

# Protestant Minister Ordained In Immaculate Conception

By JOHN DEL MONTE

At first glance, the ordination of a Protestant minister in a Catholic church might seem rather unusual.

But for Larry Coppard to be ordained at Immaculate Conception Church seems quite natural to all concerned.

The Rev. Mr. Coppard, who will become a minister of the United Church of Christ tomorrow evening in an 8 p.m. ordination rite, has been a full time member of the Immaculate parish staff for the last year. He has held the post of "community minister" during that time and has directed the Catholic parish's neighborhood outreach program in that capacity.

When Immaculate's pastor, Father Robert Kreckel, offered the South Plymouth Avenue church as a locale for his associate's ordination, Larry thought it was a good idea. This way, he noted, "the people with whom I'm working can attend."

Married and the father of two small children, the 26-year old seminarian was graduated last Monday evening from Colgate Rochester Divinity School. He had completed his formal studies in 1967, but deferred his ordination a year to take the pioneering job of community minister at Immaculate Conception parish.

When the Third Ward parish decided to embark on a community-oriented program last year, Father Kreckel contacted Larry Coppard about running it. He had met the ministerial student three years previously when Larry had directed a summer youth program for a nearby church, Corn Hill Methodist.

The two men agreed on the basic shape of the new community venture, which has been characterized by these notes:

- It ecumenical, stresses friendly cooperation in as many areas as possible between the neighboring churches.

- It stresses lay responsibility. "Clergy should inspire and encourage laymen, but not preclude the lay-



LARRY COPPARD

men's initiative," Father Kreckel explained.

- It strives to face the most vital issues in its neighborhood.

One of Larry Coppard's first tasks last summer was to clarify what the neighborhood needed. He was assisted in this by the efforts of 15 non-volunteers, who did a street by street survey of the area's families, getting a grass-roots opinion poll of the main problems.

From this survey, four main approaches were developed: Christian education, attention to the elderly, a youth program and one termed "community issues." The latter includes tenant-landlord problems, sanitation, playground needs and other issues.

A recent example was the effort made by residents in and near Kennedy Towers to head off licensing of another liquor store in the Plymouth Avenue South area. With more than a dozen bottle-stores in the area, residents argued that still another was unnecessary and undesirable. Their

plea is being considered by the Alcoholic Beverage Control board now.

Larry Coppard's work got a big lift in the fall when two Sisters from the Catholic Urban Ministry office were assigned to the Immaculate Conception community ministry program for on-the-job training.

One nun, Mercy Sister Josepha, became director of the Ecumenical Church School, founded last fall. Immaculate Conception parish collaborated with the three Protestant parishes, Emmanuel and Trinity Presbyterian and Calvary Baptist to develop this plan.

Using their combined facilities, they have taught more than 300 youngsters in after school and Saturday morning classes. Sister Josepha directs a faculty of 40, mostly lay volunteers.

Sister Kieran, of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the other nun working with the new program, helped by two seminarians, one from Colgate Rochester, the other from St. Bernard's, worked with community issues and the elderly.

Father Kreckel comments that "no one could have done this job any better than Larry Coppard has. His personality, his character and his ability have played a vital part in putting it across."

The pastor of Immaculate Conception noted that the community ministry has enabled the parish to relate much more closely to its neighboring area. An added benefit, he stated was the enrichment afforded the many people who participated in various parts of the program.

By mutual agreement, Larry will continue to direct the Immaculate pioneering program for another year after his ordination.

Ordaining officers for tomorrow night's ordination will be the Rev. Dr. Julius Kuck, of Buffalo, Genesee Valley Conference minister of the United Church of Christ, and Fred McCrossen, president of the UCC Genesee Valley Association.

## New School For Elmira Proposed

Elmira — The Chemung County Catholic School Board has formally proposed a plan to create a junior high school here using St. Anthony's School for this purpose.

Pupils currently attending St. Anthony's first six grades would be enrolled in nearby St. Patrick's and St. Casimir's Schools if the plan, tentatively slated for September, 1969, is approved.

The school board's plan, if approved by the various parishes involved, would be jointly financed by parishes on the basis of number of students enrolled.

The plan projects an estimated enrollment of 300 seventh and eighth graders from Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anthony's, St. Casimir's, St. Cecilia's, St. Patrick's and Sts. Peter and Paul's parishes. They would occupy the present eight-room school of St. Anthony's.

