

# Cursillo Cited As Renewal Force

The much discussed and often misunderstood Cursillo Movement got a thorough clarification last week (Oct. 18 at the Notre Dame Retreat House.

The occasion was a special briefing for priests of the diocese in preparation for the first English speaking Cursillo, slated for McQuaid High School during Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 23-26.

William Sweeney, executive director of the national Cursillo Secretariat, Father Hugh Brady, diocesan director for Cursillo and Father Roger Baglin, coordinator of the Spanish Apostolate, were the speakers.

The trio made these points: "The best-known part of the Cursillo program, the three-day spiritual exercises, is probably the least important part of the movement." (Sweeney)

"The three days are vital, but the follow up is the really essential part," Father Baglin explained.

"The Cursillo movement has no specific apostolic programs; it aims to 'move and shape committed Christians.'" (Father Brady)

"There is little point in making a Cursillo unless one has well-defined apostolic opportunities available afterward. Pastors should not recommend people for a Cursillo, said Father Brady, unless they have a pastoral plan which can use the talents and energies of the 'cursillistas' (those who have made a Cursillo).

The Cursillo movement was depicted for the 35 priests in attendance as a potent instrument in the Church's post-Conciliar renewal. The aim of Cursillo, Father Brady emphasized is to bring adult Catholics to "a commitment to apostolic action."

All three speakers made the point that while the Cursillo should effect individual renewal, it is geared ultimately to renewal of the Church. For this, the long-range strategy of parish priests must be shaped and specified.

"The Cursillo can what an

appetite for commitment — but the pastoral plan must provide an opportunity for those anxious to take their part," Father Brady continued.

The personal interest of priests in the continued growth of those in the movement was emphasized frequently. Priests who have made a Cursillo themselves (there are about 20 in the Diocese of Rochester to date) will be invited to assist at the first English-speaking Cursillo at Thanksgiving time.

Main qualification for those considering making a Cursillo is leadership potential, the meeting was told. The priest listeners were advised not to recommend candidates with serious emotional problems. (Other trained personnel and organizations were better equipped to handle such special problems, it was explained.)

The "post-Cursillo" formation program was outlined by Father Baglin, who has had wide experience with Spanish-speaking cursillistas. This includes two components, a group reunion of a few people meeting regularly in an informal discussion of the problems of the apostolate, and a general meeting (the Ultreya) of all cursillistas in an area.

Ideally, Father Baglin said, the two meetings should be combined on one evening, the smaller groups meeting first, then all the groups holding a general meeting.

A team from the Buffalo Cursillo center will direct the Rochester Cursillo in November. Area Cursillo veterans will assist in the three day exercise.



## Faith Centenary in Scipio

St. Bernard's parish, Scipio Center, celebrated its centenary at a Mass celebrated by its present and recent pastors Sunday afternoon. Photo shows jubilee Mass in top photo and priests in exit procession in lower photo — Fathers Daniel Hogan, Elmer Heindl, Francis Turner and Raymond Wuest. An anniversary dinner followed the Mass. (Tarby Photos)

## Religion Has Vanished in Red China

London — (RNS)—Cemeteries are disappearing in Red China and most churches there are closed though still in good condition, according to an Anglican theologian and author recently returned from a three-weeks visit to some of the country's largest cities.

The Rev. George I. F. Thomson also says that Sunday has ceased to be a day of religious significance—and so has Friday for Moslems—and that there is practically no outward evidence of religion in any form.

Mr. Thomson described his visit in a full-page article in the Church Times, leading in dependent Church of England Journal here. He writes from experience, for he was born in Canton in 1917, lived in China for ten years and has written such works as the Rise of Modern Asia and Changing Patterns in South Asia among his books. He is now engaged on research at the Selly Oak theological colleges in Birmingham.

During his tour he visited Peking, Shanghai, Tsinan, Harbin and Hangchow, travelled 2,500 miles by train, air and bus inside China, and met people in the countryside as well as in major cities. Here are some extracts from his report in the Church Times:

"It has been reliably estimated that a few decades ago China had a total Christian population approaching six million. The church was rapidly establishing itself, was indigenous with its own leadership, seminaries, literature, organization, zeal and following.

"Institutionally this is no longer Christianity, along with all other religious philosophies and faiths, is being ridiculed, suffocated, and driven underground. This is not to say that there may not be many thousands, even hundreds of thousands, who remain believers and worship in the secret of their own hearts, but the survival-

value of traditional Christianity is rooted invisibly in the mind and spirit of Christians individually and in private fellowship together. The witness is no longer in public worship and outward observance.

