

Inner City Nuns Now Go Where the People Are

(Continued from Page 1) she and her crew assess their needs and organize programs for them.

Assessing their Work

Both Sister Kieran and Joseph say that it's too soon to evaluate the experiment of living outside the convent and working with the Community Ministry.

Both agree that the move into a house of their own was a practical measure which has paid off in convenience and facilitates their work. They de-



Sisters Joseph and Kieran moving into their Hawley St. home.

CCD Plans Lay Catechist Institute

1000 lay CCD instructors from all over the diocese are expected to gather for the CCD Lay Teachers' Institute, to be held May 4 at Mercy High School.

The day-long program, beginning at 9 a.m., will feature addresses by national figures William Reedy, Director of Catechetics for Sadlier Co., Father John McCall, SJ of Weston College, Massachusetts and Father Charles Curran, theologian from Catholic University in Washington, D.C.



Confraternity of Christian Doctrine

Bishop Sheen will round out the day's activities with Mass and a homily at 3:30 p.m.

The purpose of the Institute is to acknowledge the work of the lay catechists of the CCD program in the diocese and to make experts and materials available to them, according to Father Daniel Holland, Assistant Director of the CCD.

Coordinating the program under the direction of Monsignor Albert Schneck and Father Holland are Sister Gilmary of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Sister Benedict, RSM, Robert Maurice, of the Rochester Institute of Technology staff, Father Gerald Connor, assistant pastor of St. Ann's, Hornell, and Father John Glogowski, assistant pastor of Holy Family, Auburn.

Father Connor and Father Glogowski will coordinate activities in the Southern Tier and Eastern Tier Vicariates, respectively. If enough interest is shown, transportation to the Institute will be provided for CCD teachers from these areas.

Veteran Courier Newsman Retires

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and sent it to the composing room on his final day at the office.

A Courier Tradition

The soft-spoken newsman had held every job in the Courier editorial department, including that of editor for several years. He was a tradition with the Courier and won a host of friends for the diocesan paper during his long service.

Well did Bishop Kearney say on that 25-year anniversary in 1949, "Tom has been the personification of loyalty not only to his superiors but to every Catholic parish, every Catholic organization and every Catholic person in the diocese."

When Mr. O'Connor joined the Courier staff in 1932, it was struggling along with a circulation of some 5,000 subscribers. As he retires, the paper can boast a circulation of nearly 63,000.

An indication of the span of his career can be gleaned from a remark he made last week as he was looking back over Memory Lane. "I've had some association with all six bishops of the Rochester Diocese," he noted.

Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid, founding bishop of the diocese (1868-1909), confirmed young Tom O'Connor. When the second bishop of the diocese, Bishop Thomas F. Hickey (1909-1928) was consecrated, Tom attended the ceremony. He joined the Catholic press under the same prelate, and has served under the four bishops who have headed the diocese since then.

School and Army Days

A graduate of the old Cathedral High in 1912, Mr. O'Connor attended Notre Dame University for one year, before leaving ("ran out of money") to take a job. He was very proud of his link with the South Bend university, was an active member of the Rochester Notre Dame Alumni club, and was even named Rochester's "Notre Dame Man of the Year" in 1957.

He worked briefly for the Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh (B.R. & P.) Railroad news bureau and the Lawyers Cooperative Publishing Company, then joined the U.S. Army in 1918.

An aerial photographer for the Army, he had one big adventure that fortunately turned out well. His plane was forced down by engine trouble in the Florida Everglades, while on a training mission. "We were lost for two days, but were found by some Seminole Indians who were able to lead us back to civilization," he remembers.

He returned to his job at Lawyers Cooperative, remained there until he joined the Catholic Echo in 1924. His biggest achievement at the Lawyers Cooperative, he feels, was meeting the girl he later married, Helen Ryan, also employed there.

The O'Connors have seven living children, six boys and a girl. The boys (now men) are John, Thomas, Robert, Richard, Leo and James. Their daughter is Mrs. Alexander (Helen) Viola. The O'Connors also have seven grandchildren.

Mr. O'Connor moved to the Courier-Journal in 1932 when the Rochester diocese bought the paper, previously owned by Catholic laymen. He served as editor under the managing editorships of the late Father Leo C. Mooney and Monsignor Randall.

When priest editors were appointed, Mr. O'Connor took over the job of news editor under Monsignor Patrick J. Flynn and more recently under Father Henry A. Atwell.

The Lean Years

Nursing the paper along through the lean years of the Great Depression was no small challenge, Mr. O'Connor recalls. He remembers one period when the Courier staff had not been paid for two weeks, and the then editor-in-chief, Monsignor William M. Hart, had to borrow the Sunday collection from his own parish, Corpus Christi, to meet the staff's salaries.

