

# New Merger Plan Announced for 2 Elmira Schools

Elmira — Further merging of SS. Peter & Paul's and St. Cecilia's schools will make it possible to eliminate double grades and to have one supervising principal beginning Feb. 3.

Announcement of the plan was made this week by Sister Mary Agnes S.J., coordinator of Chemung County Catholic Schools.

Sister Francis David, S.S.J., who has been principal of SS. Peter and Paul's as well as part-time teacher, will become the supervising principal of both schools.

Sister Margaret Ann, R.S.M., will be relieved of administrative duties to continue teaching sixth grade. She has been teaching a double fifth and sixth grade.

First and second grade classes at St. Cecilia's will be transferred to SS. Peter and Paul. The fourth grade at SS. Peter and Paul's will go to St. Cecilia's.

The changes will make it possible for SS. Peter and Paul to continue a non-graded plan begun in September. There will be four teachers for the first three grades at that school.

Miss Donna Mosch, a teacher at SS. Peter and Paul, will stay with her fourth grade class when they switch to St. Cecilia's.

## Discussion Session Highlights Hornell Unity Week

Hornell — An interfaith dialogue on ecumenism was the highlight of Hornell's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Group discussions followed a panel, and questionnaires were distributed to determine the possibility of continuing ecumenical prayer services and dialogue through the year.

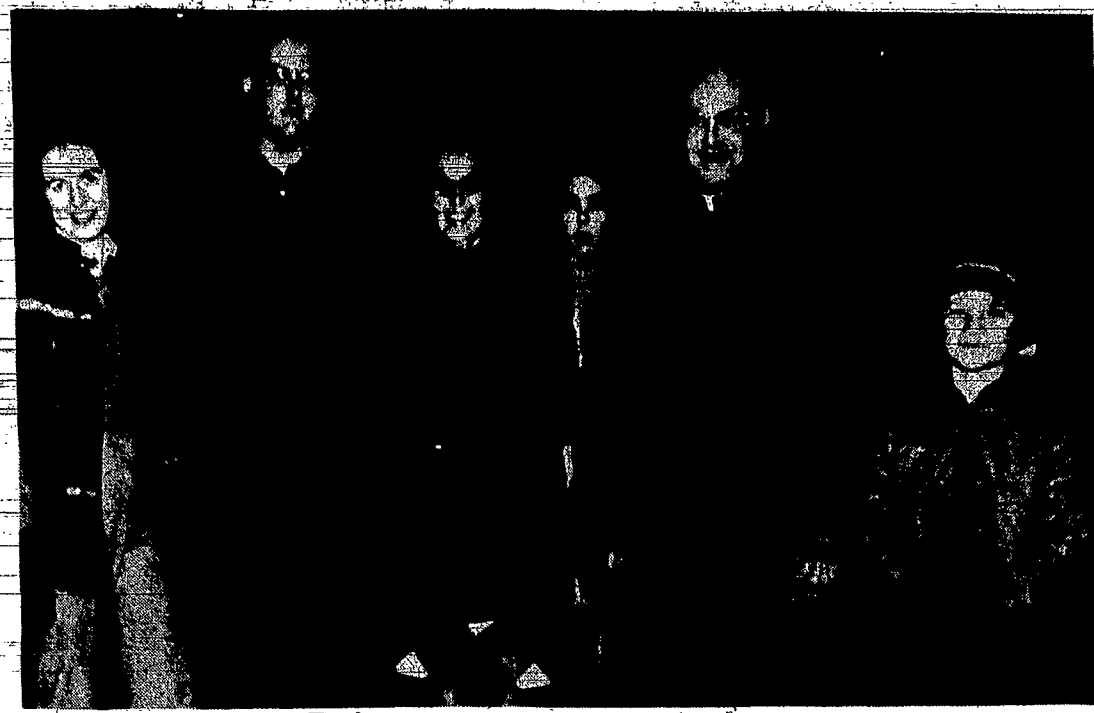
Panelists were Father Hugh F. Brady, assistant pastor of St. Ann's; the Rev. Bradley Eines of St. Paul's United Church of Christ; the Rev. Samuel A. Fell of First Baptist and James F. Hanrahan of St. Ann's parish, assistant director of urban renewal. Richard Dunning, of the Park Methodist congregation was moderator.

