

The Groovin' Scene: Teens Bag It in Social Action

Youth

Today's students — hundreds of them in area Catholic high schools — are deeply involving themselves in a positive role of service to their neighbors.

They do so through such groups as Action, Reach, Impact, Apostolic Activities Council, Action for Others and the McAuley Club.

Almost every day, headlines announce outbreaks of student unrest or violence in the classroom and on the campus.

The President has established a commission to hear from student agitators and campus radicals on the causes

of such violence. Other governmental boards, such as the House Un-American Activities Commission (HUAC), have been probing the issue since as long ago as August 1967.

Interest seems to be centered on the disruptive; and, at least in the headlines, those students who dedicate their off-hours to quiet service to the community are seldom publicized.

"Everybody grows up with a certain amount of racism,"

Said Annette Cerame. "We become involved in social service and we discover how much there is in ourselves and we try to do something about it." Annette and 175 other students at Bishop Kearney High School are involved in "Action — Apostolic Community To Influence Our Neighbors."

Aim of the program, according to Father George Wiant, who is both school chaplain and unofficial moderator of the group, is to

provide the grass-roots service in the spirit of the Gospel.

Between Aug. 16-23, 13 members of Action volunteered to give additional reach to Project REACH in Perkinsville and Rexville; and with their time, energy and enthusiasm to relieve their neighbors' needs.

Some devoted their activities to helping three Sisters of Notre Dame set up their summer CCD program, which included visiting homes as well as instructing between 70 to 80 children. Others shortened the long hours of the aged living alone, by visiting them and entertain-

ing them with songs to the accompaniment of a guitar; cleaning, scrubbing and painting a one-room school house for a sick, retired man; helping paint a home, and doing chores for a physically unable couple.

The present school year finds Action diversified into six areas of activity. The first is visiting the poor and aged in the Monroe County Home; the second is working with other teen-agers, arranging for seminars, "happenings," and Folk Masses. The third is a tutoring program for the children of both St. Bridget's parish and the Baden Street Settlement House.

The most popular program is the fourth. Students accompany children to Mass on Sunday, return them home and show real Christian concern for the family. The fifth and sixth, which are for the men of the school only, are working as assistant recreational directors at the Baden Settlement House, and providing a trucking service for the residents of the inner city.

Jim Massa, who serves with Annette Cerame as co-president of Action, said of the program: "It's really learning about other people — what they have to live through every day of their lives." Annette added, "We really get so much more ourselves from our experience — far more than we can even give."

At St. Agnes High School, the sodality has evolved into "Impact." Sister Mary Kosika, who moderates the activities of the new group, said the girls hope to make an "impact" on every area of work in which they engage. "The name of the organization means: I Meet People in Christ Today," she explained.

Martha Brueckler, president of Impact, outlined its four-fold purpose: to involve students in race relations, human relations, ecumenism, and the communications media. The students at St. Agnes gather once a week for study periods in their chosen area of involvement, and then engage in an action.

The 50 to 60 girls in Impact visit churches in their ecumenical studies; and in their human relations activities, visit the Monroe County Hospital and the Infirmary of the Sisters of St. Joseph. For those students involved in race relations, visits are frequent to the Office for Urban Ministry, and Immaculate Conception Church.

"We are creating attitudes," Sister Kosika, "and developing a sensitivity to the problems of other people." Miss Brueckler added: "Impact is a program of prayer, study and action. The main thing is that it helps you to discover yourself, to become more of a person."

At King's Prep, all the students are involved in programs of the Apostolic Activities Council. Miss Ernestine Fantigrassi, who serves with Sister Bernard as faculty co-advisor to the council, outlined the students' four centers of activity.

Every Saturday 10 go to the Monroe County Home to provide entertainment. On Tuesdays some of the men play basketball and supervise recreational programs at Immaculate Conception Church. Other men perform the same service at St. Francis Xavier Church.

Heading the Boy Scouts,

arts and crafts and cheerleading programs at St. Bridget's Church completes the student's social services for the present. Bob Kuter and Bill McDonald, students at King's Prep, agreed that the council provides real service and involvement in the problems of the city.

At St. Joseph's Business School, the sodality is evolving into Action for Others Club, under the direction of Sister Mary Vincenta. Presently the young women are engaged in service to the residents of St. Ann's Home.

Mercy High School is the birthplace of the McAuley Club, a social service organization of more than 200 students. Sister Dorothy Becker is moderator.

Two evenings a week, girls tutor children at School 28. They also serve the Baden Settlement House with a similar program, as well as the Joseph Avenue Center, five

days a week. Once a month they celebrate the birthday of patients at the State Hospital, by staging a party. On Saturdays some serve at the St. Martin de Porres Center.

