



**VISUAL AIDS BRING ATTENTION** — Second graders at St. Bridget's School, Rochester, are all attention as Mrs. Marcelle Robinson, urban teacher intern, shows slides to help them understand the difference between "producers of goods and services." Mrs. Robinson is teaching this year at St. Bridget's under "Project Unique" program; she spends four days there each week in practice teaching, and one day at her course in State University College at Brockport. In rear observing her class are Sister Antonine, SSI., regular teacher of the group, and 12 other "observer" interns from the university.

## St. Bridget's One Year Later

One year ago this week St. Bridget's parish in Rochester made the front page of the New York Times. The headline said "Bishop Sheen Gives Parish Property to U.S. as Lenten Gift for Poor."

What followed was a journalistic field-day as local and national news media trumpeted the fact that the Bishop had made arrangements for the Federal government to take St. Bridget's church property in a predominantly Negro and Puerto Rican neighborhood for housing the poor.

The Bishop's concern for the poor did touch the diocese and the nation: "We are under a Gospel imperative," he said, "to be a giving church; not just a ministering church, but a surrendering church."

But parishioners of St. Bridget's,

clergy and laity in all parts of the city and general public opinion, so quickly pleaded for reconsideration and retention of the property that the following Sunday Father Francis Vogt, pastor, arose to tell his people: "St. Bridget's will not be given away. It will continue to serve the people living in the shadow of its tower."

Sitting in the rectory near that 114-year-old tower one day this week, Father Vogt reflected on the "year of grace" his parish had known.

"We're still in business, only slightly changed after a year," he said. "This is the poorest neighborhood in the whole city. We have to be helped by Pastoral Office funds. Only a small proportion of the Catholics in the immediate neighborhood come to Mass. But we are very sure we are wanted and needed here."

"There's no bitterness or hard feeling here now about the near death

of the parish. In fact we all admitted then that the Bishop's idea was basically a tremendous one.

"We believe that the continuing presence of the church right in this neighborhood bringing hope and comfort to many, is accomplishing what the Bishop intended better than tearing it down for a housing project."

The parish's principal task of "representing Christ in the neighborhood is accomplished more through work with children than with adults," Father Vogt declared. "Our school, with 270 kids; half Puerto Rican and half black youngsters, is doing a big job—better than most other inner-city schools," he bragged.

Six Sisters of St. Joseph and the 5 lay teachers have no easy task with the inner-city child, he admitted.

"Discipline is hard to maintain and many youngsters are so culturally hampered when they start school, progress is slow. But the saving feature is the dedication of the teachers and the smallness of our classes. Our teachers really know their kids."

Pupils are given a "sense of dignity and importance" which life has not yet shown them, he explained. Many come from broken homes and have emotional problems or the sensitivities of poverty and color.

Intern teachers from Brockport and Geneseo State College work with the regular class teachers. Non-graded sections in the early grades and broad tutoring programs after school stimulate motivation.

Church attendance has grown recently. Father Vogt reported. Fifty Bishop Kearney High Schoolers come into the parish every Sunday to "pick up kids all over the neighborhood and personally bring them to Mass."

"But our hopes to build a strong adult leadership among the Puerto Rican adults suffers from their prosperity," he said. "Those who have a concern for the practice of the faith also have ambition to want things better for themselves and their families. They work hard and when they get the chance they move to a better neighborhood."

"We're glad to see them prosper. But it leaves the parish without continuity of strong, young-family life."

Of his non-churchgoing parishioners the patient pastor spoke charitably: "People of the slums have so many problems, so much trouble to face every day, that religion has little attraction. Their need for health and enough to eat, a chance to survive, a hope to find better living conditions—these are more important to them than churchgoing."

The church, so close to the wreckers' hammer last March, is open only on Sundays. Daily Masses are offered in the convent or a small chapel in the vestry and then the church is locked securely. Sneak-thieves, trespassers and vandals make close security necessary day and night.

—Father Richard Torrey  
 (To be continued next week with details of St. Bridget's hopes to use its church for a parish center serving needs of all its neighbors.)

### Mt. Carmel to Cut Two More Grades

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School will have only four grades and 150 pupils next fall, Father Gennaro Ventura told his parishioners Sunday.

Funds are short, and needed in various educational endeavors other than the grammar school, he said. Religious education at adult and high school levels and neighborhood educational centers for the religious training of "all the children of the area" claim their share of available money.

Last year, the school had about 450 pupils, 100 of them not Catholic. The diocese supplied \$35,000 of a \$73,000 budget. This year, grades seven and eight and kindergarten were dropped after the parish rejected the pastor's plan for a family education center.

Four innercity schools besides Mt. Carmel are bolstered by a diocesan appropriation that totals \$135,000. The others are St. Bridget's, Immaculate Conception, Holy Redeemer and St. Francis Xavier.



**FARAWAY OUTDOOR CLASS** — Brother William R. Cronmiller, SJ, (right), Rochesterian formerly on McQuaid High School faculty, now is teaching at a Jesuit high school in the Caroline Islands. Here he shows native student how to plant pineapple.

## Jesuit Dinner to Aid Missionaries

Jesuit missionaries in several foreign lands will share in proceeds of the fourth annual Jesuit Mission Benefit Dinner scheduled Monday evening, March 24, at Logan's, Scottsville Road.

Eleven Jesuits from the Rochester Diocese or who formerly taught at McQuaid Jesuit High School here are serving missions in the Caroline

and Marshall Islands, the Philippines and India.

