

CCD on Launching Pad with New Enlarged Program

By PATRICIA ROESCH

A new year of religious education is on the launching pad at the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD) office, and the countdown is scheduled for Sept. 23 throughout the diocese.

Rev. Daniel F. Holland, assistant director of CCD, is enthusiastic about the enlarged, enriched Adult Theology Program for the coming year. The program will operate in 18 locations, Sept. 23 to May 18, with special added courses and new educational techniques. Father Holland anticipates an increase in registration of close to 200 over last year. The total finishing courses last

year was 800. (See article on Adult Theology Courses on page 3A.)

The 30-week, 60-hour course of Adult Religious Education aimed at preparing potential catechists will operate in 17 locations.

Father Holland stresses that recruitment for this course is up to former graduates of the course, especially those who finished last year.

"We ask each graduate to speak directly with three other adults; tell them what this course meant to you, how it has changed you. Invite them to register and urge them not to miss the opportunity of discovering what's happening in the Church and their tremendous role in it."

Father Holland is enthusiastic about the number of CCD

teachers who completed the but expressed concern over the education job that lies ahead.

"It is no longer enough to simply teach religion to children. We must educate our adults in religion as well."

"Of the approximately 50,000 Catholic children in public elementary schools throughout the diocese, an estimated 20,000 are probably not receiving any religious education at all. And close to 10,000 high school students are in the same situation."

"This is a big responsibility. It is obvious we need more and better trained teachers, and more adults involved in our religious education programs."

An Advanced Teacher course will be given for CCD teachers who have completed the basic course. These programs will be available in Rochester, Auburn

and Elmira in the fall and other smaller population centers in the winter.

A new program, "Witness Plus," put out by the George A. Pfaff Co., will focus on the challenge of working with 7th and 8th graders. It includes doctrinal development, guidelines for experience-centered learning, and a teacher manual with resource ideas.

High school CCD teachers will be able to take advantage of a new course in unusual surroundings. Due to the many new high school CCD programs in the area, and the consequent increase in teachers, the CCD office is sponsoring a three-evening workshop designed to orient new teachers with working with high school students.

The workshop, entitled "On Location—Teen World," will be

conducted at a teen coffee house, The Rathskeller, 32 E. Main St., Webster, at 8 p.m. Sept. 11, 12 and 13. The program will include understanding teen-age attitudes and values, use of audio-visual materials for high school students, and a panel of adults who are directly involved with teenagers.

Father Holland emphasizes the need for Parish CCD Boards as an impetus to create better religious education.

"The only way to guarantee a developing program of religious education for the whole parish seems to be through the formation of a Parish CCD Board."

"This board would be a group of parishioners who formally share with their pastor a responsibility for a quality of

the faith of a parish," Father Holland explained.

Recently a survey was conducted by the National Conference of Diocesan Directors and the National Center of the CCD, to ascertain the efficiency, needs and goals of the CCD programs in religious education.

"The list of national priorities coincide closely with our own priorities here in the Rochester diocese," said Father Holland.

The priority needs revealed in the CCD survey and Father Holland's comments on the Rochester diocese position are, in summary:

- Professional standards. "This is very important and we are working on it all the time."

- Expanded programs of adult education. "We are accomplishing this through our Adult Theology Program. We

are above the national average in this area."

- Better cooperation from pastors and other clergy. "We have pretty good cooperation from almost everyone."

- Establishing of proper budgets and funding at the parish level. "This is an urgent need. We are progressing. Three years ago our office had no budget. Next year we anticipate a budget of \$59,000."

- Programs for catechist and in-service training. "Our catechist program is good, but we need more in-service training."

- Salaried personnel at a parish level. "This is a definite need. We have about 15 salaried people throughout the diocese. Our ideal would be to have a full-time, paid professional with an MA degree in education, in each parish."

Rochester Chapter To Be 1969 Host to SCLC Regional Meet

By CARMEN VIGLUCCI

Rochester will be host city to the Eastern Regional Conference of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1969, it was decided at the national meeting which ended in Memphis this week.

The Rev. Bennie Brass, president of the local chapter, said that at least 100 chapters will be represented in the conference here, hopefully including the national president, Rev. Ralph Abernathy.

