

St. Bridget's Program

# Learning... and Liking It

If the summer school program for Rochester inner city youngsters currently underway at St. Bridget's School could be repeated about twenty-fold, the ranks of "slow learners" in the ghetto would be greatly lessened.

Granted, however, that such other schools would have to have similar faculty ingredients — a hard-working priest, devoted Sisters, dedicated seminarians and volunteer laymen.

Some 40 second, third and fourth graders, mostly black and Puerto Rican, spend their mornings in classrooms learning reading, writing and math, enjoy a free lunch, and in the afternoon choose either swimming, a pool-plunge, or playground activities.

Fewer than 10 per cent of the boys and girls are Catholic. They attend St. Bridget's School of Public Schools 6, 9 or 20.

Chosen at request by their school principals as "not achieving at capacity," their enrollment in the summer session brings them much greater individual attention than they can obtain during the regular school year.

Key to the success of the project is its Jesuit-priest director, Father Walter E. Brown, SJ.

Father Brown spent 15 years of his priesthood in education, mission and retreat work before volunteering for the inner city apostolate. He came to Rochester in June, 1968, following an appeal to his order by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen for someone to help the ghetto poor.

Assigned in residence at St. Bridget's, Father Brown found an opportunity to endeavor to prove one of his principal contentions — that most deprived youngsters do not lack intelligence, but need personal attention to bring them to a basis of achievement so they can maintain the pace and compete with other classmates.

In his no-tuition summer program the youngsters are learning the "three R's" — and liking it so well, the priest notes, that attendance averages better than 95 per cent.

One of several techniques undertaken frequently is having a pupil act as "teacher" for another. Father points out that he must learn the lesson himself in order to teach it.

Money for the lunches comes from the Northeast Area Youth Ministry. Drinks are donated by a pop distributor. Two women, who wish to remain anonymous, prepare and supervise the lunches.

After lunch the children may make a choice — swimming at Nearby Clinton Avenue Recreation Center; reading at the public library branch, or attendance at supervised St. Michael's Church playground.

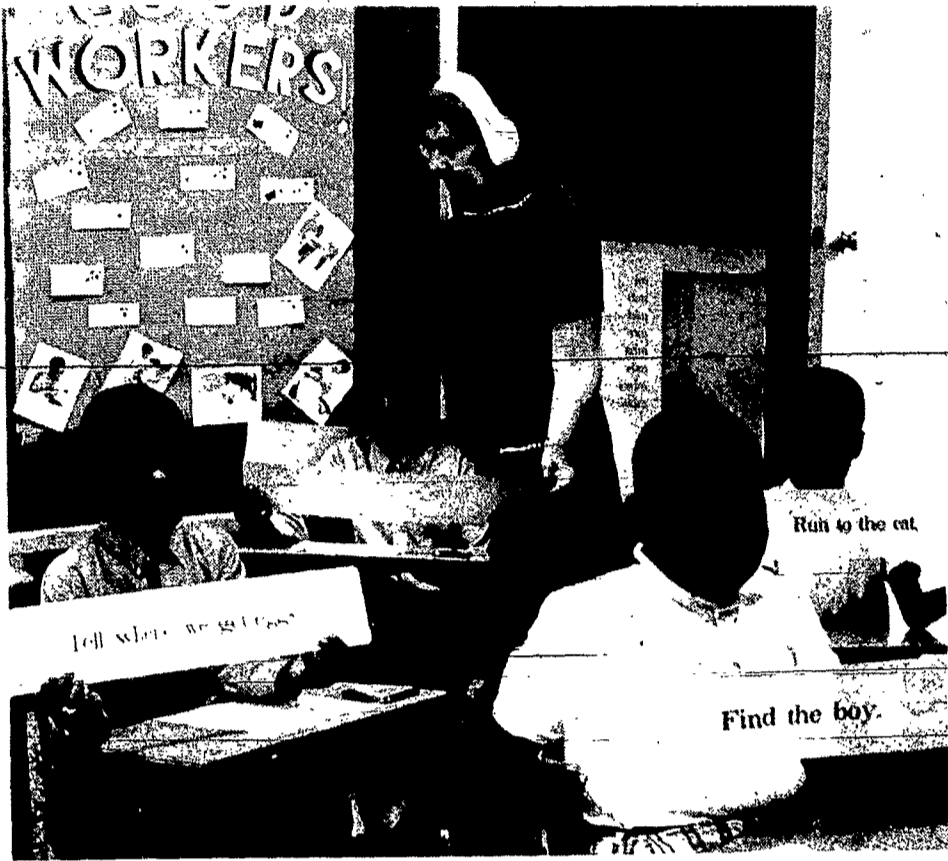
When transportation becomes necessary, Father Brown is well prepared; with money given to him by Bishop Sheen, he purchased a used 1966 ambulance, revamped its interior, and can accommodate 15 passengers.

