

# St. Ambrose Parish: Sunday Night Action

While other parish schools are sleeping—like Sunday evenings—St. Ambrose is wide awake and active.

That's the picture during this Lent at any rate, as the Empire Blvd. school has played host to a four-decked adult formation program each Sunday night.

The lights were ablaze in four classrooms of the new structure last Sunday as more than 100 adults trooped in to take part in an updating program that got underway in St. Ambrose parish in the fall of 1966.

At that time, Monsignor Arthur Rattigan, pastor, promoted a unique month-long parish renewal program, which saw four Holy Cross priests in action through the month.

The visitors offered Mass in four different neighborhoods each night, conducted a dialogue session with the host family and neighbors who had been invited in.

96 home Masses-and-dialogues later, St. Ambrose parish had developed a thirst for more. The immediate result was a series of neighborhood discussion groups which continued through the rest of the year.

Last fall, while several of the discussion groups were still pursuing their monthly sessions, parish leaders were already looking for new avenues to explore.

Their first venture was a four week film series during the Sundays of October. These were no mere pastime films, but serious "thinkers," calculated to arouse further thought on the contemporary problems they explored.

The series included the now-famous "Parable"; a film on non-involvement called "The Detached Americans"; a study of racial attitudes in "A Time for Burning"; and a Canadian prize winner on-teenagers, "Nobody Waved Good-bye."

This series attracted from 150 to 200 parishioners for each film. After the lights went on, so did the discussion, and continued briskly, punctuated with opportune coffee and cookies.

The current project is an ambitious one, aimed to reach people who want to know more about some phase of Christian involvement in today's world.

### Your Choice of Four

It includes a section on the "Religions of the World"; another on current social problems, chaired by Dr. Joseph Polizzi, sociology instructor at St. John Fisher College; a third on marriage and a fourth on new trends in Catholic thought.

Dr. Joseph Hans, a resident in Obstetrics at Genesee Hospital, is guiding the four part series on marriage—Father David Callan, a curate at St. Ambrose, is handling the new trends section.

Those who sat in on the "Religions of the World" classroom, heard Albert Mellican give a precis of the main tenets of Buddhism. A native of Ceylon, recently naturalized, an American citizen, Mellican is a Rochester City School administrator, working in the "Project Unique" program.

He spoke of Buddhism as he'd come to know it in Ceylon, seven million of whose people are Buddhists. The total population is about 11 million.

Reviewing the early history of Buddhism, which has some 600 million adherents around the world, Mellican touched on the early life of Gautama, an Indian who lived six centuries before Christ. Gautama was called "Buddha," (the Enlightened One) by his followers, and is better known by that title than his own name.

"Disillusioned by the world's suffering, he left his family, went into solitude, took refuge under a banyan tree and began to meditate," Mellican narrated.

He went on to explain how, having reached a stage of "enlightenment," Gautama began to teach others his world view, which includes such tenets as:

- There is no human soul, as Westerners understand it. ("This denial of the soul makes Buddhism unique among the world religions," Mellican indicated.)

- Man's desire for "re-exis-

tence" can keep him returning under a different form—even as an animal or insect.

- When he conquers even this desire, through asceticism and meditation, he reaches "Nirvana," and ceases to exist.

Mellican's two dozen listeners followed him closely watched his slides of Buddhist life in Ceylon with interest, and had a series of good questions ready for him when he finished his presentation.

Ninety minutes after the talk began, the section chairman, Mrs. Laurie Wahl called a halt, reminded the group that light refreshments awaited them in Dailey Hall. The other three groups were moving towards the coffee urn about then, too.

The lights were on in Dailey Hall until nearly eleven as a well-practiced cleanup committee put things in order for the regular school sessions next day.

St. Ambrose is but one of many parishes in the diocese which is making a real effort to bring home the new spirit of Vatican II to its parishioners in a variety of programs.

Future articles in the Courier-Journal will review the progress of other parishes which are setting their sails to catch the energizing breezes of Vatican II Council.

—Father Robert Kanka

## Swedish Catholics Up 67 Percent

Stockholm — (NC) — Sweden's Catholic population, swollen by immigrants from Southern Europe, has soared 67% in the past seven years, climbing from 29,000 in 1960 to over 48,000 in 1967.

Also contributing to the growth is the fact that Swedish Catholics have a higher birth rate than the country's non-Catholics, and the slow trickle of converts entering the Church from Swedish intellectual circles.

The sudden rise in the Catholic population has compounded pastoral problems for priests in this essentially missionary country. Added to the shortage of personnel is the financial problem created by the fact that many of the immigrants are in

## Vienna See Marks 500th Anniversary

Vienna—(RNS)—The Archdiocese of Vienna will mark its 500th anniversary not with elaborate festivities but with a synod devoted to Church reform, archdiocesan officials announced here.