Many are "Candy Strippers," volunteers in local hospitals; and others go, twice a month to the Newark Hospital as volunteers. Still others collect, sort, wash, and deliver donated clothing to Project REACH. Mary Ann Wille, who with Hollis Tracy is student chairman of the club, explained that the interest of the school is "in service, in involvement in every level of the problems of the poor."

We hearken back to Father Timothy Weider's quote that such people are "the greatness of America, its greatest resource." These young men and women who give their time and money and lives in anonymous service are an inspiration. And a challenge.

A Kid's Eye View of Election

By PINCER LEAVEN

"When I do reach voting age, I will know what a vote means, be able to listen to speeches and to understand them and judge each candidate fairly." So spoke one of the junior campaigners in a special "election program" which is part of Mrs. Richard Spinelli's history class in Most Precious Blood School.

For the last two weeks Mrs. Spinelli's junior high classes have been conducting their own version of the "Race to the White House," complete with all the paraphernalia that mark the more adult version.

Mrs. Spinelli said:

"Since our history course covers America's growth and cultivation of democracy, I thought they would better understand and appreciate this if they were involved and could experience the vicarious thrill of an election."

Then out came the buttons and the signs and the discussions of the various promises. The entrance hall to Most Precious Blood School looks like a combination of Miami and Chicago, but without the noise. Posters of the benign faces of Presidential candidates from both parties cover the length of the hall. The micro-boppers run their way to lunch sporting buttons from the candidates of their choice. Americana drapes the atmosphere on a smaller, more delightful scale.

"It's just wonderful," says Mrs. Spinelli. "I gave them the idea and they took it from there."



Young campaigners from Precious Blood School, from left: Debra Casacelli, Jean Cimino, Joseph Magliozzi, Laurel Ferraro, Domenic Arilli, and Gary Vivatone.

Last week Mayor Frank Lamb and Councilman Robert Wood came to the school to endorse the candidates of their respective parties. Now the students want a debate on the issues on Nov. 4.

Mrs. Spinelli commented on the eagerness for facts and the awareness of contemporary problems which her class has displayed, and presented a number of statements by the pupils, including:

"If I don't take an interest now I'll be lost when it counts. I can now talk about

things other than the NFL standings and the Summer Olympics."

Who will win? No one knows, or at least no one is saying. But that isn't really the point in this junior-sized exercise of the most precious right of American citizens. As an eighth-grader said:

"I think I can play an important part in this gigantic world and I want somebody to listen to me. Even if my opinions are heard only in Most Precious Blood School, I feel like I am doing some-

thing about whom I want for President, although it is confined to a very small school in Rochester, New York."

Sister Anne Maura, principal of the school, said of the students:

"The mature way that our 7th and 8th graders conducted their campaign, the responsibility they manifested, the charity and respect they showed for one another's opinion, was very evident that our Catholic Schools are, indeed, preparing their students to be active citizens in the world of tomorrow."



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Family
 Married: Wife former Jame M. Riley, 4 sons, 2 Daughters. Children now attending College: Patricia at College of New Rochelle, Michael at University of Rochester, and Stephen at Villanova.
 Brother of Sister Mary Stephen, St. Agnes School. Brother of Prof. Abigail Mosey of Hobart College. (Nazareth College graduate.)

Education
 Naples High School University of Toronto, A.B. Union University, Albany Law School, LL.B., and Juris Doctor Degree, 1968

Military Service
 Drafted, March 10, 1941
 4 Battle Stars — Bronze Star Medal — 11 Decorations
 Colonel, U.S. Air Force Reserve

Professional Service — Present
 Vice President, Ontario County Bar Association
 New York Bar Association
 16 Years General Law Practice; Estate, Criminal, Real Estate, Trial, etc.
 Counsel, Geneva Housing Authority
 Counsel, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Ontario County
 Counsel, Federal Public Housing Administration
 Counsel, Veterans Service League

Public and Community Service — Past and Present
 N.Y. State Tax Attorney, Ontario County, 1955-59
 Charter Revision Commission, City of Geneva
 Chairman, Board of Appeals, City of Geneva 1952-57
 Civic Fund Drives, Community Chest, Hospital, etc.
 Chamber of Commerce

Civic, Religious and Fraternal Association, Past & Present
 Rotary, former Chairman Youth Committee
 Y.M.C.A., former Chairman Youth Committee
 Boys Scouts of America, former Treasurer Troop 8
 St. Stephen's Church
 Knights of Columbus, former Faithful Navigator (2) Terms
 American Legion, former Advocate, Winnek Post and County Veterans of Foreign Wars
 Geneva Rod & Gun Club — Conservation Club
 Geneva Country Club — Seneca Lake Country Club
 Nester Hose Company Seneca Yacht Club
 University Club Elks Club, BPOE
 Geneva Policemen's Benevolent Association
 Finger Lakes Law Enforcement Association
 Historical Society Geneva Civic Music Association