"This is definitely a sign that our chapter is gaining in strength," said Mr. Brass, "and that we have a definite home here."

"We are operating under the slogan 'soul power'—not 'black power' or 'white power' but 'soul power.' We need the support of all to reach ways to alleviate the nation's racial crisis and I mean of all black and white," Rev. Mr. Brass stressed.

The local chapter had proposed

hosting the 1969 national SCLC conference but lost on that bid.

Among other proposals by the Rochester chapter which were accepted at Memphis:

- The national organization will give more support to local chapters.

- The national organization will staff some Rochesterians one summer month a year in a southern section and send some Southerners to work here to serve as a leveling force between North and South.

- The national organization will provide a yearning program for youth in working to alleviate the urban crisis.

"In getting these resolutions accepted it shows the local chapter's strength as well as the power of black and white working together to serve the nation," said Rev. Mr. Brass.

Thirty members from Rochester attended the national conference, said Charles Brass, local coordinator.

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NEWS OF THE DIOCESE

Elmira Staff Evaluates EESP Job

Elmira — The staff of the Elmira Ecumenical Service Project (EESP) reviewed and evaluated the summer's programs as the project came to the season's close recently.

The nine-member staff, which included Father David Mattie and Mercy Sisters Kathleen Milliken and Eileen Popkowski, directed the Elmira program to encourage college students to volunteer eight weeks of their summer vacation to serve the community's disadvantaged. Intensive recruiting drew 15 such young people to the program's ranks.

After a week of orientation, the 15 student volunteers became aides to case workers of Elmira's Welfare Agency, assumed various duties in the community, including aiding case workers from the Elmira Welfare Agency, working with youngsters from Day Care Centers, and adopting a disadvantaged child through the Pupil Assistance Program (PAP). In addition, the crew canvassed Elmira taking housing and social attitude surveys.

With the help of government funds, EESP sponsored several community projects, among them a coffee house for Eastside teens called the "Uhura." Additional funds led to a camping program which took the 15 leaders and their charges to the Adirondack Mountains, and a popular drama program.

In addition, EESP sponsored a Neighborhood Interfaith Program (NIP) and an Ecumenical Vocational Church School, which involved 150 youngsters.

Vatican Cites Diocese for Mission Aid

Gifts totalling \$668,000 from the people of the Rochester Diocese for the missions of the Holy Father during the past year has prompted a warm letter of thanks from Gregorio Cardinal Agagianian, prefect of the Pope's mission's office, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen and Msgr. John F. Duffy, director of diocesan mission programs.

The letter received this week from Rome spoke of "the sentiments of profound gratitude of all the missionaries who will benefit from the kind generosity of the good Catholic people of the Diocese of Rochester."

The \$668,000 total is the highest amount ever raised here for the pontifical missions, Msgr. Duffy explained. It puts the Rochester Diocese in 8th place among all the dioceses of the country in mission-generosity.

"Only New York, Brooklyn, St. Louis, Chicago, and Detroit top our diocese," he said. "Once before, in 1960, with a total of \$524,936 we were in sixth place, but in the last three years we have rated only 16th, 21st and 23rd in the nation."

The annual October Mission Sunday collection in parishes here raised \$180,970 last fall, Msgr. Duffy said. "It was the biggest Mission Sunday gift we have ever received from the laity, topping the '66 total by 59%."

Analyzing other sources contributing to the record annual total sent to the Vatican, Msgr. Duffy explained that \$177,938 had been left to the Propagation of the Faith last year in the wills of deceased diocesans and that \$83,771 had come into the total from "God Love You" gifts sent directly to Bishop Sheen from all parts of the country.

