.

Identifying the Need

Main aim of the visiting apostolate was to "identify the needs of the neighborhood," according to Father Kreckel. This must be done from the ground up, he felt, or a parish might waste its efforts on programs askew of the real mark.

As an example of this iden-

tification, Father Kreckel mentioned this:

One block, near the parish, was found to have a heavy population of pre-school children, with little room to play. Sister Winifred helped organize a picnic for several of the mothers, where they put their heads together and decided to present their needs to city officials. As a result a "Tot Lot" playground will soon be available on their street.

Helping the neighbors get acquainted has been one of the fruits of the visiting program. "The sisters found that often people are hardly acquainted with their next door neighbors," Father Kreckel explained.

Busy School Building

The parish facilities are available for any worthwhile activity that will serve the area. Larry Coppard pointed this out when he listed the activities that have kept the parish school building humming this summer. It has housed Head Start,

Project Uplift and adult education courses. It has been home for an ambitious summer school headed by John Everett, described in the Courier-Journal on Aug. 4. It provided room for a craft program emanating from nearby Corn Hill Methodist Church.

The school hall has been the scene of several dances for neighborhood youth, and provided rooms for meetings connected with the Action for a Better Community (ABC) anti-poverty program.

By mid summer, Larry Coppard could report: "Every room in the school is being used from 9 to 5 daily, and there's often some action going on at night."

This fall, Immaculate will join in an Ecumenical Church School with other Catholic and Protestant parishes in the area. The idea has already been pioneered in Rochester's South and Northwest sections this summer. The 3rd Ward venture

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PONDERING THE FUTURE of the Church in the city are Larry Coppard, right, community minister for Immaculate Conception parish and Father Robert Kreckel, pastor of the Third Ward parish.

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