



Father Robert Kreckel, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Rochester, is pictured with First Communicants following dinner for them in parish hall. Children received Communion during Mass on Holy Thursday evening.

The Inner City and Education

Last of a 2-Part Article
By FATHER RICHARD TORMEY

Rochester's Negro community believes that inner-city children in the public schools are receiving inferior education.

"My kids just aren't learning the way I think they should," is a commonly heard complaint. "When they fall behind and get discouraged, they hate to go to school. And lots of the school people don't seem to care at all."

Last week the COURIER-JOURNAL outlined several areas in which inner-city parents, both black and white, believe they have a justified complaint about our schools. Their growing concern, and their current feel-

ing that the City Board of Education is unwilling to hear their case except within the framework of rigid Board procedures, prompts us to present their opinions and figures.

We repeat our position stated last week: "If there is a case of injustice to be proven by facts, or school renovation which can and should be authorized for the benefit of all inner-city children, the black leaders' charges deserve to be heard."

Leaders of the FIGHT organization, representing many black citizens, are moving steadily through neighborhood meetings to demand upgrading of school efforts. Armed with statistics demanded and received during December visits to Schools 3, 4, 6, 9, 14 and 19, they charge that pupils at these six inner-city elementary

schools are among the "worst achievers in the Rochester school system."

Competence in reading, writing and arithmetic are especially bad at the six schools, the organization says.

Examples of FIGHT's findings, published in Rochester's DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE Feb. 23, 1969, and never refuted by the City Board of Education include:

- School 3, Tremont St.: Eighty percent of the 3rd grade pupils were below average in arithmetic and 69 percent were below "reading readiness average."

- School 4, Bronson Ave.: Seventy-nine percent of the 3rd graders were below average in arithmetic, compared with 49 percent citywide and 25 percent statewide. Sixty-one percent of the 6th graders were below average in reading, compared to 33 percent citywide and 27 percent statewide.

- School 14, University Ave.: Seventy-seven percent of 4th graders and 69 percent of 2nd graders are "not learning" according to the school's standard tests which measure pupils' mental ability.

In making a general statement that "only 25 percent of all blacks are on their proper level" in the elementary schools, the FIGHT officers contend that "the fathers, some of the 'payroll goes at a substandard level the farther behind he drops'."

"We hold the principals particularly responsible," Mr. Ron Jones, Staff Director in the FIGHT organization said this week. Although the "system" balks some efforts to improve the schools, some principals and teachers are incompetent and indifferent to the unique learning problems presented by the culturally-deprived inner city child, he believes.

FIGHT executive and education committees, not waiting for the City Board of Education to supply the remedial facilities they claim inner city youngsters need, are currently pushing the establishment of "tutorial centers" in four black churches in the ghetto.

Settings for special teaching effort on afternoons, evenings, and during school vacations will be the Reynolds Street Church of Christ, Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, St. Simon's Episcopal Church and the Aeon Baptist Church.

Pupils of each church neighborhood are being recruited and screened and teachers are being hired. Reading, writing and arithmetic will be the central work of each center.

The schools will open when "about 100 children and enough teachers to give them careful attention" are enrolled, according to Mr. Jones. Both white and black teachers being sought, he said, must be "flexible and people-oriented," ready to use innovative methods and nonstandardized techniques.

Around each center a group of parents will serve as a "neighborhood advisory board" making decisions about the management of the tutoring program. These centers, FIGHT believes, will put a positive political pressure on the city school system and point up its deficiencies.

4 Lectures to Study Theology Revolution

A study in the theological revolution in Protestantism and Catholicism will be the focus of a four-lecture series: April 16, 23, 30 and May 7.

The series will be headed by Father Leopold Protomastro, co-director of the Adult Theology Program of the Diocese of Rochester, and Dr. John Skoglund, professor of preaching at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

The program is sponsored by a special task force on Leadership Development of the Board of Education of the Rochester Area Council of Churches. The purpose of the series is to develop a better understanding of what is happening theologically within each of these major Christian traditions in both their diversities and common elements.

The classes will be 8 p.m. at the Baptist Temple on April 16 and 23, and at 8 p.m. at St. Thomas More Church on April 30 and May 7.

Registration may be made by calling the Rochester Area Council of Churches or the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

Adult Theology Program Lists 6 Classes on Current Topics

Six once-weekly classes on current religious topics will feature the Office of Christian Formation's Adult Theology Program beginning next week in five diocesan communities — Rochester, Canandaigua, Geneva, Hammondsport-Bath, and Wayland.

Highlighting the Rochester program will be a series of three lectures by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Information may be obtained and reservations made through the office of the Adult Theology Program, P. O. Box 231, Geneva 14456 (telephone 315/789-1891). Enrollment also may be made at the classes.

No credits are given, and no examinations or recitations demanded. Certain courses may require outside reading. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teachers taking certain

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will discuss "Basic Tenets of Faith" in three bi-weekly lectures as part of the Adult Theology Program at Nazareth Academy.

The Bishop's talks are scheduled from 7:30 to 8:20 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, April 29, May 13 and May 27.

A fee of \$3 for the series may be mailed to the Adult Theology Program, Box 231, Geneva 14456, or may be paid at the door on the evenings of the talks.

courses, however, may receive advanced CCD credits.

Fees include: one course — \$6; two courses — \$10. Fees for two persons from same family: one course (they need not take the same course) — \$10; two courses — \$14. Bishop Sheen's three lectures — \$3.

Following are the dates, places, times and topics of the courses:

MONDAYS — APR. 14-MAY 19
Geneva

8:00-9:00 — "The Social Challenge of the Gospel," Father Sebastian Falcone, OFM, Cap., St. Bernard's Seminary Faculty.