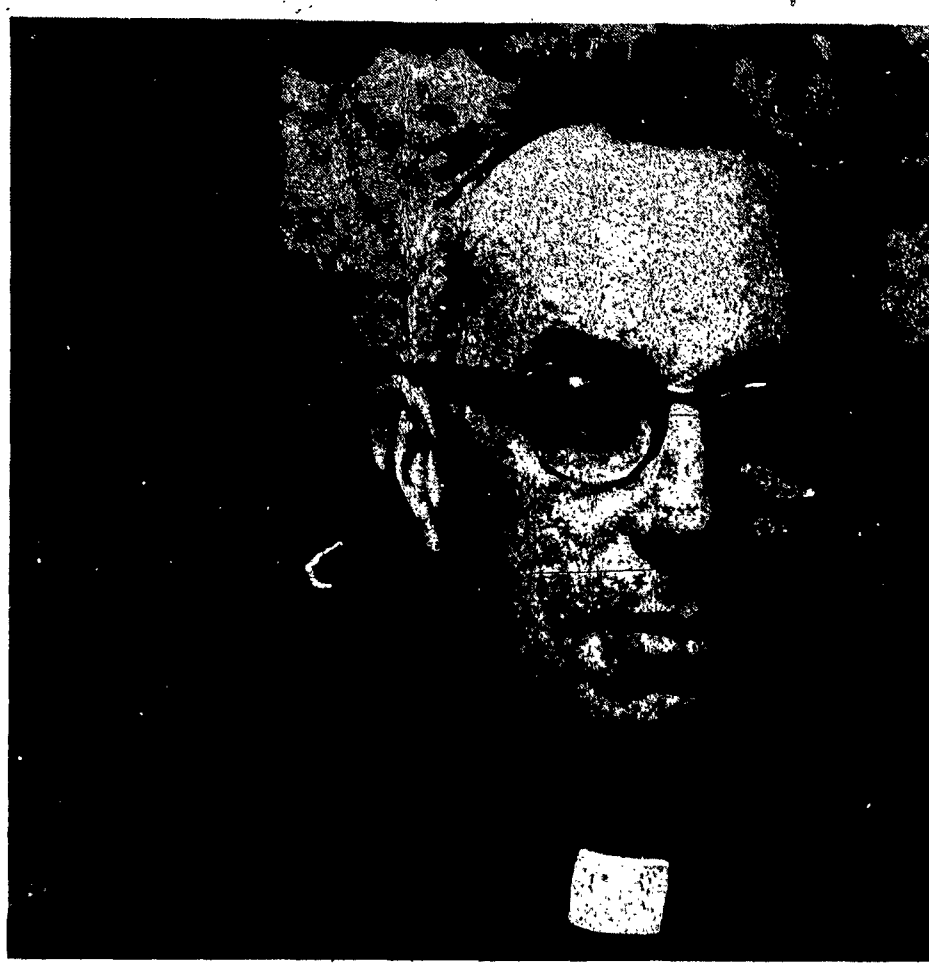
"People who used to send money to the Bishop as a result of his begging mission columns before he came to Rochester still make gifts to the missions through him. This year the flood of mail-gifts turned over to us by the Bishop jumped 800%."

Not included in the mission money sent to the Vatican were several other significant totals of money raised here for mission needs of the Church.

Msgr. Duffy announced that \$9,422 had been raised and sent to the Rochester priests working in La Paz, Bolivia; the Mission Cooperation Plan (in which missionaries preach in parish churches for their own needs) produced \$103,783; the Holy Childhood Association picked up \$52,247; Designated Donations came to \$27,305; and Mass Stipends forwarded directly to needy missionaries amounted to \$33,373.

Summarizing his report of handling nearly \$900,000 in missions gifts in the past year, Msgr. Duffy spoke warmly of the continuing interest and generosity of the laity and clergy of the diocese. "Our people have always demonstrated deep concern for every kind of mission need presented to them. They truly deserve the thanks of the Holy See as well as the missionaries. And they can justly share our pride that the diocese has gained national recognition because of their gifts."

The COURIER-JOURNAL is preparing for the publication on Nov. 22 of a large historical supplement to mark the 100th anniversary of the Rochester Diocese. An important facet of history we wish to record is the contribution to the Church beyond this diocese by priests, Sisters and Brothers born and raised here. If you have such a relative, living or dead, who was a missionary, teacher or did other religious work beyond the borders of this diocese, please send us a card with details of name, years and places of service, present address, or date and place of death. Mail to: Jubilee Supplement, 35 Scio St., Rochester, N.Y.



Msgr. John F. Duffy

PAT ANSWERS

Do you have questions about parish-life, customs and traditions which help you? The famous HELP! column doesn't know everything. Try PAT ANSWERS! ... But don't ask PAT about faith or morals. Simply write in your concerns and hang-ups about living in the family of God ... Address: PAT ANSWERS, 35 Scio Street, Rochester 14604. PAT'S answers will not necessarily reflect the opinion or policy of the Editor, —or of the Diocese.