Parishioners of St. Ann's and St. Ignatius Loyola took part in a Sunday-night prayer service in First Baptist Church. The Rev. James Woods of Christ Episcopal gave the sermon.



Christian Unity Service in Newark Valley

More than 200 parishioners of five churches in Newark Valley and Berkshire attended a service in St. John the Evangelist's Church, Newark Valley, on Wednesday night, Jan. 22, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Host was Father Matthew A. Sudara (center), pastor of St. John's and of its mission, St. Francis Church, Catatonk. Pictured from left: Rev. Gary Kuhns, First Methodist Church, Newark Valley; Rev. Richard Leavitt, Congregational United Church of Christ, Newark Valley; Father Siudara; Rev. Benjamin Huang, of Taiwan, Formosa, pastor of Congregational United Church of Christ, Berkshire; Rev. Earl Beane, First Methodist, Berkshire.



Priests Join Skating Party

Father John S. Maloney (right), pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, and Father David N. Gramacke, assistant, joined co-chairmen of the parish family skating party held at Cornell University's Lynah Rink. From left are Mrs. Grace Saatman, Mrs. Chris Morrison and Cynthia Morrison, and at right some unidentified skaters.

# Bible Understanding Theme of Workshop

Elmira — Approaches to a better understanding of the Bible will be the theme of a Scripture Workshop for parishioners of the Southern Tier on Friday night and Saturday, March 7-8, at the Watson Homestead, north of Corning off Route 15.

Conducting the sessions will be Father Sebastian Falcone, O.F.M., Cap., of St. Bernard's Seminary faculty.

Father Sebastian did graduate work in Scripture Studies at Catholic University, working under Patrick Shehan, a member of the international team editing the Dead Sea Scrolls. He taught Scripture at Immaculate Heart Seminary, Geneva, before his appointment to St. Bernard's in 1967.

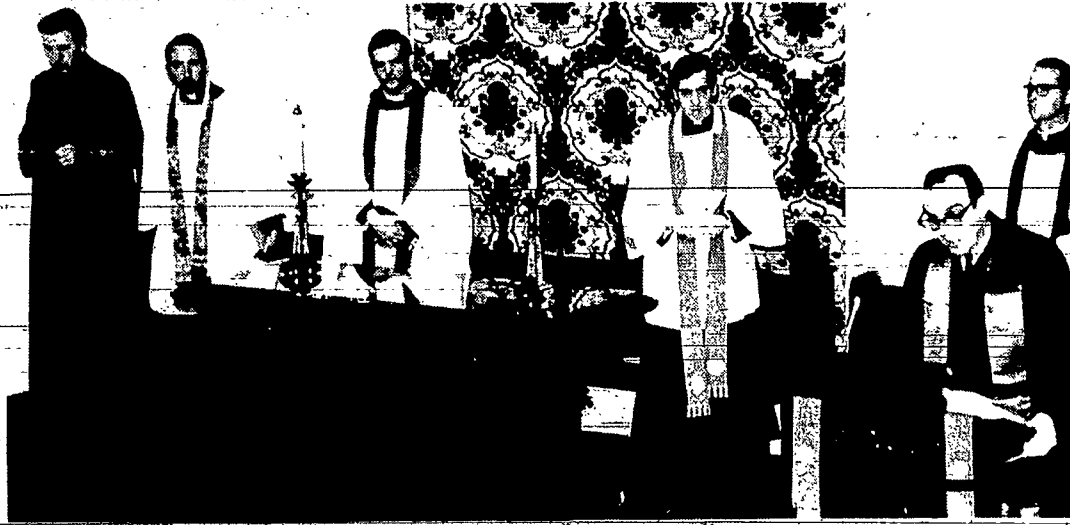
He has conducted Scripture courses for clergy convocations

and ecumenical groups, and study weeks for special groups. He also is giving lectures for Adult Theology courses in Rochester and Geneva.

Father's workshop topics will include "Basic Principles in Unlocking Scriptures," "A Theological Key to Reading the Old and New Testament," "Genesis — Unraveling the Message" and "The Historical Christ."