Father Brown's summer school, which is for non-Spanish-speaking children, is not the only summer session at St. Bridget's. Upstairs in the same building is a summer school for Spanish-speaking youngsters, conducted by the Spanish Apostolate and the Ibero-American Action League.

Born in Great Neck, L.I., Father Brown attended St. Louis University, and was ordained June 21, 1953, at Woodstock College, Maryland. Following several years of teaching in high schools and colleges, he entered mission and retreat work, and for four years was superior of Manresa Retreat House, Staten Island.



Picture is "faculty" for summer school program conducted at St. Bridget's Parish for non-Spanish-speaking inner city youngsters. It includes a priest, four Sisters and four seminarians studying for priesthood at LeMoyne University, Syracuse, who volunteered to help. From left are seated—Sister de Chantal, SSJ, teacher at St. Theodore's School; Sister Mary Pascal, SSJ, principal of St. Francis de Sales School, Geneva, substituting for one week for Sister Adelaide Francis, St. Theodore's; Sister Anne Elizabeth, SSJ, St. Bridget's; standing—Jesuit seminarians James Tucci and Thomas Hanrahan; Sister Lill, RC, Cenacle Retreat House, Rochester; Father Walter Brown, SJ; seminarians Ralph Whittaker and Eugene Ward.



Sister Anne Elizabeth gives youngsters reading lesson.

## Diocese Surveyed on Holydays

Instructions in parish pulpits throughout the diocese in the past two weekends have asked the laity to state their opinion on a national proposal to change the obligation requiring Catholics to attend Mass on five holydays.

Return of questionnaires on this Sunday, Aug. 3, is expected in most parishes.

The National Conference of Bishops have been examining the question of obligatory holydays for some time. Earlier this year a survey within their group indicated that a majority of U.S. Bishops favor some change in the long-standing legislation. A nationwide sampling of opinions of the laity and clergy was set for this summer.

The questions proposed in the parochial survey were: Should the holydays of obligation be retained as they are, or should the law be modified by either removing the obligation, thus making Mass-attendance voluntary, or changing the celebration of the five feasts to the Sundays near their proper date.

The present holydays are: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, on Jan. 1; The Ascension of Christ on 40th day after Easter; Assumption of Mary on Aug. 15; All Saints on Nov. 1; Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8; and Christmas on Dec. 25 (for which no change is contemplated).

Reasons proposed for changing the present law are:

1. The pressures of work in the modern world frequently make attendance at Mass on weekday feasts of obligation difficult or impossible.

2. Time pressures often lead to rushed or abbreviated celebrations of the liturgy with a consequent loss of their teaching and inspirational value.

3. A completely free choice based on an understanding of the Eucharist and an intense sense of feasts is a better motive for participation than is simply a sense of obligation.

Reasons offered for keeping the holyday obligation as it is:

1. There is great value in participating in Eucharistic celebrations on

days other than Sundays. Christians are in need of deepening their union with Christ and their awareness and concern for others.

2. While no obligation should be necessary to bring us to the Lord's Table, given the experience of our human weakness, we can legitimately question the effectiveness of our personal initiative and devotion. Disciplinary laws have value for a community. Their elimination will not necessarily remedy the problems connected with observing holy days.

3. With the changes in the Eucharistic fast, greater versatility in the scheduling of Masses, and the availability of transportation to most people, attendance at holiday Mass is much less inconvenient than many people make it.

Pastors have asked parishioners to study the questionnaire and return it to the church for diocesan tabulation not because the issue of changing the feast days is important to the whole life of the Church, but because it is the first time the Bishops have sought the laity's advice on such a national scale.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

Friday, August 1, 1969

Page 7

## Bishop Sheen Returns Home, Exhilarated by Irish Faith, Love

The labor of preaching 45 times in nine days in Dublin was more than balanced by the exhilaration derived from seeing "the faith, love and patience of the Irish people." Bishop Sheen said this week on his return from giving a novena in honor of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Ireland's capital from July 16 to 24.

(Read the adjoining news story for a Dublin view of Bishop Sheen's success.)

Fatigued by the strain of four 30-minute sermons daily in the Whitefriars Church of the Carmelite Fathers in downtown Dublin, the Bishop acknowledged, "There is a reciprocity about preaching — no matter how much a speaker gives, he receives more from his audience.

"It was like a retreat for me to feel the faith of the people who thronged the church daily for the

services. Of course the size of the congregation makes a preacher work harder, and those crowds were amazing."

The Carmelite Fathers estimated that the novena crowds totalled 100,000 people jamming the church, and adjoining hall and the streets outside where closed-circuit television let standees see and hear the preacher.

The Bishop preached at novena services at 11 a.m., 8 and 9:20 p.m. daily, and at the 5:45 p.m. Mass which he celebrated. Every evening after the last service he went to the street outside the church about 10:30 and spoke for another 20 minutes to crowds gathered there.

"I was told that people came an hour early to get seats inside the church. Others would stand for hours and never seemed to mind."