Bishop Sheen To Speak at Scout Dinner

Twenty-second annual Report dinner of the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting is scheduled at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 24, in Geneva.

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will present St. George Awards at the dinner, in the American Legion Post 396 Home, Lochland Road, Route 14.

More than 350 Scout leaders from throughout the diocese are expected to attend, according to John C. McCarthy Jr., Rochester, diocesan committee chairman.

Edwin B. Harnish, Honeoye Falls, chairman of the awards committee, said the St. George Awards are issued by the National Scout Office to leaders who have given "exceptional service to Catholic youth through the Boy Scout Movement."

Representatives will be present from the seven Scout Councils in the diocese. They include Otisiana, Finger Lakes, Sullivan Trail, Cayuga, Furies (Ithaca), Steuben and Genesee Councils.

Hammondsport, St. Gabriel
Bath, St. Mary

First three classes will be held at Hammondsport, the remaining three at Bath.

7:45-8:45 — "Who Is the Man, Jesus of Nazareth?" Father Leopold Protomastro, OFM, Cap., Co-Director, Adult Theology Program, Geneva.

TUESDAYS — APR. 15-MAY 20
Nazareth Academy, Rochester

Bishop Sheen will give three of the lectures, from 7:30 to 8:20 p.m. on Apr. 29, May 13 and May 27. Other classes include:

7:30-8:20 — "The Social Challenge of the Gospel," Father Falcone.

8:40-9:30 — "St. Paul, Yesterday and Today," Father Michael Bordeaux and Dr. David Racz, St. Bernard's Seminary Faculty.

St. Mary's, Canandaigua
7:30-8:30 — "The Church," Father Protomastro.

THURSDAYS — APR. 17-MAY 22
St. Joseph's, Wayland

8:00-9:00 — "The Sacraments," Father Cyprian Roson, OFM, Cap., Co-Director, Adult Theology Program, Geneva.

2 Workshops Slated On Housing Crisis

Workshops aimed to direct involvement in Rochester's urban housing crisis are slated for two city parishes next week.

Identical sessions, aimed to attract volunteer advisers for the Better Rochester Living program, will take place on Tuesday, April 15, at Sacred Heart Cathedral rectory hall, and on Friday, April 18, at St. Ambrose hall. Both start at 8 p.m.

The workshops are sponsored by the social action committee of the Priests' Association of Rochester.

Better Rochester Living Inc., has been able to start more than 300 low middle income families on the road

to home ownership the last few years. Its key feature is the prospect of acquiring a home without a down payment, but with the guarantee of doing enough "do it yourself" repairs and renovation to cover the down payment.

"We do need volunteer advisers, both those who can help with budgeting, and those who have some do-it-yourself background to pass on," stated Welton T. Myers, executive director of BRL.

Most average homeowners are capable of this type of volunteer assistance, and the workshop presentations is geared to acquaint them with the program.

A Harvest of Hope

By MARGARET CONNOLLY

They are harvesting rice now in central Brazil. For the 16 St. Joseph sisters from this diocese working in Paranaiguara, the harvest confirms a hunch and a hope.

"It's the culmination of five years' work," said Sister Annice about the crop that came out the way the sisters planned it. They negotiated with the rich to help the poor to help themselves.

Thirty families who cleared, plowed and planted borrowed land will reap all the fruit of their labor when they sell the grain. Working for themselves, they have become better farmers; and selling, they will learn the money value of work. Sister Annice went on. The message she received here last week from her colleagues in Brazil described the harvesters as "jubilant."

The St. Joseph mission worker, a nurse, was in Brazil five years, with the original cadre of five nuns that settled in the interior. She returned here in December, to finish studies for a Nazareth College degree in sociology.

"Five years without seeing snow," mused the young woman, who comes from Lowville, in the snow belt. She learned nursing at Strong Memorial Hospital, and was in public health work here before joining the community.

At the start, in Paranaiguara, she set up clinics to fight the scourge of the countryside — "worms, all kinds of worms," and, less wide-spread leprosy.

The sisters went, at the invitation of the local bishop, to run schools, so that the Irish-Oblate Fathers could be freed of that duty.

Setting up their extra-curricular re-



SISTER ANNICE

ligion courses and counseling they became acquainted with a people of "great faith, little knowledge and strong superstition; an unquestioning, passive people."

"You can't just give," Sister Annice commented on the experience. "Giving is the right thing at first, for making friends, but it is not enough. We had to find out all of their needs, and then help them set reasonable goals."

That is how the farm project came about. The missionaries talked a rancher out of some idle, overgrown land — "bride land," Sister Annice calls it — and promised to give it back, grass-grown, in three years. If they can do it once, maybe they can do it many times, the nuns reason.

Out of this idea, the first harvest has come.

Auburn Girl With Peace Corps



Peace Corps Volunteers Mary and Simon St. Laurent (above) live and work in the northern Peruvian town of Piura. Simon is a member of a group of Volunteers advising small-businesses and co-operatives in Peru. Mary teaches at the Technical University of Piura and assists in a small consumer cooperative. They live in a tiny, two-room apartment in Piura.

Mary, 26, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George J. Cuddy of Auburn. She received a B.A. from Nazareth College of Rochester and an

M.A. in library science from the University of Chicago. She was a librarian at the Arthur A. Houghton Jr. Library at Corning Community College, Corning, before entering the Peace Corps.

Simon, 27, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. N. St. Laurent, Biloxi, Miss. He received a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago in 1968. He took a leave of absence from Corning Glass, where he was an auditor, to join the Peace Corps.

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