A few years ago a young Jesuit Brother was on the McQuaid faculty. Today he is on the faculty of another Jesuit school on the Pacific Island of Ponape, Caroline Islands.

Brother William R. Cronmiller, SJ., son of Dr. and Mrs. Michael J.

Cronmiller, 30 Seneca Pkwy., Rochester, is student adviser to 120 native boys, in addition to teaching them mathematics and agriculture, at the Ponape Agriculture and Trade School.

Five Jesuits and five laymen make up the faculty of the four-year-old school, which will have its first graduation in June.

## Abortion Dialogue Planned

Dialogue between Catholics and Protestants will be a major aim of a panel discussing New York State's proposed abortion law changes at St. Thomas the Apostle Church hall, 4530 St. Paul Blvd., Irondequoit, on Tuesday, March 11, at 8 p.m.

Panelists from the diocesan Right-to-Life Committee will start the ball rolling before an audience made up of several area members of Protestant and Catholic congregations. Then discussion will be opened to all in the session.

Dr. Thomas R. Sweeney, obstetrician-gynecologist, co-chairman of the local Right-to-Life Committee, will be one of the panelists. A lawyer and a social worker will also speak.

## New Grammar School Slated to Open in Fall

A private grammar school for girls will open here next fall under the auspices of several teachers and families associated with the Academy of the Sacred Heart. There will be a kindergarten-for-boys-and-girls.

Chartered as the "Phoenix School," its name suggests that it will "arise from the ashes" of the academy, which goes out of business this June.

The new school, however, will be non-sectarian, "unrelated to the academy or to the church," according to Mrs. Paul Casper, acting principal.

School facilities have been leased at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, in East Avenue at Vick Park B. These include one whole floor of classrooms, plus other rooms below it, and a gymnasium, Mrs. Casper reported.

The Montessori system will be used with the youngest children, if a qualified teacher can be found, and each class will be limited to about 15 pupils, Mrs. Casper said.

She and four other lay teachers now on the academy staff will form the nucleus of the faculty. Application blanks will be sent first to academy families, but the school will be open to all, Mrs. Casper said. Beginning Monday, she may be reached through the charter groups' new telephone, 288-0800.

Herbert Vanden Brul is president of a board of 11 trustees, which intends to incorporate. A state charter, a prerequisite to incorporation, indicates state acceptance of the proposed curriculum and faculty, financial resources and health and safety factors at the school site. William Weidman and Vincent Rallo have been active in securing the charter and facilities.

The Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which has operated a private school in Rochester for more than a century, has offered its Prince Street property for sale at \$700,000.

## Farewell to a Century

(Continued from Page 1)

number of prominent Maryknollers who had been associated with this notable victim of the Korean conflict in the '50s.

Without doubt, the most popular event of the twelve-months was the centennial concert of December 10, held in the Nazareth College Arts Center. Organized by Fathers Benedict Ehmman and John Frega, O.F.M. Cap., this program of choral music covered 1500 years of religious music.

The second half of the evening was devoted to a beautiful, commissioned cantata, "Wait for the Promise of the Father" by Dr. Wayne Barlow of the Eastman School of Music. But no number evoked so much enthusiasm from the capacity audience as the jazz "Gloria," another commissioned work, written and directed by Chuck Mangione, popular Rochester performer and composer.

The last important item on the centennial schedule was "A Thousand Steeples," a half-hour survey of the history of the Diocese presented on Channel 10-TV, January 14, 1969. Written by Jack Decker, and produced by Eddie Allen, it was ably narrated by Howard Hoesmer. (This show, by the way, will soon be available on film for presentation at other TV stations or for schools or groups.)

The centennial received rather good publicity. Special exhibits relative to the Diocese were featured in the Rochester Public Library, the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's Seminary and in the Cayuga County Museum. The daily press and the weekly press in Rochester, and the daily press elsewhere, gave good coverage and editorial acknowledgment. The Courier-Journal led the way, of course, not only in news items but in an eighteen-month series of historical articles by Father McNamara, the diocesan historian, and a handsome special supplement on October 22, called "The Next 100 Years."

Looking back, therefore, we must conclude that the Centennial Commission did well by the Diocese — impressively well.

So much for our yesterday, which the centennial observances were intended to pay tribute to. Now we must put away the birthday presents, wash the birthday-cake-plates, and get on with the business of the next hundred years.

What will the next hundred years bring to the Diocese of Rochester? Who knows?

Perhaps our diocesan educational program will be forced to change. Perhaps the Diocese will be divided. Perhaps we will suffer more years of post-Vatican II jolting. Or, on the other hand, the tempest may be already subsiding. Perhaps our vocations to the priestly and the religious life will be further reduced. Or, on the other hand, some sudden grace — or some sudden catastrophe — may kick the pendulum back in the other direction. Will the laity succumb more and more to the secularizing tendencies of society, or will they perhaps surprise us with a new and vibrant leadership?

Leadership — that is something we shall need very badly, in every field.

At all events, we have no gift to predict what the future will bring, whether good or bad. And it is just as well that we have not, for we must move ahead in faith and hope. It is up to all the people of God, says Vatican II, "to show forth in the world the mystery of the Lord in a faithful though shadowed way, until at the last it will be revealed in total splendor." (Lumen Gentium, 8).

So we must heed the advice given to us by Pope Paul VI: "The challenges of the future are such that the Diocese of Rochester must continue to progress and to give to society the contents of Christ's teaching. The world still has great need of His preaching and His example."

May we meet these challenges of the future even better than we have met those of the past!

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