

800 From Diocese Attend 1st Lay Catechists' Institute

By JOHN DEL MONTE

More than 800 people from around the diocese attended the first Lay Catechists' Institute, held at Mercy High last Saturday (May 4).

It was well worth their time.

The diocesan confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) office served up four top-flight speakers, a rich sampling of helpful teaching aids provided by 13 exhibitors and ended the day with a lively, song-filled Mass celebrated by Bishop Sheen.

It was a day calculated to heal the wounds and instill new courage in the sometimes combat-worn troops who fight the battle of the CCD.

Almost any one of the four main speakers would have been worth the price of admission. CCD director Monsignor Albert Schnackey captured them on tape, will loan them out on request, he announced.

There was William J. Reedy, who heads the catechetical division of William H. Sadlier publishing company, sketching a portrait of the successful catechist. Identifying marks, said the speaker, are summed up in "a real person," who loves his teaching and has a deep conviction of Christ's love.

Stressing that the good catechist must adapt his message to contemporary moods and needs, Reedy illustrated the point in his talk. He gave a lucid interpretation of the "Camelet" story, as an artistic parable on the Kingdom of God. He used lyrics from a popular song to show that the "human" teacher relates best to his students: "people who need people are the luckiest people in the world."

Reaching Teen-agers

The second speaker, Jesuit psychologist John McCall, would be a star performer in any circuit. Working out from the imposing subject of "Religious Education for the Adolescent," he fired a burst of wit and wisdom that had his hearers buzzing right through their box lunches an hour later.

He established quick rapport with his catechist-listeners by admitting, "most adults are a little scared of adolescents," and then proceeded to suggest ways that young people could be reached in religion class.

"Just being there with them is the main thing," he told his audience. The Western College professor explained that the very fact of the volunteer catechists' interest in taking the class carried its own message to young people.

The religion teacher should be well prepared, but need not suffer from "agenda anxiety" ("I've got to cover the whole lesson"), he stated.

"You're there to help them solve the whole problem of human existence," Father McCall said, adding quickly, "but not to force your own answer on them." The catechist can help students, however, he said, to develop insight from his own convictions.

His hearers felt momentarily like a trampoline when Father McCall told them that adolescents needed adults to "bounce against." They brightened when he explained that the teenager, searching for his own values, needed to encounter mature people in order to test out new views and attitudes.

Young people wondering "am I really lovable," often toss off "way out" views to see if their elders will still accept them for themselves, he noted.

(Next time a 16-year old daughter announces — "I'm going to the University of Hawaii," her mother might say, he smiled, "is that so — pass the butter, dear," instead of bristling, "you are not going to the University of Hawaii.")

Father McCall's reassuring conclu-

PAT ANSWERS

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Q. Why must some of our churches be locked during the daytime? I like to "make a visit" both to my own parish church and other new churches, but it seems the doors are often locked except for Sunday mornings or at the actual time of Masses.

A. "Visitor Locked Out." Rochester. In one sad word, "vandalism" is the answer. We know of some city churches where only the door nearest the rectory can be left open, even in broad daylight. Pastors who have locked the doors feel as badly as you do. Most of them would be glad to open the doors if you asked at the rectory. Pretty sad, isn't it?

Q. How long will it be before we can attend Mass and find a fairly uniform way of worship? Recently, I had occasion to assist at Mass in three different parishes — and each had its own way of assisting — standing, sitting, speaking, singing. Frankly, it's become pretty confusing — or is it just me?

Elmira Traveller

A. It can't be just you — too many others are saying the same thing. Hopefully, as present optional procedures are more uniformly observed, the confusion will lessen. At least visitors will become more adaptable to minor differences.

Q. Why do some pastors repeat



FATHER McCALL
—adults to 'bounce against'



FATHER CURRAN
—interpreting the ethics of Jesus.

sion was that a mature Christian who had strong religious conviction could be very helpful to a group of teenagers in a CCD class. "They will be learning how to live, and you'll be learning from them, too," he ended.

For the Little Ones

Sister Marie Martin, who teaches future teachers at Nazareth College, had some valuable things to say about "The Child and God." Her talk included such points as:

- Start from things small children are interested in to draw them on toward further knowledge.

- Since small children delight even in natural rituals, the use of home-made religious rites in class can be a fine teaching tool.

- The use of modern heroes like Tom-Dooley and Martin-Luther-King can be helpful for children who are hero-worshippers by nature.

It remained for Father Charles

Curran, moral theologian from Cath-

New Assignment

Father Arthur J. Hack has been appointed assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester, the Pastoral Office announced today.

Melkite Bishop to Visit St. Nicholas Church

The spiritual leader of the nation's Melkite Catholics, Bishop Justin A. Najmy, will be in Rochester this weekend on his first pastoral visit to St. Nicholas Church.

