

# CCD Work Shapes New Lives For 40 Sisters in Parish Jobs

A life-style and apostolic techniques never heard of in convents five years ago have changed the lives of some 40 Sisters working as coordinators of parish religious education programs, pastors of the diocese were told last week.

And pastors who want the best for their people may have to bend backwards a bit in communication and cooperation with their coordinators, they learned at a mid-day, joint meeting of pastors and religious teachers at the Trenholm East Motel.

Father Daniel Holland, assistant director of the diocesan CCD programs, introducing the panels of Sisters, explained that by "putting together our experiences, we may all be able to do a better job. Knowledge of the feelings and aspirations of one another creates a higher level of trust."

Greater lay participation in parish education programs will bring out "the wealth of talent and good will among our people," Bishop Hogan told the 60 priests and Sisters at luncheon.

"There is no doubt that we must expend more efforts for the religious education of the youngsters in our public schools. We shall probably have to close a few parish schools and consolidate others, so we are looking more and more to the laity for help in teaching religion."

Praising the work of the CCD programs throughout the diocese, the Bishop paid special tribute to Msgr. Albert H. Schnacky, diocesan CCD director. "The diocese owes a tremendous debt to him for the many years he has struggled to build our religious program."

According to Sister Lucille Leta, S.S.J., working with two other Sisters of St. Joseph in the 400-square-mile area of the parishes of Ludlowville, Genoa, Kings Ferry and Fleming, rural families are delighted to discover: "The Church really cares about us."

"Some 500 home visitations, census taking and establishment of 16 adult discussion groups, did a great deal in one year to break down parochial isolation and give people a broader interest in their faith than just Sunday Mass," she said.

Sister Mary Esther, a Mission Helper based in Ithaca, described her involvement as an aggressive activism which puts her on committees, sends her to civic affairs and makes her "a part of everything going on in the parish."

In Lyons, Trinitarian Sister Rosemary Quinn tries to be "a catalyst, getting things started and then working myself out of the jobs," she said. She voiced a theme heard from several Sister-speakers that the coordinator "must inspire the parish laity to self-leadership."

Sister Marie Lynch, a Mercy Sister who lives with three Mercy com-



**AT CCD CONFERENCE**—Among participants at CCD pastors-coordinators workshop in Canandaigua March 13 were (from left to right): **UPPER PHOTO** — Mrs. Thomas Lawlor, Nativity Church, Brockport; Mrs. Ronald Gledhill, Christ the King, Irondequoit; Msgr. Albert H. Schnacky, diocesan CCD director; Mrs. Thomas Knapp, St. Christopher's, North Chili; **LOWER PHOTO** — Father Daniel Holland, assistant CCD director; Sister Mary Esther Cockburn, MSHL, Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; Sister Marie Lynch, RSM, St. Paul's, Webster; Sister Rosemary Quinn, MSBT, St. Michael's, Newark.



panions in a house in Victor but works daily for St. Paul's parish in Webster, explained to the clergy how enthusiastically Sisters in CCD work have seized opportunities for renewal of their "life-style," both in daily schedule and secular dress and even the day off.

"Priests must try to understand that women bear the weight of people's problems more gravely than men. They will have to learn to appreciate our moods and feelings," she said.

Mrs. Germaine Knapp, a former religious and now mother of a small

child, works for St. Christopher's parish in North Chili. She asked the pastors to give greater trust and increasing responsibilities to the laity.

Two other laywomen, Mrs. Ronald Gledhill in Christ the King parish and Mrs. Thomas Lawlor for Nativity parish, Brockport, are also fulltime, salaried CCD coordinators.

The full roster of Sisters working fulltime coordinating parish programs and preparing adults for CCD duties includes: two Filipino Sisters, six Mission Helpers, seven Trinitarians, 14 Sisters of St. Joseph and 9 Mercy Sisters.

## Guard Unit Has Mass At Armory

"May we all work and pray harder for peace so that one day we no longer will have need for a national defense."

This was the plea of Bishop Hogan as he celebrated Mass last Sunday afternoon for more than 100 uniformed members of the 209th Artillery Group, National Guard, on the drill floor in the Armory building on Main Street East.

