

# Bishop-designate Hogan Breaks Ground for New St. Christopher's Church

Bishop-designate Joseph L. Hogan, highlighted groundbreaking ceremonies for the proposed St. Christopher Church building in North Chili last Sunday afternoon by digging the first spadeful of earth.

Presented by Father Elmer McDonald, pastor of the parish established 16 months ago, the bishop-designate accompanied the first official public act in his new role with the remark:

"I just want to say that handling a shovel is not new to me. I was brought up in a small town (Lima, New York), and did a lot of earth-digging in my boyhood."

More than 300 persons attended the 4 o'clock ceremony on the 15-acre site at Union and King Streets. Father McDonald said construction of a parish church will begin immediately, with occupancy expected next summer or autumn.

Bishop-designate Hogan praised the faith and sacrifices of St. Christopher parishioners, and particularly commended the architectural and structural concept of the proposed building.

Father McDonald earlier had noted that the building was designed to be "multi-purpose" and that, through

use of folding walls it could be used for Sunday Masses seating 600 persons, an assembly hall seating 400, two large meeting rooms seating 200, or five classrooms seating 20-30 per class.

Masses for the 500-family parish now are being celebrated in the North Chili Medical Building, and religious instruction for parish children is being held in the United Methodist Church of Chili and in the St. Christopher Rectory basement.

Noting the ecumenical spirit of the community, Father McDonald first called on the Rev. Mr. William Reeder of the United Methodist Church to open the ceremony with a prayer. Robert Criddle, a member of the Chili Town Board, expressed the congratulations of the area residents.

Among clergy present at the ceremony were Father Donald J. Murphy, pastor of St. Pius Tenth Church, Chili; Father John L. Maxwell, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Churchville; Father Francis E. Easter, pastor of St. John the Evangelist's Church, Spencerport; Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, Coldwater, and Father Jude Pansini, a Benedictine priest currently in residence with Father McDonald. Father Steinkirchner led a closing prayer.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER

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# Arbp. Sheen Dedicates New Chapel

Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen blessed Rochester's newest chapel Monday night — St. Jude Chapel on the grounds of the Rochester State Hospital at Elmwood and South Avenue.

Assisted by Father James L. Callen, state hospital Catholic chaplain, Archbishop Sheen celebrated the first Mass in the as yet unfinished chapel which will seat 400 persons.

It will serve the needs of the nearly 1,500 Catholics among the patients and staff at the state institution.

In his homily at the Mass, Archbishop Sheen said that in providing Christ's presence at the institution the chapel will help to bring "the true meaning of life, and the light of God's love and truth" to those who "in their troubles are searching for higher values and for self-encounter."

He had high praise for Father Callen's service at the institution, and for the sacrifices of those who have contributed to the fund for construction of the chapel.

Father Callen noted that the Mass was scheduled for the feastday of St. Jude, the "saint of the impossible," despite the fact that the building is not yet fully completed.

Although on state property, the building was made possible by funds solicited over the last three years among Catholics and others in the Monroe County community. No government funds are involved. Among those assisting in the fund solicitation were members of Musa Caravan, Order of Alhambra, Rochester Knights of Columbus.

Many priests and nuns were in the congregation. Music for the Mass was provided by the choir of the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse. The Mass was followed by a dinner in the state hospital auditorium.



PARISHIONERS REMINDED OF POVERTY — Father John Hempel (center), Diocesan Director for Human Concern, was principal speaker last week at a meeting of Women's Guild of St. Thomas More Parish, Brighton. Pictured (from left) are: Mrs. Joan Mathels; Father Francis Pegnam, pastor; Father Hempel; Mrs. William L. Sullivan; Mrs. Darel Williams.

# Rural Deprivation Delineated

Poverty and deprivation in today's America, according to Father John J. Hempel, diocesan Director for Human Concern, is as much a problem in rural as in inner-city communities.

Admitting the needs of persons in ghettos, Father Hempel contended that most people have little knowledge of the extent of poverty in rural areas.

St. Thomas More Church, Brighton, Father Hempel showed slides of poverty conditions in various counties of the Rochester Diocese and pleaded for more realization of this situation. He was not without hope. He said that the work of priests and Sisters in the Secular (non) Missions was progressing, well, and that they were

Father Hempel declared that the nation faces a vital crisis unless it begins to realize and to do something about its poverty-stricken citizens.

Officers of the Women's Guild said they would dedicate their personal and monetary efforts during the coming year to diocesan poverty needs, beginning to develop ecumenical co-operation.

Addressing the Women's Guild of

# Archbishop Sheen To Speak at New Center

Geneseo — Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen will be one of three speakers at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 2, for ecumenical dedication ceremonies at the new Interfaith Center adjacent to State University College here.

Father Thomas R. Statt, Newman Apostolate chaplain at the college, said each speaker will talk on a particular point of the dedication theme. Bishop Sheen will discuss wisdom.

Others will be Rabbi Joseph H. Levine, chaplain at the University of Rochester, who will talk on peace, and Professor Muttanlyl Induculla, who will speak on love. Dr. Induculla, a deacon of the Syrian Orthodox Church and a professor of the college's education department, will speak for the Protestant community.

The \$240,000 building, designed as a spiritual and social center for the university's students, faculty and staff, is a first as far as the state's colleges are concerned. It is not officially part of the college complex, having been incorporated by representatives of the three faiths.

Already in use, the building contains a worship area seating 400 persons, offices for three chaplains, a lounge and a kitchen.