During his tenure, Mr. O'Connor has seen the Courier in many different garbs of type and layout style. During the first years of World War II, the Courier came out in a bold size, as paper for newsprint was a rationed item.

His Courier connections also brought the white-haired newsman into a long friendship with the Carmelite Sisters, whose first chaplain was Father Mooney of the Courier. "Come to think of it, their only two chaplains have been Courier priests," he commented this week. "Father Mooney and Monsignor Randall."

As he looks back over the years, Mr. O'Connor can rattle

Liturgical Music

Session Tomorrow

A music workshop to help organists and choir directors prepare for Holy Week will be held tomorrow, Feb. 24, at St. Agnes School.

The session will begin at 9 a.m. and close with a Mass at 3 p.m. The fee of \$5, which includes lunch and practice material, may be paid at the door.

Father Benedict Ehmman of the diocesan Liturgical Commission invites not only parish music directors but also parish priests and sisters who work with school choirs.

Father Kress To Address First Friday Luncheon

Father Robert L. Kress, pastor of St. Michael Church, Montezuma and St. John Church, Fort Byron is the speaker announced for the First Friday Luncheon Club, March 1 at Hotel Sheraton at 12:10 p.m.

He is a brother of Urban G. Kress, chairman of the Knights of Columbus Sponsoring committee. Father William Donnelly, club moderator and chaplain of Rochester Council, K. of C. will make the introduction.

Father Kress, ordained in 1938, attended St. Andrew School, Aquinas Institute, Niagara University and St. Bernard Seminary.

He has served as assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca; St. Mary's, Auburn, St. John the Evangelist, Rochester, and St. Alphonsus, Auburn.

He was pastor of St. Mary Church, Rexville and St. Joachim, Canisteo going there in 1959.



FATHER KRESS

that year addressed all wardens of Sector 5 in Benjamin Franklin High School, Rochester.

Thomas O'Connor, 'Pillar of Strength'

(The following comment on Mr. Thomas H. O'Connor, who is retiring from the Courier-Journal this week, comes from Monsignor John M. Randall, managing editor and friend for 30 years.)

"Tom O'Connor has been a pillar of strength to the Catholic Press of this Diocese. He has been a steady influence in our Editorial Department for these many years.

"When younger, and less experienced editors were ready to test innovations, it was Tom whose counsel was respected and generally followed. It was his years of loyal service that helped us to avoid the pitfalls of experimentation and keep the Courier on the high road of editorial responsibility. Tom will be missed.

"Like the 'man who came to dinner' he never expected to be around for so long. We are delighted he stayed and we regret his departure. But as a respite from the years of burden and less affluent days, we know that he has merited a time of rest and relaxation.

"To Tom and to his wife Helen, who stands beside him through thick and thin, we extend our greetings that they may continue to enjoy their many friends who have come to respect them for their unselfish allegiance to Holy Mother the Church."

Parents Get Briefing On Sex Education Program

Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Rochester will embark on a carefully planned program of sex instruction for students, it was announced this week.

The first of a series of informational meetings designed to describe the program for parents was held at Kings Preparatory last Friday. Father Daniel Brent, associate superintendent of Catholic Schools, noted three reasons for the advent of the program:

• Vatican II Council emphasized the need for a "prudent and reverent" formation of children in sex education.

• The New York State Education department has mandated such a course, which indirectly will require Catholic Schools to provide this in order to meet state curriculum standards.

• Surveys of students, especially high school students, have shown that "most don't feel that their parents have done an adequate job of sex instruction," Father Brent stated.

"We still feel the primary responsibility is the parents," the priest-educator stressed, "but the school does seem to have a helpful role to play in this matter."

The program is deeper and more comprehensive than merely sex information, said Dr. Gerard Guerinet, who also spoke to the Kings Preparatory parents group last week.

"Sex information is not enough," he pointed out, referring to the experience of the Scandinavian nations, where despite copious sex informational programs, youthful promiscuity and venereal disease has risen.

"Our children must know not only the biology but also the morality of sexual activity," he

continued. Children will find out about sex in some way, from some source, he added. "Most of us acquired our knowledge on sex from poorly informed people; do we want our children to get their sex education in the same way?"

There are many problems in setting up an effective course in sex education, he conceded, but added drily, "we're about 250 years behind, so we'd better get going."