"Our best contribution to the peace of the world," the Bishop said, "is to have peace first in our own hearts. Then we can extend the Peace of Christ toward our fellowmen."

It was the first time, in memory of many present, that a Catholic bishop had celebrated a Mass in the 85-year-old structure. Arrangements were handled by Father (Chaplain Major) John J. Hempel, chaplain of the local battalion.

Escorts to the Bishop in the procession to the altar were Col. Edward Smith and Maj. George Goodbar. Pfc. Michael Crowley was crozier bearer, and Pfc. Kenneth Marciano was mitre bearer. Lectors were Lt. Col. William McNally and Sp4. Anthony Cuccolo. Others included Sp5. Barry Howell, Sp4. Wallace and Sgm. Michael Hogan.

In the offertory procession were Maj. John Ritzenthaler, Lt. David Cupo, Cpl. Robert Liberatore and Pfc. Robert McCadden.

Father Hempel — as do other chaplains of national service units in the diocese — celebrates Mass regularly for group units when they have Sunday drills or weekend maneuvers.

## Youngster Has Own 'Vernacular' for Eucharist Response

A priest here explained in his homily Sunday that the new liturgy intends, among other things, to establish a more informal relationship between priest and congregation.

As an example, he said, don't be surprised if the priest in distributing Communion should say, "Body of Christ, Mrs. Smith," or "Body of Christ, Tommy."

In return, he stressed, recipients could feel free to say in response either the traditional "Amen" or a more casual "Thank you, Father," or suitable phrases such as "I believe" or "My Lord and my God."

Later during Communion the priest repeated the surprising harvest of his sermon. His "Body of Christ" to a bright-eyed boy, about third-grade age, received the response:

"It sure is, Father!"



**BISHOP'S MASS FOR NATIONAL GUARD** — Bishop Hogan celebrated Mass last Sunday afternoon on Armory drill floor for members of Rochester's National Guard. At right in photo near lectern is Father (Major) John J. Hempel, battalion chaplain, who handled arrangements for ceremony.

## Some Orphans Have Even Extra Woes

By JOHN DASH

If being born homeless is not enough, there are children to be adopted under the care of the Catholic Family Center with an additional difficulty: physical irregularities that place them in the category of "difficult to place" children.

According to Catherine Wobus, case work director of the CFC, these children have difficulties ranging from heart trouble, through failure to thrive, to possible brain damage.

Miss Wobus cited the case of 6-month-old "Donny." According to Miss Wobus, Donny's birth was a difficult one. It took more than half an hour to get the baby breathing on his own.

Mrs. Ethel Keefe, the case worker in charge of placing Donny in an adoptive home, noted that while now, at 6 months, he is progressing normally, the possibility of neurological damage due to the lack of oxygen in the brain, is present.

Mrs. Keefe said that adoptive parents for children like Donny must be especially aware of his needs and be able to understand should problems arise in the future.

According to Miss Wobus, even though the children are never released for adoption until they are maturing properly, there is a "higher risk" involved in these adoptions than in others.

She noted that the child's difficulty might not become apparent until he is in school. At that time he may display slowness in learning, or assert himself in classroom disruption. "We need a special kind of adoptive parent," Miss Wobus said, "who will be able to understand the child's difficulty and respond with love."

## Homeless



**CHRISTINE AND FOSTER MOTHER**

When Christine was 5 days old, her foster parents noticed she was feeding poorly. After taking her to the hospital, it was learned that she had an eye infection and was suffering from a condition known as "failure to thrive."

After a short stay in the hospital and regular attention by a pediatrician, Christine, at 3 months, is maturing properly and is in the normal range of development.

But Christine's problems are not over. She belongs to a group of children under the care of the Catholic Family Center, who are referred to as "difficult to place." Christine is looking for adoptive parents who will love her as she is and who will respond with understanding to problems which may arise in the future.

Diocesan couples who wish further information about Christine, or children like her, should contact Miss Catherine Wobus, Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604; phone: (716) 546-7220.