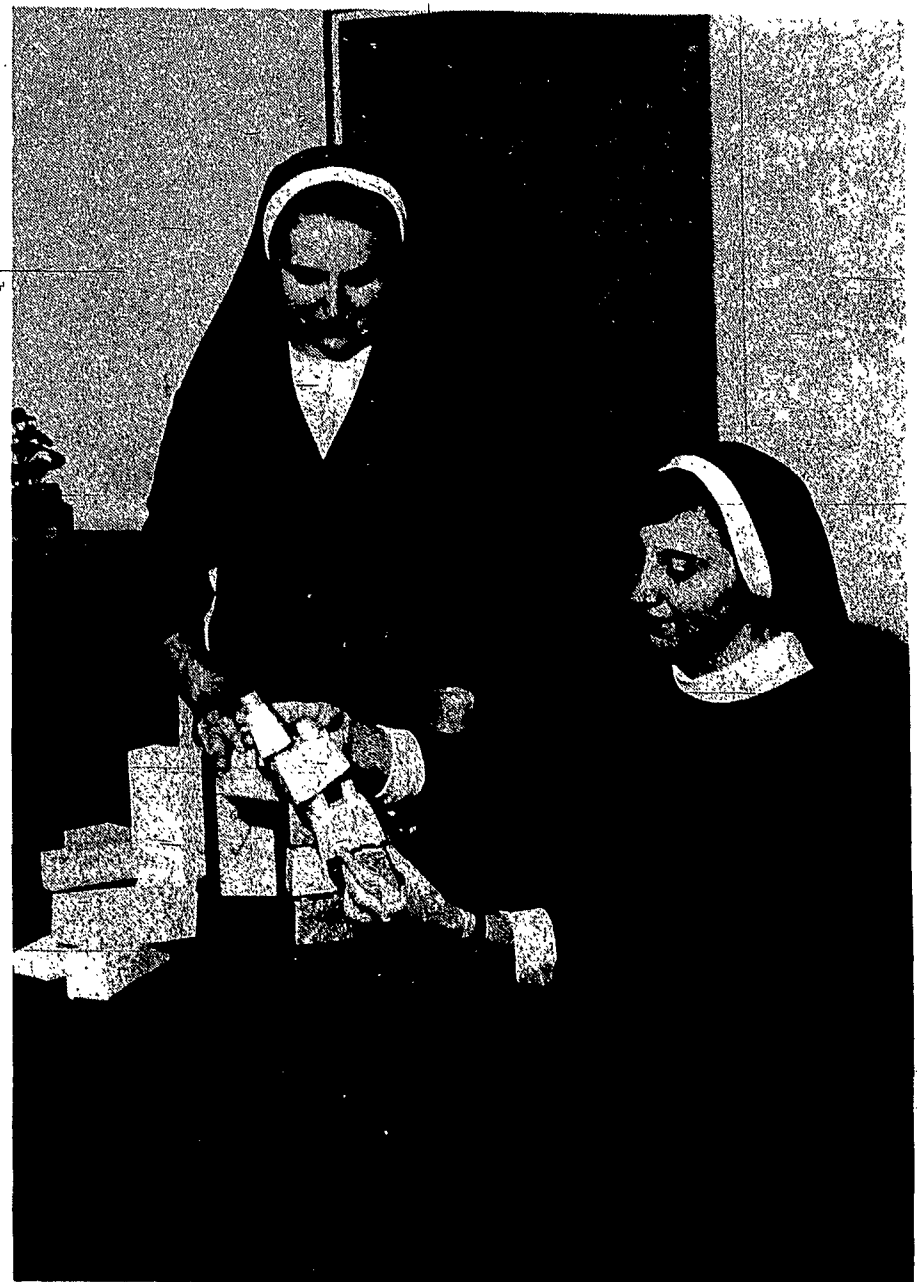
The board also made these proposals:

- To study the feasibility of expanding Notre Dame High School to include a junior high division, primarily for seventh and eighth graders from St. Mary's, Elmira and St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, with the two parishes paying the tuition cost. This plan, if deemed feasible and approved by the high school and parishes involved, would also take effect in September, 1969.

- To create the position of a school superintendent, who would be a nun, to supervise all parochial schools.

The board's proposals, it was emphasized in a recent meeting, would maintain first through sixth grade programs in the six parishes involved in the junior high program.

Altogether, the eight Catholic elementary schools in Chemung County have an enrollment of some 2,300 students. At this juncture, none of the schools charges tuitions, although the idea was suggested recently by the parish school board of St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads. The tuition plan was not approved at that parish, however.



Sister Marie Justin and Sister Mary Francis Cabrini, new directors of the Catherine McAuley Reading Laboratory, investigate some educational toys used in the Speech Clinic at the Center. Registration for the summer session will be next week: June 3 and 4 at the McAuley Center, 1437 Blossom Road; June 5 and 6 at Our Lady of Mercy Grammar School, 600 Denise Road — both from 9:00-5:30. Further information, call 482-2268, between 9 and 5 p.m. (Read story on the McAuley Center on Page 10.)

