

Adult Task Forces Help Young People

This is the last in a three-part series on the Area Youth Ministry, (AYM) an ecumenical, volunteer organization in northwest Rochester which attempts to reach the teenagers who are not in church.

By PATRICIA ROESCH

The teen-agers of the northwest area of Rochester are the focus for Area Youth Ministry's (AYM) efforts. But the strength and vital quality of the organization seems to come from two sources: the adult volunteers and the ecumenism of the project.

Who are these adults?

There are more than 50 of them involved this summer with AYM. They come from each of the eleven participating Catholic and Protestant churches and six others. They live in the northwest or other areas of the city, or as far away as Fairport and Canandaigua.

These volunteers are housewives, businessmen, photographers, lawyers, factory workers, teachers, social workers, teachers, social workers, deacons, sisters.

"They are really a Christian group of people. This is truly an exercise in community," says Father James Russell, assistant pastor at St. Anthony's Church.

AYM has four goals for its adult volunteers:

- to be a Christian presence,
- to look at youth in our culture and deal with the structures affecting them, including the church,
- to grow in the faith, and personally, through involvement, reflection, study, meditation and being in the church,
- to help the church find effective avenues of confrontation with teen-agers and to renew itself through this search.

Volunteers work with AYM for three months, on a trial basis. If they are still interested at the end of this time, they agree to work for a year. The commitment is deep and the responsibility is heavy.

But according to some of the adults who give their time to AYM, the rewards are ample.

Mrs. Edward Hall, from Holy Rosary Church, and her husband, both work with AYM. She is on a "task force" studying the drop-out problem and implementing possible solutions. For Mrs. Hall, the ecumenical aspect of AYM was what compelled her to offer her service.

"I think it's about time people got together and did things," she says simply.

Mrs. George Benington, from St. Plus X Church, advises the teen-agers who put out the newsletter, "Rebel."

"The group of teen-agers AYM works with has few real roots," Mrs. Benington explains. "They change back and forth. The greatest measure of success we have is the trust the kids are beginning to place in us."

She added, "The adults who work with AYM are collectively the finest group of people I have ever met."

Mrs. Richard Johanknecht, Jr. lives in Greece, and is a member of Lake Avenue Baptist Church. The most she can do, with small children of her own, is to chaperone at "The Place" twice a month. She can call 50 teen-agers by name; she knows the problems and aspirations of 20 or more.

Mrs. Johanknecht emphasizes the benefits the adults receive, however.



Sister Juana and AYM director Mike Losinger sort out job possibilities for teen-agers in the Brown's Square area with Gary Kendrick (left) and Bob Gallina.

"Work with AYM has involvement beyond the kids. You learn a lot about yourself. The kids are not phony. They still test us and use us. But you can't be phony either."

Most of the volunteers are lay people, but there are seven Sisters of St. Joseph from Rochester who are also giving part or full time help to AYM.

Sacred Heart Cathedral convent has sent three volunteers: Sister Mary Cordis, administrative assistant to director Mike Losinger, Sister Natalia, who runs a junior high lounge on Tuesday nights at Sacred Heart, and Sister Josephine Ignatia, who prepares dinner for the staff meetings on Wednesday nights.

Sister Regina Carmel and Sister Marie Martin are from Holy Apostles' Convent. Sister Regina Carmel works on "jobs for juniors," a teen-managed employment service in the Brown's Square area.

Sister Marie Martin, on the "task force" for educational investigation, works with school personnel in implementing the drop-out program. She says the schools have been very cooperative and encouraging.

Sister Beatrice from Nazareth Academy assists Mrs. Benington with the "Rebel" newsletter staff, and also works on a project investigating white racism among teen-agers.

Sister Juana, a chemistry professor from Nazareth College, is working full time this summer with three boys who were hired by the Job Corps, (part of the government poverty aid program) to help find jobs for boys 12 to 14 years old in the Brown's Square area.

The ecumenism of AYM is often spoken of by staff members, volunteers and clergy.

Father Russell of St. Anthony's, endorses AYM as a "working model of ecumenical effort in the northwest."

It is a vanguard of ecumenism, he continues, "and even the problems of working together have come out, and been partially solved. This effort demands a certain amount of trust on the part of the clergy; everything hasn't been hunky-dory. This kind of ecumenical work must happen all over the city."

Another accolade for the ecumen-

ism of AYM comes from Father Thomas Wheeland, assistant at Holy Rosary Church.

"The Area Youth Ministry is an outstanding example of how ecumenism can work on the practical level to solve problems that are common to all churches. It should serve as a model for similar movements. The work that has been done has just started to scratch the surface of the possible services that could be rendered by this group."

