

Concordia Hall... Where the Action Is for Puerto Ricans

By ARTHUR P. FARREN

People — sometimes as many as 150 to 200 — streaming in and out of a 60-year-old building near the corner of Clifford and Hudson Avenues... all day long, and every night in the week...

What's the attraction?

Old Concordia Hall, just behind Holy Redeemer Church is "where the action is" for Rochester's inner city Puerto Ricans under its new title of "The Spanish Center."

Operating in the building, currently undergoing extensive renovation, are two broad programs — the Spanish Apostolate of the Rochester Diocese, and the Ibero-American Action League. (With the "inter-locking directors," it's sometimes hard to tell them apart.)

They encompass many-faceted activities affecting several thousand of the 15,000 Puerto Ricans throughout the 12-county diocese. Put them generally into two categories: full-time residents, mostly inner city, and itinerant camp-dweller migrants.

Working in the diocesan Spanish Apostolate are a priest-director, two full-time Spanish priests, a few part-time priests from nearby parishes, four Spanish-speaking nuns from Mexico and several full-time, part-time and volunteer lay men and women.

Overall aim of the many programs under way is to help the relatively newly-arrived Puerto Ricans become part of the communities into which they have come — to broaden understandings of the two cultures, to ease the burdens and problems which inevitably occur.

Progress is being made. And while difficulties abound and the road ahead may be a long one, it would appear to an observer at the Spanish Center that, given the continued good



A class in pre-job training at Concordia Hall.

will and warm enthusiasm of the vast majority of the Puerto Ricans, the task will be accomplished.

Erected in 1910 as the Holy Redeemer parish hall and for many years the "Aljo Club" and bowling center, the building's age and the changing character of the neighborhood brought growing disuse over the last decade, to the point where it was considered somewhat a "white elephant" by the parish.

Approved by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen more than a year ago for use as a religious-social Spanish Center, the structure has witnessed considerable renovation, with more to come. Today it is a scene of hustle and bustle.

Its main floor contains offices, meeting rooms and lounges; on the

second floor are meeting rooms and classrooms, and the third floor—lofty-ceilinged theater room with orchestra pit and stage, once used by the Blackfriars drama group — presently is undergoing renovation for use as a training and exhibition center for arts, drama, dancing and music.

In the basement is a large hall, a snack bar, kitchen and four bowling alleys. It sees daily use, beginning at 4 o'clock, as a "drop-in center" for teenagers, featuring coffee, pop and snacks. It is hoped that the long-disused bowling lanes soon will be refurbished.

Whence come the funds for this widespread program? The Spanish Apostolate is funded by the Diocese; funds come to the Ibero-American Action League from federal and state anti-poverty agencies.

"This is not to say we ever have enough money for the many things that need to be done," declares Jorge

Colon, executive director of the Spanish Center.

Primary among current programs are job training classes, and classes in English and mathematics for adults and for children. Some youngsters are being taught woodcarving. A room is being readied, with a complete kitchen, for instructions in home economics.

Another program now under way is a "Police Workshop," a four-hour session held frequently during which about 20 city policemen and detectives conduct "bull sessions" with groups of adults and teenagers. Its theme: "Understanding differences leads to mutual respect."

Puerto Ricans served directly through the center's program number approximately 5,000 — about one third of the number estimated to reside in the diocese.

Heading the Spanish Apostolate is Father Anthony Calmer, pastor of St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester.

Two Spanish-speaking priests have been brought into the diocese recent-

ly by Bishop Sheen — Father Gregorio Martin, to be director of the Spanish-speaking Catholic Family Movement and spiritual director of the "Catholic Brothers," an apostolate for migrant workers, and Father Jose La Calle, to work with Puerto Rican youths.

Also newly-arrived in the diocese last year were four Mexican nuns, members of the Missionary Catechists of Our Lady of Guadalupe. They reside at 34 Watkins Ter. and visit homes of Puerto Ricans both in Rochester and in other parts of the diocese.

Several priests from seven inner city parishes also give part-time help through the Center. Many lay volunteers also have given valuable assistance.

Some of those most active in the Spanish Apostolate point out that "it is only a beginning." Others note that, in the relatively short period of the last three years, it "has come a long way to bridge the 'credibility gap.'"

(In future editions the Courier-Journal will feature stories of some programs at the Spanish Center.)

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Friday, July 18, 1969

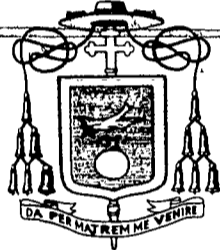
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Fathers Jose La Calle, left, and Gregorio Martin.

Jorge Colon, Ibero-American League director.

Diocesan Appointments



Rev. Gerald T. Connor (St. Joseph's, Penfield) to be assistant director of the Office of Christian Formation.

Rev. Michael F. Conboy (St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester) to be associate director of the Family Life Bureau.

Rev. William J. Spelley (St. John the Evangelist, Greece) to be associate director of the Family Life Bureau.

Pope Picks Bp. Sheen For Agency

Bishop Sheen has been named by Pope Paul VI to work with the Vatican agency which handles relations with Communists, atheists and other non-believers.

