

COURIER-JOURNAL

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2 Sections



—Courier Photo by John Dash

Sister Mary Jo Brach, RSM, and friend Kathy Long discover the only way to spend a hot summer afternoon in Elmira. Sister Mary Jo is of the Sisters of Mercy who staff Camp Maplewood on Elmira's Notre Dame High School grounds. Kathy is the three-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Long of Elmira. More pictures and story are on Page 15A.

Splash!

Sister Mary Bride Resigns Position

(See Page 9A)

A Special Series In Know Your Faith

The Courier-Journal in its Know Your Faith series has designed a special five-week series to prepare parishes for their religious education programs.

A special article by Eugene Scapaanski on parish religious education highlights the first segment of the series on Page 5B. Know Your Faith regulars, Father Abbott, Champlin and McBrien, also contribute to this new series.

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Birth Control Bills Denounced As 'Negative'

Washington — The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has told the United States Congress that it opposes family-planning or population control bills on the grounds they overlook an individual's dignity and put the cart before the horse when it comes to assisting the nation's needy.

Without a long overdue family policy for this country, "family planning and birth control programs are a limited and negative approach to family," said Father James T. McHugh, testifying in behalf of the bishops before the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The priest is director of the family life division of the United States Catholic Conference.

Programs under consideration by the committee, Father McHugh said, are "very often based on pragmatic decisions that overlook the dignity of the individual and that are questionable as to intent and expected results."

Included in this blanket denunciation were bills S2108

and HR75159. The first, S2108 is a nearly \$1 billion population-control bill that would provide American women with birth control pills and other contraceptives.

The other bill would amend the Public Health Service Act to provide specific project grants for family planning services and related research, training and technical assistance.

"The various legislative proposals contain authorization to fund private, non-profit agencies, institutions and organizations for the provision of family planning services," Father McHugh said.

"We are opposed to the utilization of these funds for birth control." (Continued on Page 2A)

Chemung Residents To Join School Study

Elmira — A Coordinating Committee of 10 Chemung County residents will be chosen shortly to work with the diocesan Educational Task Force in studying parochial school problems of this area, Dr. Thomas Curran, president of the County Catholic School Board announced this week.

This was the first public response of the Board to the concern produced here three weeks ago by publication of a "Donovan Report" on local school and parish issues.

Dr. Curran said that Bishop Hogan had "totally endorsed" the request of the local board that a special group of area clergy, religious and lay people, "chosen solely on the basis of qualification without regard for parish affiliation," should be set up "to cooperate with the Bishop's Educational Task Force" when it begins its analysis of diocesan educational problems this Fall.

In a meeting on August 3, the

County Catholic School Board formally requested Bishop Hogan's approval to choose the committee to bring broad local knowledge into future decision-making.

Dr. Curran wrote Bishop Hogan: "The people in our area have shown considerable progress in their attempts to solve problems locally. We do not want to lose this initiative by the superimposition of reviewers unfamiliar with the problem."

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty was the principal speaker at the board meeting which discussed the recent report of Sister Patricia Donovan recommending that Chemung County be "a testing ground for parochial reorganization, consolidation and liquidation of surplus properties." (His address is quoted below.)

The Board suggested that the Coordinating Committee should have 10 elected members: One pastor, elected by the pastors of the ten churches in the county; one assistant pastor elected by the assistants of the area; one each of the Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Jo-

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