(Continued on Page 8)

Mercy Sister Off To Mission

The Sisters of Mercy will celebrate the forming of another link between Rochester and Santiago, Chile, tonight, Aug. 2, when Bishop Dennis W. Hickey presents Sister Marilyn Gerstner with her mission cross.

The 7:30 p.m. ceremony, to take place at The Mercy Motherhouse, will mark her departure to join the seven other Mercy Sisters already in Santiago.

Sister Marilyn is to spend three months observing and assisting the efforts of her sisters, before going on for intensive training at the Cultural Institute in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Then she will return to San Luis, where, as in the parishes of San Andres and Santa Catalina, the Sisters of Mercy work with the Irish Columban Fathers.

This task will be the more difficult because a severe drought is adding to the already critical national problems of Chile. The serious consequences are described by Sister Janet Korn, of San Luis parish:

"There has been no rain all winter, and the farmers are desperate. Millions of dollars have been lost in cattle and crops, and this is only the beginning. They have begun to ration. Sister reports, "was our sharpest rise—and the people will suffer. It has been predicted that many farmers will come to Santiago for work, as they can't stay alive on the land. This will cause greater stum areas and all the problems that go with them."

Part of the missionary's universal problem of adjusting to another culture is described by Sister Janet, as she continues:

"It is strange, but the effects of this drought will be one of the first things that we will really share with the people. They have suffered hunger, strikes, job shortages, poor housing, cold, and ignorance; and none of these has touched us personally. I am grateful for the opportunity to be included in this serious national problem. The only way we can feel one with them is to suffer with them."

Sister Marilyn, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Gerstner of St. John the Evangelist parish, is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School and of St. Rose College in Albany. She has just completed an intensive summer session at the University of Dayton's Mission Institute.

"The greatest impact of the Institute," Sister reports, "was our sharing the experiences and dynamism of those members of the group who were veteran missionaries. Their sense of Christ-like urgency was unmistakable and beautiful."

Aquinas Guard Triumphs

Weekly practices, untold hours of marching and a great deal of spirit paid off for the Aquinas Institute Band and Color Guard last Saturday.

The 17-man precision drill squad captured the New York State Guard Championship and the Band placed second in competitions held in conjunction with the 50th Convention of the American Legion in Syracuse.

Competing against nineteen of the top color guard groups in the state, the Aquinas group scored 94.75 points out of a possible 100, a full point ahead of runner-up Sherburne Central School.

James Allen, an Aquinas junior from St. James parish, is guard cap-

tain. Rifle sergeant and lone senior member of the squad is Patrick Casey from Pius X Church. David Rigby is drummer, from Holy Rosary.

In band competition, the Aquinas Marching Band under the direction of Nicholas Cattat, placed second to the Mexico Central School Band. The band was judged on the basis of a concert and a marching field show. The marching portion of the contest was held in Giffitt Stadium with Thomas Ellison as drum major for the 100-member Aquinas Band.

The Aquinas guard is now qualified to compete for the national title at the Legion national convention in New Orleans early in September. Last year Aquinas placed fourth in the nation.

GOOD NEWS

FROM THE HOUSE OF GOOD FOOD SUNDAY AUGUST 4, 1968

Now for the first time you may enjoy selections from our regular Weekday Luncheon Menu on Sunday. The entire family will enjoy Luncheon at Rund's. Check the prices on the Menu below. We're sure you'll agree it is less expensive than eating at home. Mom gets a break too.

APPETIZER SUGGESTION

Fresh Shrimp Cocktail, tangy sauce .95

CHEF'S SPECIAL ENTREES

- BROILED SWORDFISH STEAK, lemon butter 1.65
- BROILED HALIBUT STEAK, parsley butter 1.65
- FLUFFY OMELETTE, canadian bacon 1.45
- FRIED SWEET CAPE SCALLOPS, tartar sauce 1.65
- BROILED CHOICE Box STEAK, later tols 1.45
- FRIED BREADED VEAL CUTLET, tomato sauce 1.75
- BAKED STUFFED GIANT SHRIMP, creamy cole slaw 1.45
- BROILED CHOPPED SIRLOIN STEAK, onion rings 1.65
- BROILED OPEN STEAK SANDWICH, apple ring 2.65

(Above Entrees Include: Potato and Vegetable)

PETTE LOBSTER MEAT SALAD

Crisp, creamy pineapple cole slaw, select ripe olives, red ripe sliced tomato 1.50

