

Preschool Programs

By JOAN ZUMMO

Sunday school for preschoolers has been an accepted part of religious education programs for years among Protestant denominations. It is only within the past several years that the Catholic church has recognized the importance of this type of program.

Sunday schools were the exception in this Diocese, but the exception now is more apt to be the parish that does not have a preschool program. Interest has grown to the point that a Diocesan Pre-School Association is being formed.

The organizational committee for the Association has published the following aims: to provide a common meeting ground for all existing preschools in the Diocese for the purpose of sharing information, materials and methods; to assist in the establishment of new preschool programs; to sponsor a yearly workshop; to provide a newsletter as the principal means of communication between members; to sponsor teacher training courses.

Plans for a training course are now being made. The course will be highly concentrated and will be available to a limited number of persons.

Anyone who is involved in preschool programs, or anyone who would like to be, is invited to join the association, according to Mrs. Kathleen Lynd, coordinator. Additional information and membership blanks are available from Mrs. Michael Magellan, 84 Harwick Road, Rochester 14609.

The new liturgy goes into effect this Sunday. There is a set of excellent filmstrips suitable for older children or adults, that is called simply, "The New Liturgy." The first film is a general explanation of the place and purpose of the liturgy within Christianity. The second film concentrates on the changes in the Mass and gives a very clear description of the order and parts of the Mass.

The filmstrips are beautifully done in a combination of photographs and art work. The overall effect of the films is a beautiful and moving, yet simple and accurate meditation on the essential aspects of the Mass.

These filmstrips are recommended by the Diocesan Liturgical Committee and many parishes may have already purchased them. They can be obtained from Twenty Third Publications or through one of the area A-V Distributors.

Nocturnal Vigil Date Changed

Members of the Rochester Nocturnal Adoration Society will change the date of this month's all-night vigil to Saturday and Sunday, March 21-22.

Urban G. Kress, executive secretary of the society's central committee, said the change from the traditional last Saturday of the month is being made because the date this month is Easter Saturday.

Groups of men gather in four area churches for prayer and meditation each hour from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. The churches include Sacred Heart Cathedral, Blessed Sacrament, St. Helen's and St. Andrew's.

A new parish unit of the society, at Holy Name Church in Greece, will meet there in hourly groups beginning at 9:30 p.m. on Mar. 21.

Kearney Dance Will Feature Rotary Connection

The Rotary Connection will perform at Bishop Kearney High School's second Big Name Band Dance, Sunday night, March 22 from 8 to 11.

The seven member group, which features four vocalists, has recorded four albums and a hit single. Hardware, a local outfit, will fill in for continuous music.

Rose Ann Lombardo, Kings' Council secretary, and Pete Dobrovitz, treasurer, are chairmen.

K. of C. to Hear Ex-FBI Agent

Ithaca — Gerald O'Brien, a former agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and now a bank security officer, will address members of Ithaca Council 277, Knights of Columbus, and their families at their annual Palm Sunday breakfast at 9:15 a.m. Mar. 22 in the Moose Hall.

Participants will attend Mass at 8:15 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Church.

Grand Knight Donald Bennett said that families were invited to join the knights for the occasion during the last three years. Toastmaster for the breakfast will be Edward Moore Jr.

Laymen's Group Urges 'Improved Collegiality'

Cleveland — (RNS)—The National Association of Catholic Laymen, in a letter encouraging the Dutch people and hierarchy to stand firm in their current "disagreement" with the Vatican over mandatory clerical celibacy, called for "improved collegial processes and new ways to exercise authority" in the Church.

Addressed to Bernard Cardinal Alfrink of Utrecht, head of the Dutch bishops,

the letter was initiated by the executive board of the National Association of Laymen, through its president William A. Caldwell.

In a related development, the Rochester Association of Catholic Laymen, in a letter to Pope Paul, sent Feb. 10, stated that love of Church and devotion to the pontiff compelled them "to express our sorrow and our vigorous dissent," over the Vatican's celibacy position.

In light of recent polls which, the NAL contends, seem to show that Catholic laymen favor consideration of an optional form of celibacy, for instance, the NAL letter asked how the Catholic bishops could claim that the U.S. Church unanimously supports the Pope, even in preventing the Dutch from discussing the issue.

The letter said that members of the NAL plan to address the National Confer-

ence of Catholic Bishops (NOCB) on the need for a national pastoral council at their San Francisco meeting in April.

The NAL, with members in 73 U.S. dioceses, has supported optional celibacy since its founding in 1967. It believes that a variety of life styles must be available to priests in different types of ministries, and that both married and celibate priests can be of equal service.

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Bishop's Easter Message

From the empty tomb first Easter morn the Christ of every age derives his hope and the joy of his life. For that is his vocation — like the Apostles — to live in the victory of the Risen Christ. St. Augustine calls it beautifully in his definition of a Christian: He is an angel from head to foot.

This world of 1970 with its darkness and despair in desperate need of the witness of Alleluia people who challenge of the Risen Christ: "Do you believe in the Resurrection and the life to come? Do you believe that I can give you a life that you will embrace now and live fully?"

(Bishop going to South Africa — see Page 7)

For to live the fullness of the Easter message means now from the death doubts, our sorrows, our pains and our complaints form the heavy stone of our lives that must be rolled away if we are to be liberated from our own entombment. We seemingly cling so closely to it.

For if we believe in the resurrection of Christ we believe in our own resurrection. The victory of Christ is the source of faith not in life, but in life eternal. It is eternal, we must all live it.

The measure of our Easter is the degree of our willingness to die in a particular way in which we ourselves live — our fears, our interests, our egotisms, and to rise to the level of ourselves in which we are too dead—peace, forgiveness, love and joy.

Yes, we need Alleluia who can give witness to the resurrection. It is possible to die and to rise. For how can we expect the world to understand the resurrection of Christ except by bearing the burden of our resurrection? Christ fill the world with the joy of our joyous hearts!

James H. Hogan
 Bishop of Ithaca

Bishop Hogan Schedule for Holy Week

Bishop Hogan will officiate at the Holy Saturday, Sunday in Sacred Heart and also will celebrate Mass for Shut-ins, hours 8:30 to 9 a.m. over WHE 10. The schedule at Catholic Center.

Good Friday — Liturgy, Holy Saturday — Easter Vigil, 7:30 p.m.; Easter Sunday — Mass of the Resurrection, 10 a.m.

IF YOU MOVE... let us know about it so we can keep your Courier-Journal on time. Phone or write for notice of your change of address. Include your old and new address and the name of your parish. Courier-Journal, 35 West Broadway, Rochester, N.Y. 14602. 716-454-7050.