

# Newest Diocesan Apostolate Battles 'Poverty of Spirit'

By ALEX MacDONALD

The newest apostolate in the diocese is to heal in a contemporary Christian way the kinds of poverty which wear away at man's moral person.

That's the reason for the opening of Galilee House, a large one-story log-lodge, nestled on a hill top in 15 acres of forest near the town of Cayuta, half-way between Ithaca and Elmira.

Galilee House is directed by Father John Gormley and Father George Gauthier as part of the diocesan Secular Mission in which five priests serve formerly neglected rural areas in the central counties of the diocese.

"Galilee House is an interior poverty center," Father Gormley said this week describing the program's progress.

"Acutely aware of our own inner limitations we know that poverty of spirit is just as grave a problem in our society as the well publicized material poverty of the unemployed and underprivileged."

"Our apostolate — shared by others who join us for weekends or longer — is to develop a community life here with this goal: to be better equipped spiritually and intellectually for our mission work in the rural areas."

The priests, aided by a lay brother, Charles Leach, formerly a member of the Mt. Saviour Monastery

community, care for Catholics "and all others in the back hills" of the rural junction of four Southern Tier counties (Tompkins, Tioga, Schuyler and Chemung).

Besides their own neighbors who have been visited and assisted, the greater part of the Galilee effort is to accommodate groups and individuals who come to the lodge. Nearly 1,000 persons spent a day or more at Galilee in July and August.

"The setting and resources at Galilee offer personal enrichment, spiritually, culturally, emotionally and intellectually," Father Gormley said. "We hope that some who come may find a vocation for serving within a servant church in this apostolate to the churchless of the rural areas."

During the summer Galilee House was the center for an experiment in Christian community living which involved the two priests, a Sister of Mercy, four seminarians, several lay women and some high schoolers. The program they offered to visitors included them in spiritual exercises, guided discussions and social fellowship.

In the midst of this continuing apostolate, which steadily attracts teenagers, college students, married couples and whole families, Sisters and seminarians of the Galilee staff visit homes in their area.

The informal visiting along the rural byways of their hills has found

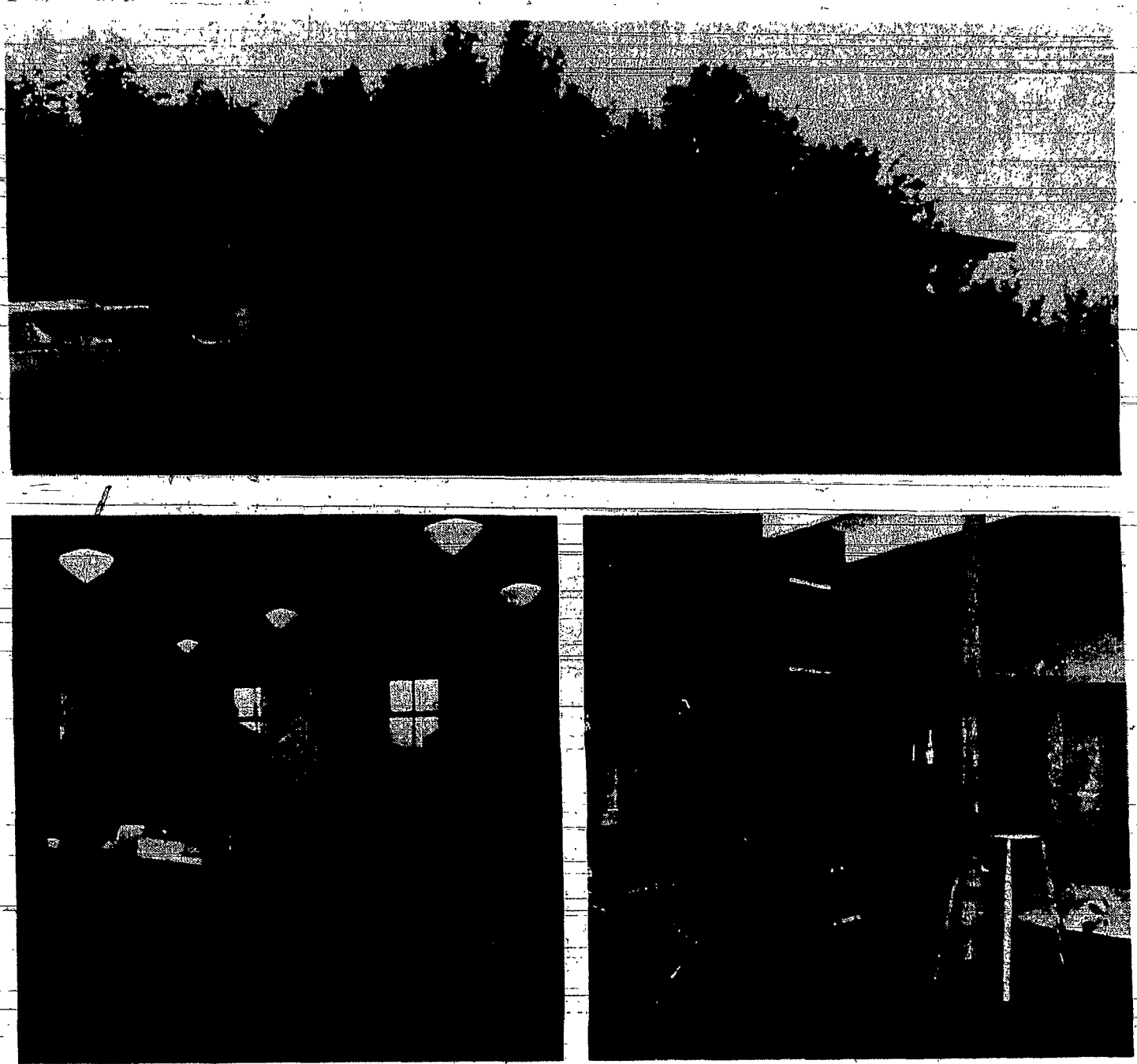
lapsed Catholics, Christians long away from any church, elderly and deprived people hungry for friendship. The assistance offered has ranged from organizing help with the haying in July to towing people out of snow drifts, bringing food and medical assistance, offering new religious community spirit.