Q.—In view of the publicity given to the liturgy used in some recent home-Masses criticized by Bishop Sheen last week, please review the guidelines he set down for legitimate home-Masses.

—H. G., Rochester.

A.—Bishop Sheen's permission for home-Masses was announced July 21, 1967. He laid down the following guidelines to be observed by the priests and the laity participating in this privileged kind of worship:—

1. Home-Mass may not be offered on a Sunday or holy day.
2. The prescriptions called "ritus Missae servandus" (including such requirements as proper wearing of all Mass vestments, use of proper altar wine and unleavened hosts, proper altar vessels, linens, altar-stone or antemensium (cloth with relics sewn into it) must be strictly observed by each priest.
3. A homily must be preached at each home-Mass.
4. There must be at least 15 people in attendance.
5. Communion may not be given under two species.
6. Each pastor must report to the Pastoral Office the frequency of the home-Masses, attendance, effectiveness, influence on the community and personal observations.
7. No Mass may be said in a private home for the benefit of a particular society, group or age.
8. No eating or drinking other than the Eucharist may take place.
9. Mass in a given home may not be repeated until the whole area of a parish has been covered.

Q.—Are there any standard rules about the style and quality of the Mass-vestments? It seems there are varied materials and designs (some of them too-modern for my taste) in use.

—J. L. P., Auburn.

A.—The style and designs of the vestments, and the materials used, are not rigidly ordered. It's pretty much up to the taste of the pastor (who usually purchases vestments for his church) how conventional or distinctive they are. Because vestments are expensive, their quality depends on the financial ability of the parish. Some parish boards have liturgical committees who have some say today about continuing to use old vestments and purchasing new ones. Strangely, despite all other forms of renewal of the liturgy, there has been very little agitation about dropping or changing these garments dating from the earliest centuries of the Church.

Q.—Has the Catholic Church ever designated women as "deaconesses"?

—M. J. K., Geneva.

A.—In the 4th and 5th century there were women appointed for certain ecclesiastical functions and there was a certain "ordination ritual". Their duties consisted of charitable offices for the poor and instruction of catechumens. The office disappeared in the Middle Ages.

Q.—The plot of the recent book and movie "Rosemary's Baby" revolves the subject of "diabolism". Please comment.

—N. E., Elmira.

A.—Diabolism includes all kinds of contact with the Devil by witchcraft, magic, spiritism, incantations, or occult deals. The Bible speaks of the possibility of securing the help of the Devil; both the books of Deuteronomy and Leviticus forbid it. The Church has long had a ceremony of exorcism which a priest may perform (with permission of his Bishop) to order the devil to leave a "possessed person". The Church accepts the existence of evil spirits and their power to do harm but forbids dealing with them. Seances and other manners of alleged contact with the evil spirits should be avoided.

Q.—An antique dealer tried to sell me an oblong, metal plaque decorated with a religious picture which he called a "peace-plate". What is such a thing; could it have been authentic?

J. S., Rochester.

A.—A peace-plate, or "pax," was a plaque of metal, ivory or wood, decorated with some pious carving and fitted with a curved handle on the back. It was used in the Middle Ages to convey the kiss of peace from the celebrant at the altar to the congregation; the celebrant would kiss the carved design just before communion time and then the plaque would be kissed by the people coming forward to the altar rail. If the peace-plate you saw was genuine it would have to be very old and surely very expensive. They haven't been used for a long time.

Q.—A friend of mine just back from a trip to Europe says that in Paris she visited a chapel where they claim the Blessed Mother has been seen. Outside of Lourdes and Fatima and Mexico City, I did not know that Our Lady has ever made an apparition? What's the story?

—T.P.D., Ithaca

A.—Yes, the Blessed Virgin is said to have appeared several times in 1830 in the chapel of the world motherhouse of the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul on a street called Rue du Bac in Paris. It is rarely listed in tourist-books but a lovely place of devotion to visit. In these apparitions the Blessed Mother is said to have shown Sister Catherine Labouré the design of a medal she wanted distributed to the sick and poor who came to the convent door. It is the one we call the "miraculous medal" today.