The synod will have approximately 300 members, half of whom will be laymen. It will meet in three sessions from 1969 through 1971 and will deal with a comprehensive agenda related to reforms suggested by Vatican II.

## New Film Ratings

Following are the titles of films reviewed this week by the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures:

- Class A, Section 2 — The Treasure of San Gennaro (Paramount)
  - Class A, Section 3 — Counterfeit Killer (Universal)
  - Grand Slam (Paramount)
  - Sofi (Golden Bear Film Distributors)
  - Class B — Kona Coast (Warners - 7 Arts)
- Objection: Low moral tone; suggestive treatment.

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## Bishops Reminded of Urban Crisis

Detroit—(RNS)—The Senate of Priests of the Archdiocese of Detroit has urged the National Conference of Catholic Bishops to give "first and foremost" consideration to the crisis of American cities.

In reply, Archbishop John F. Dearden said that the NCCB had instructed its Social Action Department to prepare a series of positive proposals on the urban crisis as a response to the report by the President's Advisory Committee on Civil Disorders.

The proposals, Archbishop Dearden said, will be considered by the bishops at their semi-annual meeting April 23-25 in St. Louis. He is the NCCB's chairman.

The Detroit senate also asked the Bishops, through resolutions, for a statement urging all Catholics and all men of goodwill to make war on racism, and that popular means of communication, such as network television, be used to disseminate the statement.

### Spanish Priest to Edit Fatima Documents

Fatima, Portugal—(NC)—A Spanish Claretian priest, Father Joaquin Maria Alonso, has been named by Bishop Joao Venancio of Leiria to compile a definitive critical edition of the documents of Fatima, believed by many Catholics to be the scene of a miraculous appearance of the Blessed Mother.

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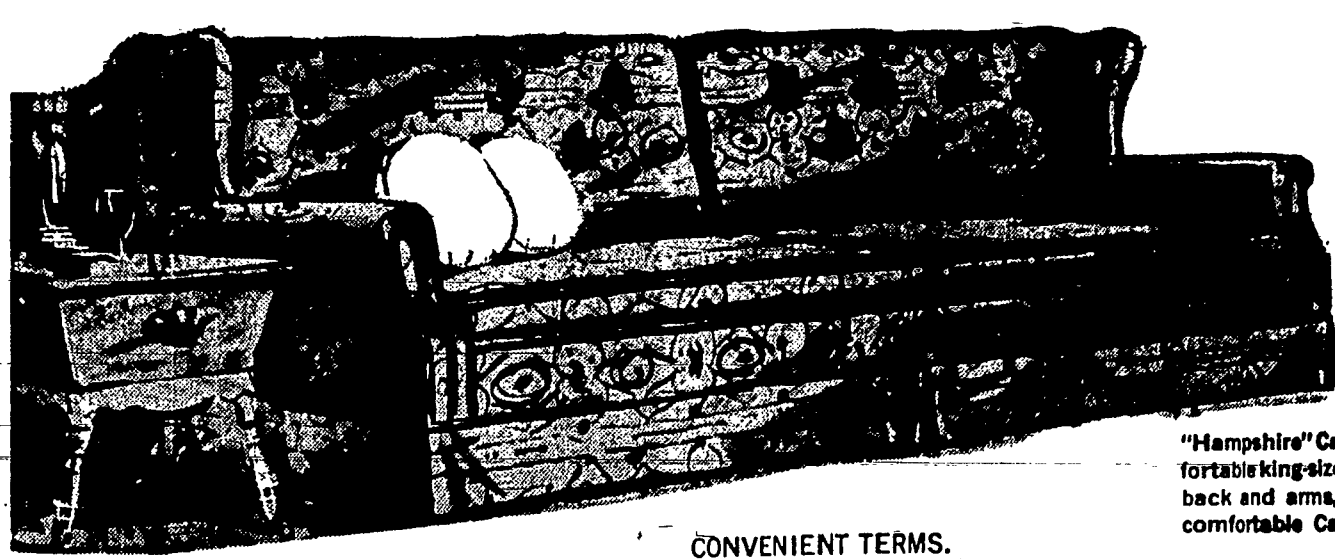
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## The Legion of Mary ACIES

The Comitium will hold its annual spiritual reunion (Acies) at St. Charles Borromeo Church at 2:30 P.M. Sunday, March 24th with Bishop Dennis W. Hickey speaking.

— also —

The Monroe (Senior) Curia will meet for its Acies at St. Anne's Church at 5 P.M. on the same date with Bishop James E. Kearney speaking.

The Junior Legion, all auxiliary members and friends are cordially invited to attend either of these ceremonies.