## Ex-Teacher To Be Ordained

Father Robert E. Voelkle, S.J., a former teacher at McQuaid Jesuit High School, will be ordained Saturday, June 1, at Regis College, where he is completing his theological studies.

He will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 a.m. Sunday, June

9, in the student chapel at McQuaid. A reception will follow immediately in the school dining room.

Father Voelkle is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Voelkle of Eggertsville.

## Ecumenical Program In Montour Falls

Mary Reed Newland, mother of seven and well-known author will be the key speaker at an Ecumenical Day program May 30 at St. John's Seminary, Montour Falls.

Mrs. Newland's topic will be "Is Ecumenism Something to Do, Be, or to Teach?"

Also slated to speak at the day-long program is Atoneinent Father Daniel Egan. Appearing on panels will be Father Donald Hoff, Elmira Neighborhood Ministry; Richard McDonald, superintendent, Corning-Printed Post School District; Dr. Donald Duckles, surgeon at Strong Memorial Hospital.

Also Sister Ellen Joseph, Lay Catechist instructor in Elmira; Mrs. James Collea, North Presbyterian Church, Elmira; Sister Mary Declan, principal of Notre Dame High School, Elmira.



Mary Reed Newland

## PAT ANSWERS

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Q. I have accepted most of the changes in the Church, except the standing when we receive Communion. It's always been my belief that when we receive this sacrament, we are taking part in the banquet of the Lord. Now when I go up to the altar rail, I feel like I'm standing in a chow line. Why should standing to receive Communion be preferred to kneeling? May be an explanation will help me to accept this change.

—A.R., Rochester

A. No one will maintain that either standing or kneeling is necessarily more pleasing to God, as if one automatically has more faith in one posture or the other. The point is actually a minor one, which has been subject to a long history of revision.

The practice of kneeling came in use between the 11th and 16th centuries; before that standing was the common posture. From the 9th century Communion was placed in the communicant's mouth. Before this time the host was placed in his hands.

Communion under the form of bread alone became common only after 1100; before that communion under both species was the rule. Recent directives on the reception of Communion (in-

struction of the Holy See — May 1967) state that the decision to permit reception in one posture or the other is up to the local bishop. The individual pastor may institute the standing-up rule after taking into account the design of the church and the number of faithful. The real point becomes, therefore, that a parish should willingly adopt the method indicated by their pastor, so that Communion becomes a sign of brotherly union at the table of the Lord.

## Trinitarian Cenacle Dedicated by Bishop

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen dedicated the Blessed Trinity Missionary Cenacle of the Trinitarian Sisters at 46 Lorimer St. in Rochester last Friday evening (May 17). The Cenacle serves

as residence for the Trinitarians and as the center for the Unified Pastoral Apostolate (UPA) which they staff.

An overflow gathering of priests, sisters and parishioners from the four neighboring parishes served by the Trinitarians filled the Lorimer Street building for the occasion.

The pastors assisting at the rite were Monsignor George A. Cocuzzi of Holy Family Church; Monsignor J. Emmett Murphy of Holy Apostles Church; Father Nicholas Alletto of St. Anthony's Church and Father Frederick J. Walz of St. Patrick's Church. Assistant pastors and teaching sisters from the parishes involved were also on hand, bolstered by a large number of their parishioners.

The Unified Pastoral Apostolate is a cooperative effort of the four parishes and coordinated by the Trinitarian Sisters. Established in September 1967, the UPA is aimed at advancing the work of the post-Vatican II Church through a sharing of facilities, personnel and parish programs.

Bishop Sheen stating that the UPA program is "a great advance in the Church," urged the four parishes to work together to build up the Body of Christ in the world. His homily, delivered at the Mass following the dedication ceremonies, stressed conversion to Christ, to the Church—and to the world under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Sister Francis Mary, MSBT, is the director of the new apostolic program. The other Trinitarians working with her are Sisters Sarah Marie, Marie Anne and Francis Miriam. An American community, the Trinitarian Sisters were founded by Father Thomas A. Judge, C.M. Among their objectives are the development of a trained laity and parochial programs geared to the aims of Vatican II Council.

Q. Last week you named several churches in Rochester for visiting on a Sunday afternoon drive. How could you have omitted the Church of St. Charles Borromeo on Dewey Ave.? We parishioners feel it is a masterpiece and would like the public to come visit it.

—B.E.P., Rochester

A. Our suggestions last week couldn't possibly cover all the fine new churches. St. Charles is an excellent blend of the new and the traditional in its architecture and appointments. May we also recommend, on the north side, Holy Rosary Church, Lexington Ave. for its Spanish mission style and Sacred Heart Cathedral, for its Gothic beauty.

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