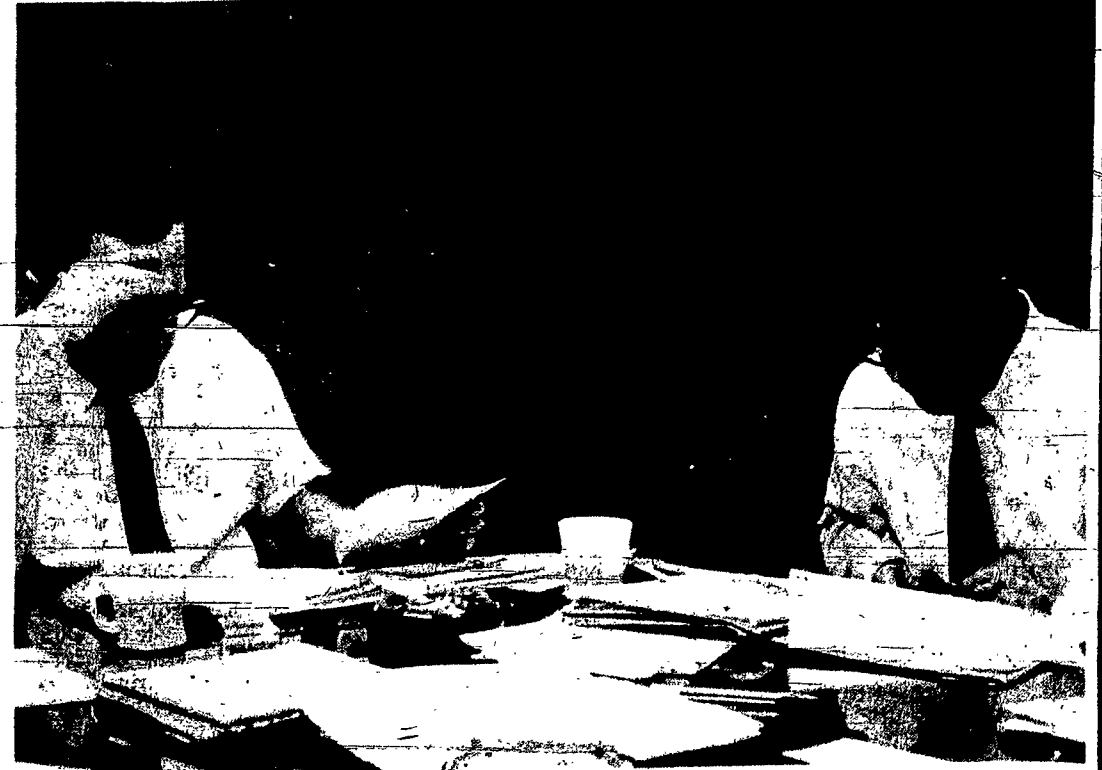
Sister Ruth Agnes, educational coordinator for the Catholic Schools Office, explained that the program was a graduated one, beginning with simple concepts in the lower grades, getting more specific as the students mature.

Meetings with students' parents, early each school year, will explain the content of each grade's program and help them anticipate the school in its efforts.

"Parents still have the main job," Dr. Guerinet repeated to his hearers, "but we hope to supplement the sex information which you are providing."

Father Brent explained this week that a 13-member committee has been working out the general pattern of the program for many months. The working committee included seven parents (among whom were a doctor, a college philosophy teacher and a social worker), three priests and three sisters.

He added that the course will be tested in a small number of elementary schools, then be reviewed and revised by the committee. It will also be reviewed and adjusted by the observations of the Bishop's Maturity Committee, which is working on an overall plan in preparation for a Liturgical Confirmation.



LONG STUDY, CAREFUL PLANNING went into the pilot program for Sex Education to be offered in Catholic schools. Dr. Gerard Guerinet, gynecologist, and Joseph Sanfilippo, social worker, were two of the laypeople who worked on the pioneer effort.

off a whole litany of names of former Courier associates. "Howard W. Klippert, our business manager for 10 years; Elmer Grappenstein, who handled our circulation for 28 years; Harold Connor, our advertising manager for 24 years... and many others."

Mr. O'Connor has been a longtime member of many lay organizations in the diocese. A fourth degree Knight of Columbus, Rochester Council No. 178, he served as Grand Knight, and directed the founding of the First Friday Luncheon Club, which recently noted its 25th birthday.

He's a life-member of the Musa Caravan, Order of the Alhambra, as well. He once edited that group's Musa Musa publication for years the only organ of its kind in the country. He's also a member of the Knights of St. John, St. Eustace Commandery, and the Laymen's Retreat League of the Rochester diocese.

Mr. O'Connor is rightly proud of all his children, but notes with special warmth that one of his boys has followed his footsteps into the world of journalism. That's Thomas J., who is a reporter-photographer now for the Canandaigua Daily Messenger.

Asked what he planned to do in his retirement, Mr. O'Connor smiled and said, (despite his failing eyesight), "I'll have more time to read the papers now."

A newspaperman to the end!



EMPTY CHAIR, MUTE TYPEWRITER and cleared desk mark the departure from the Courier-Journal's editorial office this week of Tom O'Connor, long time stalwart of the paper.

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