Reservations may be made with the following:

Elmira: Mrs. Francis Haber, 732-5480; Corning — Richard Wardell, 962-7123; Hornell — Miss Virginia Hussong, 324-1970; Bath — Mrs. Eleanor Rowe, 778-4513; Ithaca — Sister Esther, M.H.S.E., 278-2313; Watkins — James Scaputo, 535-4701; Apalachia — Richard Berard, 625-2001.



Ecumenical Service in Auburn

Three priests joined three ministers in conducting an Ecumenical Service Jan. 26 in First Presbyterian Church, Auburn. From left are: Very Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Sullivan, pastor, Holy Family Church; Father P. David Finks, episcopal vicar, diocesan Office for Urban Ministry, Rochester; Rev. Richard Worden, assistant rector, St. Peter's Episcopal Church; Father Charles Mulligan, assistant pastor, Sacred Heart Church; Rev. Gerald Harris (at lectern), First Methodist, and Rev. Ralph Wagner, First Presbyterian Church.

# Hong Kong Diocese in Full Bloom

By GERMAINE SWAIN  
NC News Service

Hong Kong — From a small mission the diocese of Hong Kong has come into full bloom in 15 years.

The 1969 Hong Kong Catholic Directory and Yearbook

shows that the Church here has moved rapidly in the direction of post-conciliar development in the setting up of a diocesan senate, a diocesan finance planning committee, parish councils and an assortment of personnel, liturgical, ecumenical and catechetical commissions.

With the resignation in December 1968 of Italian-born Bishop Lawrence Bianchi, P.I.M.E., because of ill health, Shanghai-born Bishop Francis Chen-Ping Hsu was named apostolic administrator with apostolic administrator with full jurisdiction.

Westerners are only a small sprinkling of the 235,937 adults and young people comprising the diocese. Although English is the official language of this British crown colony, the unofficial language of the diocese is that of its people, Chinese.

The population is roughly estimated at 4 million, of whom some 92 per cent are non-Christian.

The diocese is now stopping short for what Bishop Hsu broadly describes as "stock taking." Tentatively scheduled for Pentecost, 1969 is a diocesan convention which, the bishop said, would be authored "by the entire people of God in Hong Kong" because "voting rights will give participating clergy, religious and laity an active and responsible part."

Diocesan personnel as enumerated by the Catholic directory statistics, includes 342 priests, of whom 227 belong to 11 different religious orders (there are 165 Chinese priests, 52 of whom are diocesan clergy); 110 Brothers, of whom 48 are Chinese, be-

longing to 11 different Religious congregations; 756 Sisters of whom 396 are Chinese, belonging to 22 different congregations; 350 seminarians, novices, religious students, and 122 Chinese lay catechists.

The Catholic Central Council for the Apostolate of the Laity embraces the 28,949 members of Catholic organizations. Increasingly active among these are the Catholic

Students, the Pax Romana Catholic Graduates Society, the Serra Club, the St. Vincent de Paul Society, Young Christian Students and Young Christian Workers.

Catholic educational institutions now total 225 kindergarten, primary, secondary, technical, commercial and evening schools. Of the 191,477 students attending them, 149,806 pupils are non-Catholic.



New Sanctuary By the Numbers

Redecorated literally "by the numbers," this is the modernized sanctuary of St. John Bosco Chapel at the Elmira Reformatory. The carpentry, lighting revisions, paint-mixing, wrought iron and other metal work were done by prisoners, under the direction of their shop teachers. Prisoners are not identified publicly by name, so Father James P. Collins, chaplain, credited them by their numbers in a report he wrote in the Don Bosco Bulletin. Renovation plans were a gift from Alfred DaPrato of Boston, whose firm installed the altar 30 years ago. Included were detailed instructions for taking the altar apart and moving it to conform with new liturgical practice.



Planning Dance in Corning

Committee leaders of St. Patrick's Parish Aides, Corning, are pictured planning arrangements for a round and square dance in the school hall at 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, with music by the "Downbeats." Shown from left are Mrs. Joseph Reilly, Mrs. Francis Doherty and Mrs. Ralph Simon.

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## Horseheads Man Leads Elmira AOFH

Elmira — W. David Call of Horseheads has taken over as 16th president of the Mgr. John J. Lee Division, Ancient Order of Hibernians.

He succeeds John McNamara as head of the Chemung County organization. Call named McNamara and Joseph H. Sheehy, 1967 president, to arrange the annual corporate communion for March 16.

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