OPEN HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICH

Whipped Potato—Burgundy Brown Sauce 1.50

SPECIAL COLD SANDWICHES

- OPEN SLICED SWISS CHEESE AND HAM ON RYE 1.45
Creamy cole slaw, 1000 Island dressing, radish rosettes garnished
- LEAN CORNED BEEF SANDWICH ON RYE 1.55
Red ripe sliced tomato, dill pickle and chips
- OPEN FRESH SHRIMP SALAD SANDWICH 1.65
Red ripe sliced tomato, cottage cheese, hard cooked egg wedge, pickle slices, select ripe olives

COLD BUFFET SELECTIONS

- TUNA FISH 1.65
Fresh mixed white meat tunafilet with hard cooked egg wedges, red ripe sliced tomato, cottage cheese, pickle slices, select ripe olives
- CHICKEN SALAD 1.55
White meat chicken, hard cooked egg wedges, red ripe sliced tomato, potato salad, select ripe olives, pickle slices
- CHEF'S SALAD 1.50
Julienne of turkey, Swiss cheese, yellow cheddar, ham on celery tossed salad and cherry tomatoes, select ripe olives, radish rosettes, choice of dressing
- FRUIT PLATTER 1.55
An array of assorted fruit with date-nut bread, sherbet or cottage cheese

SELECTIONS FROM THIS MENU AVAILABLE 12 NOON TIL 3 P.M. AFTER 3 P.M. ORDER YOUR FAVORITES FROM OUR VARIED DINNER MENU.

JOE CADY'S 7-PIECE ORCHESTRA For Your Listening — Dancing Enjoyment Nitely 9:30 P.M. 'til 1:30 A.M.	JANIE PORAY At The New Hammond X 66 Organ In Our Lounge Nitely
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PAT ANSWERS

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Q. I am shocked that in several large cities (Buffalo, for example) Protestant Bishops were consecrated in the local Catholic Cathedral, and right here in Rochester (at Immaculate Conception) a Protestant was ordained a minister for the United Church of Christ. What official ruling allows for these things?
 —B. N. M., Irondequoit.

A. The use of a Catholic church for the Protestant ceremonies of consecrating a Bishop or ordaining a minister was a courtesy granted because the Protestant groups lacked sufficient facilities for a large congregation to attend. The Vatican's recent "Directory on Ecumenism" (No. 61) says that "if the separated brethren have no place in which to carry out their religious rites properly and with dignity, the local Bishop may allow them the use of a Catholic building, cemetery or church." The presence of Catholic priests also constituted a mere gesture of ecumenical good will.

Q. What is the Church doing about indulgences? Have they been abolished or revised? May I still trust that devotions like saying certain prayers, reciting the Rosary in church, reading the Bible, carry extra spiritual merit called an indulgence?
 — R. L., Dansville.

A. Don't let anyone tell you they have all been abolished! On Jan. 9, 1967 Pope Paul made a formal statement upholding the traditional doctrine about indulgences. The official collection of indulgences prayers and works, commonly called the Raccolta, is being revised for promulgation on Jan. 1, 1969. It is expected that only the former major prayers and works will remain indulgenced. Plenary indulgences will be reduced, it is expected, and partial indulgences will no longer be marked by the "number of days" once attached to them.

Q. I was taught to swallow the Holy Communion host. Now I see people, young and old, chewing the Host all the way back to their seat. Is this right?
 — H. L., Geneva.

A. There is nothing improper in swallowing as you always have, if you wish. But there is a highly symbolic value in "eating," to accept the Eucharist as "food," "the sacred meal and reality of 'Christ's presence.'" Some minor amount of chewing will make the Host easier to swallow. There is no disrespect in this. Christ expected us to treat the Eucharist as food when He deliberately chose bread as the matter of the Sacrament.

Q. My friends report that a certain bride, whom nearly everyone knew was pregnant, wore a white gown and veil and had a large church wedding. They claim that the Church and the pastor condoned her premarital misconduct by allowing this dress and big show.
 — P. M., Elmira.

A. What the bride wears and how elaborate the wedding turns out to be is not the province of the pastor —or of busybodies in the parish! The white gown and veil are not matters of morality, simply of custom. The girl may wear these traditional signs of virtue with dignity; may we presume that her past sins have been brought to her Saviour in the confessional? It would seem that restraint and simplicity should be exercised by her parents who bear the costs of the ceremony. But no matter what the young lady's condition, spectators should reserve judgement. Human frailty can be forgiven even while we deplore the act and its consequences for the couple and their families.

Q. Do Christian thinkers believe in the survival of pets and horses for another life after their bodies die?
 —T. K. O., Waverly.

A. Catholic philosophers reject the belief in the immortality of animal souls. Animal psychology reveals nothing that shows reason, free will, conscience or a spiritual nature in animals. Scriptures give no indication that animals will have a future life.