

More Than 1,000 Took Part In Adult Theology Program

The following resume was submitted by Father Leopold, OFM, Cap., of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Geneva, co-director of the program.

By FR. LEOPOLD, OFM, Cap.

The sound of Christmas carols and the hustle and bustle of preparation for the coming of the Christ signal the wrap-up of the diocesan Adult Theology Program for the first part of the 1968-1969 school year.

The last few weeks have witnessed a variety of programs and courses offered, resulting from the coordinating efforts of various diocesan offices in the field of religious education.

The first session of classes was offered for eight weeks in Rochester (two locations), Elmira, Auburn and Geneva. For the first time, CCD teachers had the opportunity of gaining advanced training credits by attending special courses within the program. A total of 116 enrolled in these courses in the four areas, a good number of whom fulfilled the requirements.

Though this was the beginning of what is hoped to be a developing and expanding program of education for such teachers, it clearly established the dedication of the teachers and the progressive planning of those in charge of CCD within the diocese.

During this eight-week session, another first was achieved when 175 parochial school teachers attended special sex-education courses in

Rochester and Elmira. This came about because of the efforts of Father Daniel Brent of the Diocesan School Office and the members of the Board for Religious Education in the Southern Tier.

It involved a great deal of coordination to bring together the men and women who took part in the presentation of the course, designed to aid in the fuller integration of sex education within the diocesan parochial school system. Though offered in a special way for the teachers, a number of parents and others also enrolled.

While to-be-expected problems were encountered, it is felt that both these efforts achieved their purpose. As in all such educational programs, the general success does not eliminate an occasional disappointment for some person or other. This is due not only to a number of mistakes which might be made in coordinating and running such programs, but also to the fact that any course geared toward a variety of people, and including many speakers and teachers, will not meet the approval of every individual. The only real disappointment was the sudden snow storm which forced cancellation of the final classes in Rochester. Because of previous commitments and newly scheduled programs, it became impossible to re-schedule these classes.

The final tally of those enrolled in the eight-week session was 1,083 laity and Sisters. Such a number clearly indicates the continued desire of the people for such programs.

The end of the initial eight-week session saw the beginning of another first. In cooperation with Father Daniel Holland and Sister Gilmory of the CCD office, and with individual pastors, the Adult Theology Program took part in the growing movement which is gaining ground throughout the nation; recognition of the primary right and duty of parents to prepare their children for the reception of First Communion.

Parents are by nature the proper teachers of their children in religious instruction, and the exercise of this role is immensely important. However, parents can fulfill this role only when they themselves are properly instructed in the doctrine which they must impart.

In keeping with this, a series of three lectures was arranged for three different centers: St. Margaret Mary in Irondequoit, Holy Spirit in Penfield, and St. Agnes in Avon.

Parents from surrounding parishes attended, which exposed the doctrine on an adult level and which aimed at answering many of the questions regarding the belief and practice of the Eucharist within the Church.

At the completion of the lecture series, the parents were then to be instructed on methods of teaching children and other practical points in their own parish framework. In this manner, many par-

ishes were able to benefit from the program while still remaining free to determine the particular details which each community decides best fits its needs.

It was estimated that more than 350 parents attended the lectures. Hopefully, this will be the first in a series of developments to aid pastors and parents in such matters.

The final aspect of the Program for 1968 has come to a close. A three-week lecture series was conducted in Victor, Penn Yan and Clifton Springs, which saw more than 100 persons enrolled and highlighted the effort to bring religious instruction to as many as possible. The coming year will see the program offered in many of the smaller parishes.

The first session was conducted by 15 teachers, including Bishop Fulton Sheen, five lay persons, two Sisters, a converted rabbi and six priests, as well as a number of one-class lecturers. The diocese should be proud of

what it has accomplished, and all those engaged in religious instruction have here a testimonial that many of the goals envisioned today can be attained.

Perhaps the greatest need now is for a continued and developing cooperation among all engaged in this field, and the incorporation of diocesan and parochial programs into one harmonious endeavor. Without this cooperation much of the enthusiasm and talent of the moment may be lost.

It cannot be expected that the Holy Spirit will carry the entire burden of this work. The mission of the Church, that of Christ united with His People, must come before individual gain or security. It certainly is time to take pause and see what our brother in Christ is doing, to recognize his needs, what we can do for him and what he can do for us, and check to see if we are still, after all is said and done, united in Christ.

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Spanish Tension Spotlighted

Madrid — (RNS) — The appointment of a 45-year-old Castilian last week as bishop of Albacete focused attention once again on the tension existing between the Vatican and Spain.

Ireneo Garcia Alonso was named to the hierarchy. That left the number of vacant dioceses at 13, in this offshoot Catholic country. Seven others are headed by bishops past the age of 75, and seven large important dioceses lack auxiliary bishops.

Three years ago, Pope Paul VI asked Catholic states to give up their negotiated rights of veto over appointments. A growing militancy among clerical and lay groups, however, seems to have reinforced the government's determination to retain this power. The current Vatican government concordat is 15 years old. Informed sources say that it is being renegotiated secretly right now, and that the Vatican accordingly is slow to fill vacancies.

Candidates Named For Annapolis

Two McQuaid students and one from Aquinas are among the 11 high school seniors recommended by Congressman Frank Horton for appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. The 11 will compete for two openings.

The McQuaid boys are John J. Parus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Parus, 34 Halstead St., and Paul G. Springer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Springer, 82 St. Gabriel Drive. The Aquinas entry is James L. Bossert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard J. Bossert, 580 Conkey Ave. All are 17 years old.

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Santiago, Chile — (NC) — The Church's efforts in Chile to shift the emphasis in its financing procedures from fees and stipends as sources of income to direct, regular contributions by the faithful are making progress.

Some dioceses are showing substantial increases in income as a result of the drive for greater participation by the faithful in providing church operating funds.

In Santiago, the amount collected this year was 65 per cent greater than the previous year. The national office in charge of the new system, operating from the chancery building here, said that more people, about 23 per cent, are contributing.

URUGU

Social Actio

Montevideo, Uruguay — Spurred by the worsening socio-economic conditions in Uruguay, the Church is becoming more deeply involved in development work through the efforts of 8,000 Catholics participating in social action groups.

These efforts started a year ago after Archbishop Carlos Parodi, apostolic administrator of Montevideo, issued a letter denouncing the steady deterioration of living conditions among the poor because of "a system incompatible with Christian tenets."

About 450 delegates from parishes throughout greater Montevideo met here in the first week in December to review the findings of these Catholic social action groups on underdevelopment and human problems in agriculture, industry, foreign trade