An official appointment from the Vatican this week made the Bishop a member of the Secretariat for Non-Believers, a department formed after the Vatican Council to study atheism and to establish dialogue and mutual understanding with non-believers.

This secretariat parallels the work of the Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity (maintaining contact with Christians outside the Roman Catholic Church) and the Secretariat for Non-Christians (concerning itself with religious groups outside the Christian religion, for example, Jews, Moslems, Hindus).

Franz Cardinal Koenig, Archbishop of Vienna, is director of the Secretariat for Non-Believers.

Bishop Sheen is in Dublin this week preaching at the Carmelite Fathers' Church. The Pastoral Office would make no comment on the appointment until his return.

Irish President Attends Bishop Sheen Address

(Special to the Courier-Journal)

Dublin — The president of Ireland, Eamon De Valera, was among those attending Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's opening address for the annual novena in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel at the Carmelite Church, here, Wednesday, July 16.

Earlier in the day, Bishop Sheen was honored at luncheon by 30 special guests, including leaders of Church and the State. The Papal Nuncio Msgr. Gaetano Alibrandi, Prime Minister Jack Lynch, and Liam Cosgrave, leader of the opposition, were present at Priory gathering.

Among his other engagements, yesterday, July 17, Bishop Sheen recorded an interview in the studios of Radio Eireann. The program is scheduled for broadcast today.

Tomorrow, July 19, Bishop Sheen will make a video tape for later transmission in the studios of Telefeis Eireann. An invited audience of 120 will attend.

To accommodate the crowds at the novena at the Whitefriar Street

Priory, closed circuit television and outdoor speakers have been positioned at five points outside the Priory.

During his stay in Ireland, Bishop Sheen resides in the Carmelite Priory on Whitefriar Street.

Clyde Church 100 Years Old

Clyde — St. John's Church — the building itself — is a century old this year. A series of events will commemorate milestones in the church's history.

A special celebration took place last Sunday evening, when 500 parishioners and friends turned out for ice cream and cake on the church lawn.

Father John L. Cloonan, pastor, will schedule a Mass sometime in August for the aged and infirm who cannot ordinarily come to church. Arrangements will be made to get as many as possible of such parishioners to the special Mass. Father Cloonan said. He is making plans also for cen-

tennial Masses in September and on Christmas.

St. John's parish dates back to 1840. The first Mass in the present church was offered on Christmas, 1869. The cornerstone had been laid the previous spring by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid. The school was built in 1914, and has been staffed by the Sisters of Mercy.



ST. JOHN'S, CLYDE

Women Eye Face-Lifting For Monroe County Fair

The Monroe County Fair is trying to wash its face.

Last year the Courier-Journal criticized the annual county display with an article which described the fair as a "paradox-of-fine-agricultural, handicraft, Grange, 4-H and religious exhibits on the one hand and 'squalid... unimaginative... vulgar' shows on the other. 'Fair is foul,' an editorial headline read.

The Women's Committee of the Monroe County Fair has decided on a course of action to change that image. The Courier-Journal intends to help promote their ambitions.

The women hope to provide "attractions that are a fresh departure from those currently offered at the fair," and "to add to the fair's prestige."

Included in the proposed new attractions are flower demonstrations, lectures, discussions, children's programs and short plays, housed, for

the first time, in Building One (Theater East).

To be continued are the Fair's established features: the art show and sale, the home arts and hobby shows, and school, civic and agricultural exhibits.

Improving the looks of the fairgrounds is also a concern of the report which suggests the planting of trees and shrubs, altering the flow of pedestrian traffic and insisting on clean, pressed draperies in the exhibit buildings.

As to the Midway — object of the Courier's criticism last year — the women suggest it "be safe and in good taste." But of the women's more than \$100,000 report, 17 words in two phrases refer to the Midway.

Also included in the drive to improve the Fair's image, a "private preview" or grand opening Sunday evening, is suggested. "Invitations would be sent, sherry, coffee and finger foods served," the report says.

Family Rosary

The Family Rosary for Peace lead in recitation of the Rosary this week are:

Friday, July 18 — Victor De Simon of Holy Name of Jesus.	Monday, July 21 — A representative of the Knights of St. John.
Saturday, July 19 — Mass will be celebrated.	Thursday, July 24 — Andrew Campanaro of St. Andrew's, accompanied by the Holy Name Society.
Sunday, July 20 — George	

Shults of Our Lady of Mercy.

ST. MARTIN HELPERS SEEK NEW MEMBERS

St. Martin de Porres Women's Auxiliary will hold a membership tea from 2 to 4 Tuesday afternoon, July 29, in Medaille Hall, Nazareth College.

The affair is open to women interested in the St. Martin de Porres Center.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION

— June 30, 1969 —

of the

CORNING SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Mortgage Loans	\$24,671,087.16	Savings:	
Other Loans	187,168.63	Passbook Certificate	\$15,871,463.89
Investment Securities	810,615.63		8,614,970.09
Cash & Government Securities	1,393,084.45	Total Savings	\$24,486,433.98
Office Building & Equipment	232,587.18	Loans In Process	263,200.00
Other Assets	275,762.58	Other Liabilities	547,080.06
	\$27,570,305.63	Reserves & Undivided Profits	2,273,591.59
			\$27,570,305.63

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