Miss Wobus noted that the usual length of time involved in the adoption process can be shortened considerably for the "difficult to place" child.

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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## Fr. Deckman Returns to LaPaz

Refreshed by an annual three-week visit to his Rochester home, Father Peter A. Deckman, administrator of a Rochester Diocese-sponsored mission in LaPaz, Bolivia, left Tuesday on a flight back to the South American parish.

Father Deckman and his associate diocesan priest at St. Joseph the Worker parish there, Father Edward Golden, will be preparing for a visit to their mission next month by Bishop Hogan.

The Bishop will leave Mar. 30 for a visit the next day at three parishes conducted by 12 diocesan Sisters of St. Joseph in Uberlandia, Brazil. He will journey from there to the LaPaz mission, and then visit six diocesan Sisters of Mercy in missions in Santiago, Chile. His three-week journey will take him next to a spring meeting of U.S. Bishops in San Francisco before his return to Rochester.

While here Father Deckman kept in touch with Father Golden through the good offices of amateur radio "ham" John L. Sullivan, 245 Berkshire Dr., Greece. Sullivan has been in weekly contact with the Rochester priests in LaPaz for more than a year.

Noting that he had gained nearly 20 pounds while home, probably mainly from rest and from American foods, Father Deckman quipped on leaving: "Well, it's back to rice and potatoes — and potatoes and rice."

While he believes strongly in the value of their efforts in LaPaz, Father Deckman admits that progress is slow and often hard to pin-point. The "parish church" is a small adobe building with "standing room" for 200. It is situated in a high-hilled slum area adjacent to the city, and the two priests are serving a neighborhood of some 30,000 to 40,000 Indian peasants. Their average weekly collection is \$4 to \$5.

Most evident as "progress" are two enterprises founded by the priests — a medical clinic in a small hut next to the church, and a "brick cooperative" business some distance away which employs an average of ten men.

Father Deckman pointed out that beginning this month the clinic — staffed by a doctor, a nurse, a woman dentist and a woman social worker — has been set up "on its own," independent of the parish. This is one of their aims, he noted—to get the natives started on projects so that eventually they will take them over independently.

Since it is necessary to purchase medicines and supplies and to pay salaries, he said, they have raised



**ROCHESTER PRIEST ASSISTS AT BOLIVIA ORDINATION** — Father Peter Deckman (center), one of two Rochester priests serving at Rochester diocesan mission in LaPaz, Bolivia, assists Archbishop Jorge Manrique in recent minor orders ordination of three Bolivian seminarians who have been working with priests at St. Joseph the Worker Church. Archbishop said this was first time such ceremonies were conferred in a parish church; they usually take place in seminary.

the fee for consultation with the doctor from 16 to 30 cents.

Perhaps their principal hope for the future, Father commented is in the training they are giving to eight young seminarians living with them. "We pray that their influence will grow and continue through the

years," he said, "long after we will have left."

Persons desiring to give contributions to the work of the Rochester priests in LaPaz are advised to send them to the office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 14604.

## St. Pat's Day Celebrated

Rochesterians of many creeds and nationalities commemorated St. Patrick's Day last Tuesday in various ways — and 250 Rochester area residents were in or watched the traditional parade in Dublin itself on that day.

Highlighting the local observances were a noon Mass concelebrated by Bishop Hogan and retired Bishop James E. Kearney in Corpus Christi Church and the 35th annual dinner of the Knights of Equity, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick and Daughters of Erin in the Sheraton Hotel.

Mayor Stephen May hoisted the tricolor Irish flag atop City Hall in a morning ceremony and in the eve-

ning paid tribute to Bishop Kearney at the Sheraton dinner. Members of the local Ancient Order of Hibernians attended the Mass in Corpus Christi Church at noon and participated in conviviality at night in their Gregory Street clubhouse.

Members of the Gaelic Athletic Association were entertained by the Penrose School of Irish Dancing at night in the Harps Club, and the Rochester Police Department reports were logged in green ink.

Meanwhile, back in Dublin, 120 members of the Bishop Kearney High School Band were highlighted in the parade for the second successive year. They were accompanied on the trip by 133 relatives and friends.

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