Nearly \$140,000 in cash and pledges was obtained over the last two years from faculty, students, parents, townspeople and friends, as well as from the Catholic and Episcopal dioceses and other churches. Father Statt pointed out that the Catholic diocese continues to assist through monies it budgets for the Newman Apostolate.

With a current debt of nearly \$100,000, the Center is operating on a \$20,000 annual budget — \$10,000 for loan repayment and \$10,000 for maintenance. The need for additional contributions, Father Statt noted, remains obvious.

Father Statt's "parish" comprises more than 1,800 Catholic students — nearly 50 per cent of the college enrollment. He celebrates Sunday Masses in the Center at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

and a daily Mass at 5 p.m. He keeps busy particularly in counseling students — including, he notes, many who are not Catholic.

Before the new Center was opened, Catholic students attended Masses in St. Mary's Church here.

When Father Statt came to the col-

lege as chaplain in 1964, he began plans for construction of a Catholic chapel. With the increasing trend toward ecumenical dialogue, however, the Diocese approved the idea of an ecumenical center, and contributed \$15,000 during the fund drive.

Staffed by student volunteers, the Center is open daily from 10 a.m. to

10 p.m. Father Statt lives in a small frame house directly behind nearby St. Mary's Church.

Next week's program at the center includes talks at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, by Father David Connor and the Rev. William Rodgers, chaplains at Cornell University.



Bernard Gifford, president of Rochester's black FIGHT group, chats with Sister Martin de Porres, Mercy Sister from Pittsburgh, President of the U.S. Black Sisters' Conference, at a conference where both addressed the Sisters of Mercy community on racial relations.

# A Black Sister Talks About Her Church

By Sr. M. Pius Keough

"Only one fourth of 1 per cent of 7 million U.S. Catholics are black; there are approximately 135,000 Catholic nuns—only 800 of that number are black; there are 525 Bishops—only one is black."

The speaker giving the statistics was a young 26-year-old black Catholic nun, the president of the Black Sisters' Conference of America, addressing 130 other Catholic nuns attending a day-long workshop sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Sisters of Mercy at Mercy High School last Saturday. The theme of the day was "Understanding of Minority Cultures."

Sister Martin de Porres, appropriately named in religion for the 16th century black Dominican saint of South America is a native of Sewickley, Penn., a suburb of Pittsburgh, and is the only black sister in the 500-member community of the Sisters of Mercy in that city.

The oldest of five children, Sister joined the first community of nuns who in spirit and in fact said "yes" to her request to become a member. Five other groups refused her admittance, according to Sister Martin de Porres.

The Black Sisters' Conference was begun by Sister herself and the first official convention was at the Pittsburgh Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in 1968; a second meeting was held in Dayton, Ohio, in 1969; a third is planned for August in Louisiana.

An organizational letter sent to the Mother General of 600 communities of sisters in the United States, asking for the names of any sister who was black, drew only 200 responses. "Some groups of nuns do not have any; others refused to divulge the information because they suspected that the organization might lead to division or rebellion."

In two years membership in the conference has grown to 245.

The aim of the Black Sisters' Conference, not unlike that of the black

movement generally, is to bring the sisters to a true understanding of their own worth and identity. In the case of the black sister this is a dual problem.

Religious life in the past tended to play-down individual achievement and encouraged self-effacement for sisters in general, and the black sister has the added difficulty of surmounting the "inferior image" that has been peculiar to the Negro in this country.

"Only when we come to time when black and white are considered equal in every respect as races individually, can we talk of fusing into one real Christian community," the young nun explained.

Sister Martin de Porres pointed out that a large number of black sisters belong to religious orders that admit only black members. She felt that an exchange program in which white sisters would live in an all-black community, and black sisters in an all-white community, would only lead to understanding if the caliber of sisters engaged in the program was superior and equal. Where this had been tried, she said that the white sisters exchanged were not top-notch but she felt that the black communities had sent the best available.

The Pittsburgh sisters of Mercy have released Sister Martin de Porres from her teaching assignment in order to work fulltime with the Conference. The two greatest demands on her time are making valuable contacts and securing adequate funds for her work.

Other highlights of the day included a lecture by FIGHT President Bernard Gifford, who supported Sister Martin de Porres' contention that the contribution most valuable to the black community from white people is to break down barriers and prejudices among other whites.

The day's program was under the general direction of Sister Mary Beatrice of Notre Dame High School faculty in Elmira, chairman of the Social Justice Committee.



Msgr. Cirrincione

Beginning 20th year on Family Rosary for Peace radio program.

# Family Rosary for Peace Notes 19th Anniversary

Nineteen years ago this month the Family Rosary for Peace began its seven-night-a-week "radio" broadcast across the Rochester Diocese from St. Francis of Assisi Church.

The WSAY program, founded by Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, pastor of St. Francis, became a nightly feature in thousands of Rochester-area homes. Today, still directed by Msgr. Cirrincione, it is reputed to be the longest-running, religious local radio program.

Marking the beginning of the 20th year of continuous broadcasting of the devotional program, Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will lead the Rosary prayers and give a brief

address at 7 tonight (Oct. 31).

This week 60,000 families, of all faiths, who have communicated with the program over the years, have received the annual appeal from Msgr. Cirrincione asking for financial help to cover the technical expenses for maintaining the program.

The Family Rosary — still dedicated as from its beginning to Our Lady begging "for the conversion of Russia and for world peace" — is aired by WSAY jointly with WMOB-FM, Auburn, and is heard nightly on the audio-band of television sets sharing the cable-TV systems in the Elmira, Corning, Hornell and Auburn communities.

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