Father Athanas Hassey is pastor of St. Nicholas Church in Rochester.

Parishioners of the Melkite Church at Leo and Remington streets will welcome their bishop at a dinner on Saturday, May 11 at 7 p.m. in the church hall.

Bishop Najmy will concelebrate the Liturgy on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. when youngsters of the parish will make their first Holy Communion.

The 70-year-old prelate, whose official title is Apostolic Exarch for Melkites in the United States, was born in Aleppo, Syria. He entered the Basilian Aleppian religious order, did his theology studies in Rome and was ordained in 1928.

His early years in the priesthood were spent in educational work in Lebanon and Syria. He later served



BISHOP NAJMY

in Egypt, then became vicar-general of the Syrian diocese of Homs.

In 1947, he was appointed pastor of St. Basil's Melkite Church in Central Falls, Rhode Island, and two years ago was named Apostolic Exarch for the American Melkites.

Tickets for the Saturday evening dinner are still available by calling William Nealon at 482-1981.

Can't Vote, But She's In Politics

Although she wasn't old enough to vote last year, a Nazareth College senior may wind up being a delegate to the national Democratic convention this summer.

Laurie Roth, now 21, is an alternate delegate on the slate pledged to Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. The Democratic primary, which will decide which delegation represents her Congressional district (the 36th), is set for June 18.

Miss Roth, who's young enough to be a Sen. Eugene McCarthy supporter, worked as a volunteer intern for five weeks last summer in Kennedy's Washington office.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Roth, 98 Northfield Road, Irondequoit, is currently serving as president for the New York State College Young Democrats. She has also been president of Nazareth's branch of the same group for the past two years.

She's one of the first two Nazareth girls to major in political science, and plans to do graduate work in that field, probably at Syracuse University next year. Eventually, she'd like to get into government work.

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NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Friday, May 10, 1968

Page 7

NEWS OF THE DIOCESE

Interfaith Commission Activated

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty heads the list of 12 Catholic representatives named this week by Bishop Sheen to the newly formed Interfaith Commission. The group which also includes 12 Protestant and 12 Jewish members has been formed to work on urban problems in Rochester.

The other Catholic members are: Father Gennaro Ventura, Sister M. Jamesetta, SSI, Jorge Colon, Walter DeRouen, Francis X. Donovan, Mrs. Alma Greene, Dr. Nathaniel Hurst, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur James, Richard Miller and Mrs. Constance Miller.

The temporary steering committee chosen at the initial meeting includes as Catholic members: Father Ventura, Mrs. Greene and Messers James and Colon; Protestant members are the Reverends J. D. Jackson, Leard Johnson, Joseph Shaw and Carl Smith; and Jewish members, Messers Andrew Greenstein, Arthur Lowenthal, Hanon Berger and H. Robert Berger.

The Interfaith Commission held its first meeting last Wednesday (May 8) to organize procedures and to choose a steering committee.

Concert Set In Honor of New Bishops

A concert in honor of Rochester's two new bishops will be given by the Holy Rosary choir at 8 p.m. Sunday, May 19, in Nazareth Academy auditorium.

Bishop John E. McCafferty is pastor of Holy Rosary and Bishop Dennis W. Hickey lived there several years until his appointment to St. Theodore's. Both will leave their parishes soon for new duties.

A program of classical and popular music will feature Heinrich Schütz's Passion of St. John. Under the direction of Don Meminger, the Holy Rosary choir has become well known in the city and throughout the diocese.



Mr. and Mrs. Pat Crowley

Group Discussion Slated At CFM Ithaca Meeting

A Chicago couple who have traveled the free world promoting the Christian Life Movement will discuss the experience with upstate CFM leaders May 17 in Ithaca.

Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Crowley, secretaries of the movement since its beginning in 1949, will guide a group discussion of "International Inspirations for Action." Delegates are expected from 25 chapters in this diocese and from the dioceses of Albany, Syracuse and Buffalo.

The Crowleys are parents of five children and, over the years, have acted as foster parents to a dozen more. They regularly house five to eight foreign students attending schools in their area.

Mrs. Crowley is on the advisory board of the International Visitors Center of Chicago and the women's board of the Catholic Interracial

Council. Her husband, a lawyer, serves the advisory councils of several organizations, including the Fund for the Republic and the law school of Notre Dame University.

The Christian Family Movement involves about 40,000 couples in all 50 of the United States and the same number in Latin America.

The Ithaca meeting will be at 8 p.m. next Friday in the Immaculate Conception parish hall.

Happy Birthday

Bishop Sheen celebrated his 73rd birthday on Wednesday. He was born on May 8, 1895, in El Paso, Ill.

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