The Bishop also made 3 telecasts and 4 radio broadcasts in Dublin.

Besides remarking about the large number of Irish priests and Sisters

who turned out for the novena sermons, the Bishop recalled the droves of children around 9 to 12 years old who came to the services and sat on the communion-rail steps during the sermons.

"My sermons were like those I would preach at any parish here but it seemed that the soil was different in Ireland. The faith there had much to do with the reception of the sermons.

"One cannot but suspect that affluence might be the contrary of faith. The Irish people do not seem to have the lust for profit and gain that we have here and many of them live under economic pressure to eke out an existence.

"I met hundreds of poor and sick and troubled people over there and after hearing their problem I would say: 'Are you resigned to God's will?' And never once did I find an exception to the patient acceptance of God's providence."

## 10,000 Cheer, Weep, Keep Bishop in Church

Special to the Courier-Journal from the Dublin IRISH INDEPENDENT Friday, July 25, 1969

Dublin — In one of the most moving scenes witnessed at the Carmelite Church, Whitefriar Street, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen was forced to return to the pulpit after over 10,000 people refused to leave the church and called for him to speak to them again last evening.

After his "last" sermon on the Crucifixion the congregation broke into applause and women and men wept openly as the famous Bishop in his last sentence told people to "Go and tell the world about the Man on the Cross."

Several people sought to touch him as he left the pulpit and to follow him into the sacristy.

During the night he got three standing ovations and on two occasions a full voiced congregation answered rhetorical questions asked by the Bishop.

Hundreds of people stood for over two hours outside the Church to hear his voice over the loudspeaker, and in the church the crowds were crammed tight and St. John's Ambulance men tended over 16 people who fainted.

The night reached a touching climax when after his sermon the bishop took a little child from the crowd and put her sitting beside him during Benediction which was given by the Bishop of Nara, Most Rev. Dr. Dunne.

Many of the Carmelite fathers who felt that Bishop Sheen was overworked with some 40 lectures and several interviews during his eight days in Ireland asked people to leave the church after the Novena to Our Lady had concluded.

But people waited on and Bishop Sheen took the lecture dais again and spoke informally for half an hour about his conversions, television appearances, earnings, travels and, of course religion.

He said he was glad to see so many priests and nuns at the Novena and felt he was dreaming when he saw the Carmelite Church packed for his sermons.

The sermons were heard by an estimated 100,000 people in nine days.

Rev. A. Fitzpatrick, Prior of Whitefriar Street, thanked the Bishop on behalf of the Irish people.

The Bishop will spend today meeting relatives at Dromoland Castle, County Clare. He will be back in New York on Friday evening.

### Homeless



BARBARA

Vivacious, little Barbara is celebrating her second birthday — without any parents. She is a dainty little girl with deep brown eyes and soft curly brown hair.

Of Negro and Caucasian parentage, she is waiting for a family to make her "their very own little girl."

Her days are filled with playing with other children in her foster home and in investigating everything in sight.

To inquire about adopting Barbara, diocesan families should write to Miss Catherine E. Wobus, Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y., 14604, or phone: (716) 546-7220.

## Courier Night Scheduled At Silver Stadium Aug. 11

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will make the first pitch at the first annual Courier-Journal Night at Silver Stadium Aug. 11 when the Rochester Red Wings will play the Syracuse Chiefs.

Anthony J. Costello, advertising director of the Courier-Journal and chairman for the affair, says that all priests and nuns of the diocese have been invited to be guests of the Courier and the Red Wings at the game.

Wings General Manager Bob Turner said that Bishop Sheen has accepted his invitation to be special guest at the game and also to visit the Wings' locker room and meet the players.

In a special offer all subscribers to the Courier and their families can get 50 cents off each general admission ticket to the game by bringing coupons which are appearing weekly in the Courier-Journal.

## SPECIAL FEATURE

TODAY thru SUNDAY, AUG. 3

# STEAK WITH PEPPERS N' CLAMS

INCLUDES

- A perfect combination of choice steak as you like it, rare, medium or well complemented with roasted peppers.
- A Bag of Cherrystone Clams Shipped Direct from the Nation's Largest Fisheries, cleaned to perfection and seasoned with Drawn Butter and Cream.
- Crisp Fresh Chef Salad served with Your Favorite Dressing.
- Sizzling Hot Baked Potato served with butter or Sour Cream & Chives.
- Hot Roll Basket and Fresh Creamery Butter.

# 3<sup>95</sup>

SERVED ANYTIME

TUESDAY, JULY 29—SUNDAY, AUG. 3



Rund's After Nine Presents

## NANCY COOK

Versatile and Sophisticated Singer and Piano Stylist Appearing Nightly in the Beautiful Rund Cocktail Lounge

9 p.m. 'til 1:30 a.m.

Rochester's House of Good Food for Generations

# Rund's

2851 West Henrietta Road 473-3891 Closed Monday