"In five major cities — Peking, Shanghai, Tsinan, Harbin and Hangchow—I saw a number of churches. Most were closed. One or two were being used as schools. In nearly every case they looked as though they had been locked for months, a deserted look, yet untouched except for big character posters on the door or entrance.

"Some looked in excellent condition, as though they could be reopened tomorrow, though bereft at the moment. Many still stand as symbols of an age of faith and fellowship that was. Some have just simply disappeared.

Some Orthodox churches stand conspicuously large, well-sited and distinctive. Guides and interpreters tended to be evasive if one asked if they were open and if one could attend. Sometimes they said, 'Yes, but only for Chinese.' It proved impossible to get to church to worship, as one expected."

"Cemeteries and graves are disappearing, even in the countryside. One used to see them on roadsides and hillsides. They are now regarded as wasteful of space, superfluous, and reflecting untruth. Cremation is being encouraged. Ashes can be kept in urns at home, if so desired.

"Sunday is still the day when most people have their day off, but not a day of religious significance. Nor is Friday of any account to Moslems. Indeed, there is practically no outward evidence of religion in any shape or form, and it hits one forcibly when one reaches airports on the way home to counter once again the full assortment of professional religious attire, be it Buddhist

## Birch Priest Raps Milwaukee Cleric

Milwaukee — (NC)—A Connecticut priest who is a leader of the John Birch Society, criticized both the goals and the means of the open housing drive here being led by Father James E. Groppi.

"This is what the communists want," he explained, "and the more open their activity is, we'll have at least the seeds for open anarchy and revolution."

"If the Reds take over, there'll be no more problem. Let the police use whatever force necessary. Never mind police brutality. Nip the riots in the bud."

Father Francis E. Fenton, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Bridgeport, Conn., and a member of the Birch Society's national council, visited Milwaukee to address students at Marquette University High School, St. Francis Seminary, and DeSales Preparatory Seminary.

Explaining his views on Father Groppi at a press conference, Father Fenton said that open housing cannot be "effectively legislated."

"I can conceive of a person who can be guilty of grave sin in this matter," he said, "but I cannot comprehend how a person can deal with property except according to his wishes."

He maintained that Father Groppi is using "bad means to a doubtfully good end" and said, "the way he's going about his objectives is a greater evil than the evils that exist."

Father Groppi, the Bridgeport priest maintained, is "completely disrupting law and order which according to good



"Here's where we're going," say Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Whalen as they prepare for their ninth errand of mercy to Mexico.

## 'Extend the Hand of God'

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Whalen will launch a new project of mercy in Mexico on their ninth trip there this winter.

Their St. Martin de Porres Dispensary will "extend the hand of God" in a new apostolate named "El Hogar de San Martin de Porres — the Hearth of St. Martin de Porres."

poor of northwest Mexico to improve their living conditions — such as cement block homes to replace cardboard hovels.

The dispensary for the past years has concentrated on emergency medical aid. This service will continue, the Whalens said.

They are members of St. Agnes parish, Avon.

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Sister Josephine Clare, Principal of St. Anthony of Padua School receiving Perfect Safety Award Plaque from Mr. John Bigelow of Delco Products Division. St. Anthony of Padua School has received this plaque for five consecutive years.

## St. John Knights, Ladies To Honor Bp. Kearney

Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliaries will sponsor a dinner honoring Bishop Kearney, upon the completion of his 30th year in Rochester. Knights of St. John and Ladies Auxiliaries will sponsor a dinner honoring Bishop Kearney, upon the completion of his 30th year in Rochester. Kaseman, 447 Melville St., Rochester, N.Y. 14608 or Phone 482-9300.

A Top Sirloin of Beef Dinner will be served at Manger Hotel, Sunday, Nov. 12, at 6:00 p.m. The cost per ticket of \$6.00 includes entertainment and gratuity.

Monsignor Charles V. Boyle will be guest speaker and Father George S. Wood will be master of ceremonies.

RESERVATIONS are being taken by George and Loretta

## Knights, Ladies Communion Set

The 27th Annual Communion get-together of Rochester Regiment, Knights and Ladies Auxiliaries of St. John will be held Sunday, Oct. 29, at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church on Woodward Street. The Regiment will attend the 9 a.m. Mass on this Sunday, Feast of Christ the King.

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