



SINGING APOSTLES. The five seminarians who make up the Montfort Mission are assigned to inner-city work in St. Louis. They've recently waxed

an album called "Yesterday's Gone," a collection of songs dealing with today's youth, social problems and the Christian conscience.

Apostles of Inner City Double as Folk Singers

The Montfort Mission are five handsome young men out of St. Louis. They sing folk songs, play stringed instruments and are available for theater parties, one-nighters, meat market openings and even an occasional bar mitzvah.

What makes them off beat is that they're all Roman Catholic seminarians.

"When we're not going the show business route we're working in the slums of St. Louis," said the spokesman for the group, Brother John O'Reilly,

who comes from New England and knocks off most of the arrangements and lyrics for "the act."

The Montfort Mission has recently finished an album of folk songs, "Yesterday's Gone," for Reprise Records. It's off to a fine start in sales.

"In between our senior year studies most of us are assigned to the Church of St. Michael the Archangel where we counsel juvenile delinquents. The point is there's a need for a new order of clergy today . . .

the way-out, forthright, 'in' right-with-it kind of spiritual leader whom kids can relate to. I guess you could call us the swingin' priests if you wanted to," explained Brother O'Reilly.

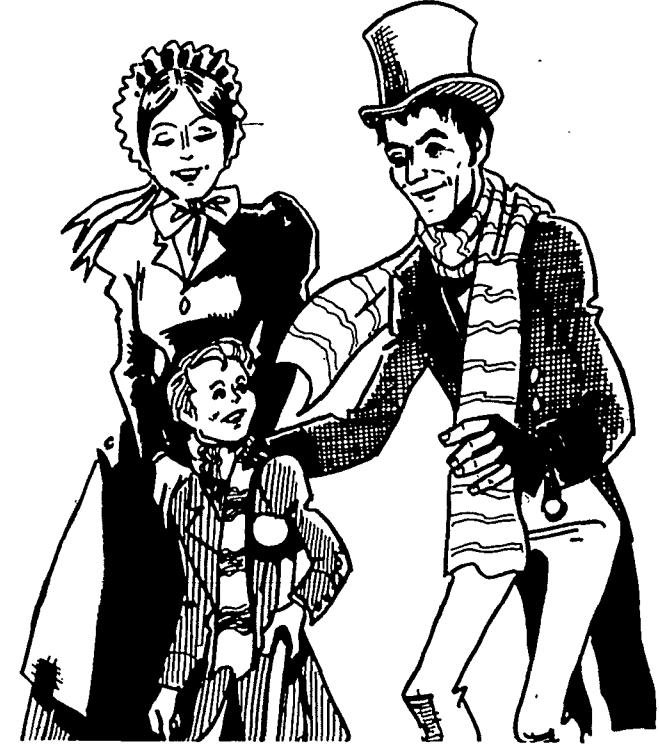
"Our work is the 20th century interpretation of St. Louis de Montfort, the founder of the order," says Brother Joe Valentine who strums banjo and specializes in social sciences adult education programs.

Brother Don Middendorf on double bass tried to explain it further. "We've known one another for years, ever since we began at the Montfort Preparatory Seminary in New York City. We transferred to St. Louis University last year. We are all Easterners and we know about poverty. We know about slums.

"We long ago realized that folk tunes can reach kids and can call attention to anti-poverty and civil rights activities and all the other social work the modern day priests must be involved in. It's time for seminarians to speak what they feel and not what others would like them to feel," continued Brother Middendorf. "Music is one of the best instruments of social communication. We feel we're reaching humanity."

Brother Paul Baker on banjo added, "Our work is really a call to Christian commitment. The main idea of the act which we do in summer when school's out and the main idea of 'There'll Come A Day,' the record album with a message which we've just recorded, is to show that the Church stands ready to help the people and that we'll roll up our sleeves and get right into the fight. Our songs hide the complexity of prosperous Americans and portray the problems of the poor."

The five Brothers who make up the Montfort Mission are Jack Coyne, Paul Baker, Don Middendorf, John O'Reilly and Joe Valentine.



Blackfriars Present . . .

Portrayed in a scene from Blackfriars' "Scrooge", are Bruce Babb as Bob Cratchit, Camy Sorbello as his wife, and James Malley as Tiny Tim. This play, an adaptation of Dickens' famous story will be presented at Mercy High Auditorium, Dec. 15, 16 and 17 at 8:30 p.m. There will also be a special matinee performance for children Sun. Dec. 17 at 2:30 p.m. Children under 12, will be admitted free to any performance with the donation of a can of food for the poor at the door. Tickets available at Midtown Copy Center or at the door.

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