Father Gormley established a Secular Mission Community of St. David's at Newfield in Tompkins county south of Ithaca, in October, 1967, offering Sunday Mass for nearly 125 families in this rural area at the Newfield Fire Hall.

Presently Father Gauthier is evaluating the church-less area of northern Tioga county, in the vicinity of Candor and Catonk for the establishment of another community parish.

The Chaplaincy at Camp McCormick, a state facility for teenage boys near Caroline, is another outlet of Galilee House concern. Father Gauthier assists in the educational program there and celebrates Sunday Mass for the Catholic boys.

The Diocese purchased the lodge and land for Galilee House in early '68 as an extension of its Secular Mission program. Presently, headed by Father John Hempel based in Penn Yan and covering Yates County, the Mission includes: Father Timothy Weider in Perkinsville for Steuben County, Father Thomas O'Brien in Newark for Wayne County and Fathers Gormley and Gauthier.



Galilee House, top, is the Diocese's newest apostolate. At left, above, a priest says Mass for St. David's secular mission parish. Right is the interior of 'Bethany', quarters for women.

## Local Priests Making Dent in Bolivia Poverty

By ARTHUR P. FARRIN

Three priests serving the Rochester Diocesan Mission in La Paz, Bolivia, report progress in two areas of the people's greatest needs — employment and health.

Results to date: a brick-producing business, and a medical clinic.

Father Peter Deckman this week hailed these as significant accomplishments in a community of Indian peasants where the pace of progress is typically slow.

Father Deckman, who has served for more than two years in the South American mission, is spending a vacation month at his home, 268 Genesee Park Blvd., before going back to his "parish" — which is not quite like an average parish in the Rochester Diocese, he hinted.

He brought greetings from the two other Rochester priests working with him — Father Paul Freemeser and Father Edward Golden. Their parish is called St. Joseph the Worker, San Jose Obrero.

(A fourth Rochester priest, Father Thomas O'Brien, also had served more than two years at the mission until his return last autumn. He has been assigned to the diocesan Secular Mission for service in Wayne County.)

While here, Father Deckman is "spreading the word" about the poverty and difficulties in his "ghetto



FATHER DECKMAN

parish." Differing from most American cities, the poor in La Paz live in suburbs, "the slum hills" surrounding the city itself, the rich live in the inner city.

The "parish church" — a small adobe building with "standing room" for 200 — serves an area of some 30,000 to 40,000 souls, most of whom have a Catholic background. But only some 300-400 persons attend the three Sunday Masses offered by the priests.

Average weekly collection: 40-50 pesos — approximating \$4-\$5.

Housing problems "out-ghetto" America's. "During the rainy season," Father relates, "many of the adobe huts, made of straw and mud, will fall apart, in some cases killing the people in them."

There are no "wakes," Father added. "The dead are buried the day they die. Instead of a funeral Mass the relatives ask for a requiem Mass on the eighth day after death."

It was many months before the Rochester priests, the only American "whites" in the community, were accepted by the natives. Now they are beginning to get "identified," Father said, and they are cordially greeted by most as they make daily walks through the community.

"We still are in the position of mostly 'listening' to them," Father pointed out. "We have found that it is inadvisable to pass these laws

though to us our advice may seem obviously practical." The priests try, he explained, to be "catalysts" — to help the people develop their own projects and produce their own leaders.

As with most projects, money was needed to get something like the brick business under way. Most of it — approximately \$15,000 — came from friends in the Rochester Diocese for loan to a workers' cooperative.

The priests aided a group of the peasants to form a tax-exempt "cooperative," for purchases of nearly 10 acres of land on which they constructed the "factory." Besides Rochester money each family in the co-op invested \$16 to belong.

Last November the first "brick" was produced — by hand, since they

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## City Club Hears McQuaid Rector On 'Pope & Pill'

The failure of faith has compounded the issue of Catholic obedience to Pope Paul's encyclical Humanae Vitae, Father Albert P. Bartlett, S.J., rector of McQuaid Jesuit High School told a Rochester City Club luncheon audience on Wednesday at the Chamber of Commerce.

"The teaching of the encyclical is clear, vigorous and courageous," he said. "But obedient assent to Church teaching requires faith."

"The collision between the Church and the world cannot be resolved by reason alone. Faith must enter also. But faith in our era has not been growing."

Another factor in the widespread controversy over the papal statement against contraception, the Jesuit speaker said, was "the unwillingness of some bishops and clergy of Northern Europe to support the Pope's teaching."

"Law enforcement in any social order requires that subordinate authority fulfill its duty of enforcement. But whole hierarchies of bishops have taken issue with the papal encyclical. The result has been a great gap between the Pope's authority and his power."

Father Bartlett, who for several years has been a member of the Board of the local Planned Parenthood League, praised Pope Paul for speaking courageously — contrary to the majority of the world's voices.

"It should be said in the Pope's favor," he insisted to his secular audience, "that majority opinion is never a guarantee of truth nor a safeguard from error."

The lecturer explained that Catholics who approve contraception and the Pill for their own lives argue over two fundamental considerations: Natural Law and the Principle of the Double Effect.

## Theology Course To Begin Feb. 20

Eight once-weekly classes on current religious topics will feature the Adult Theology Program scheduled to begin Feb. 10, 11 and 12 in four communities of the diocese.

The classes are slated to be held at St. Agnes High School and at Nazareth Academy, Rochester; Holy Spirit School of Religion, Penfield; St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls, and Mt. Carmel High School, Auburn.

Information about the courses may be obtained through the Office for Christian Formation, St. Patrick's Rectory, Victor (716/924-3100) or the Adult Theology Program, P. O. Box 231, Geneva (315/789-1991). Complete details will be published in next week's Courier-Journal.



(Photo by Williams on the Onaka)

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey is pictured at the moment of "imposition of hands" at ordination rite Jan. 18 of Rev. Robert E. Baker, native of Scottsville, in St. Mary of the Assumption Church there. At right is Father James M. Moynihan, diocesan chancellor.

## Father Baker Ordained In Scottsville Church

The Rev. Robert E. Baker, SM, was ordained a Marist Father on Saturday, Jan. 18, in St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Scottsville, where he received his first Holy Communion.

Officiating at the ordination rite, his second such ceremony in five weeks, was Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey.

Father Baker, son of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Baker of Scottsville, is attached to the Washington Province

of the Order, and has been studying for the last five years at the Marist College in Washington, D.C.

He will return to the capital Sunday to continue graduate studies in education, guidance and counseling.

Father Baker was joined by eight other priests in celebration of his first Mass in St. Mary's on Sunday afternoon. Archdeacon for both Masses was Father Edward Hartmann, pastor of St. Mary's.

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### St. Mary's Hospital Plans 6-Bed Unit

St. Mary's Hospital has received permission from the State Hospital Review and Planning Council to build a six-bed intensive coronary care unit.

The unit will be equipped with electronic and other equipment, and staffed by specialists to provide more intensive care for heart attack patients.

It is expected that the hospital will make space available for the unit by renovating an existing administrative area.

### Brighton Church Gets \$5,000 from Estate

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton, will receive \$5,000 from the estate of Howard M. Woods, attorney, who died Sept. 20, 1966, at the age of 71.

Mr. Woods also willed \$5,000 to the Development Fund of Fordham University, of which he was a graduate, and a Lockport priest was given \$500 for Masses.

The remainder of the nearly \$500,000 estate will be shared by the widow, Mrs. Clementine F. Woods, and a son, Michael F. Woods, now serving in the Army.

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