

Sisters of St. Joseph List Renewal Decrees

On Oct. 15 the decrees of the second session of the Chapter of Renewal held by the Sisters of St. Joseph in the summers of 1969 and '70 officially went into effect.

The most noticeable sign of these decrees is a very slight outward change—the reception of a plain silver band ring to be worn by those Sisters who have made final vows. This ring, used in the same way by many religious communities, is worn on the left hand and signifies total commitment, as does the wedding band or the Bishop's episcopal ring.

It is not the outward changes which are most significant to the congregation, however; it is the continuation and extension of the "greater freedom to serve" through renewal and adaptation to contemporary

needs which is to them the important change.

In the area of prayer although Mass, reflective reading of the Scriptures, some form of Lauds and Vespers, and some period of individual prayer are expected to be part of each Sister's daily prayer, the emphasis is laid on the vital importance of prayer in one's life rather than on the specific amount of time spent at it.

One convent, Immaculate Heart, on Mt. Vernon Avenue, has been set up as a Prayer Center. Six Sisters live there, three of them commuting to their teaching jobs each day and the other three working full time at the center. This convent is available at all times to the Sisters for retreats, days of recollection, or single prayer experiences.

After a year with 22 Sisters experimenting in wearing contemporary dress at all times, the chapter decided that, for now the Sisters of St. Joseph will retain the present black and white clothing, including headress; however, any Sister who for serious reason believes that her work and well-being would benefit from occasionally wearing contemporary dress may do so.

Along with the greater individual freedom, comes an increase in responsibility and more share in the decision-making both in the local convent and in the congregation as a whole.

The Sisters are in the process of electing a Senate composed of 21 Sisters chosen from the entire congregation. This

senate is not a legislative body, but its considered opinions are expected to play an important part in the decisions made by the five-member council which comprises the congregation's general administration.

All of the Sisters in the congregation who have made even their first vows or promises now have the right to vote and be voted for in any community election; formerly only Sisters who had made their final vows had these rights.

Several convents were added to the number who are experimenting in collegial government without a "superior" (or, as she is now called, a "coordinator") who has been appointed by the general administration.

Great emphasis was laid on

the importance of excellent preparation for, and personal suitability to, the various apostolic works in which the Sisters of St. Joseph are involved. Stressed, too, was the importance of constant, creative upgrading of these works—whether these were pre-school education, elementary, high school, college, religious or adult education; health works or social works.

A statement on the congregation's relationship to the social issues in contemporary society affirmed that the issues of war, racism, pollution, drugs, poverty, social injustice, and de-personalization through an emphasis on technology should be of "corporate and personal moral concern" to the Sisters of St. Joseph.



Bishops, Sisters Discuss Schools

Bishop Hogan discusses school problems with leaders of Rochester Association of Catholic School Principals—Sister Mary Ellen Kinsella, RSM., (left), principal of St. Andrew's, Rochester, vice chairman, and Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND., principal of St. Philip Neri, chairman.

Bishop McCafferty Gives Progress Report on Schools

Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty gave a progress report on early work of a coordinating committee working on proposals for streamlining Chemung County's seven Catholic elementary schools.

He gave the report before a large crowd at Notre Dame High School which earlier had heard a debate by local politicians on parochialism.

Bishop McCafferty said that presently two major plans are being studied, but emphasized that both are subject to many modifications. He stated that the Catholic populace would have an opportunity to hear any proposal made, and their reactions would be assessed, before such a plan was moved on

to the diocesan Educational Task Force recently appointed by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan.

One plan would have kindergarten through grade 5 in certain school buildings, the middle grades (4-6) in other buildings and a junior and senior high school administered by Notre Dame High, but not necessarily under one roof.

The other proposal would keep the kindergarten through sixth grades in the present schools with one additional consolidation (two schools already operate a unified operation) and the establishment of a 7-8 grade junior high in a separate location, again under the administration of Notre Dame High.

Father Barrett to Assist At Cato Church, Mission

Cato—Father Elmer W. Heindl, pastor of St. Patrick's Church here and its mission, St. Thomas, Red Creek, has announced that Father William M. Barrett will be assisting the two churches on weekdays.

Father Barrett, newly-named aide to Father E. Charles Bauer, chaplain at the Newark State School, will assist with Masses and confessions on Saturdays and Sundays.

Father Heindl announced the Mass schedule as follows: Cato—Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 8:45 and 10:30 a.m.; Red Creek—Saturday, 5:30 p.m.; Sunday, 10 and 11:15 a.m.

Renovation of both church sanctuaries has been completed, Father Heindl noted, with a new altar at St. Patrick's designed and built by a parishioner, Anthony Nicoletti.

Family Center Stands Ready To Aid Problem Pregnancies

By JOHN DASH

The Catholic Family Center stands at the ready to help any woman who has a problem pregnancy. "We want to help her assess all the alternatives and all the resources available," said James M. Maloney, executive director of the center.

It is believed at the center that with the recent legitimizing of abortion in New York, Roman Catholic women are hesitant to go to the center for counsel because of the official Catholic stand on abortion.

Noting that abortion is but one "solution" to the problem pregnancy, both Maloney and Miss Catherine Wobus, director of social workers for the center, expressed hope, in a recent interview, that women would come to the center when they first realize they have a problem pregnancy.

The program which has been established at the Catholic Family Center provides counseling, medical care and psychiatric help, if needed, as well as a host of other services, from tutoring a high-school-age mother to providing a home for the baby.

Volunteers Needed At St. Ann's Home

A call for volunteer help recently went out from St. Ann's Home, according to administrative assistant, Sister Ruth Agnes, SSJ.

"We need volunteers who will devote three hours of their time a week or month to push wheelchairs, write letters and visit with residents," she said. She noted that there are presently 96 residents at the home who could be helped if only someone would drive them through local parks for an hour.

Anyone interested in providing volunteer service is asked to call Mrs. Kathryn Bossler, activities director, at (716) 342-1700.

Newcomers Listed On Fisher Faculty

Thirty new members have been added to the faculty and administrative staff at St. John Fisher College for the 1970-71 academic year. They include:

Philip J. Banks, James Brooks, Gary Cuminale, Robert W. Hynes, Dr. Michael A. Insalaco, Robert H. Jetty, Dr. Christian G. Kling, Dr. Frank J. O'Donnell, Father Robert T. O'Halloran, CSB., Sister Joan Rowan and Charles P. Wolfe.

Miss Wobus said the counseling service lets the mother express herself on the many conflicting and strong feelings she might have about her child.

She also said that the center provides for pre-natal care, and whenever possible, as in the case of a continuing relationship without formal marriage agreement, also counsels the father on his responsibilities toward the mother and child.

Maloney made clear that all the alternatives are presented to the mother. "If, after counseling, the mother decides to have an abortion we refer her to an agency which can assist her in the next steps."

"We support people," Miss

Wobus said, "We try not to arouse neurotic guilt. We help a woman understand her feelings and we arrange for medical care."

It was speculated in the center, that, as a result of the abortion law, "We're going to have more Negro babies than white up for adoption." Maloney, stressing that this was "just speculation" cited the strong family ties he finds in the Black culture as reason to support his thesis.

Both married and unmarried mothers with problem pregnancies can find help at the center, Miss Wobus said; and both she and Maloney stressed that the earlier in the pregnancy the mother comes to the center the better.

'Abortion Is Murder,' States Father Lavery

"In our own state abortion is legal. To me, gentlemen, it is murder. And even though more states clamor for relaxation, that doesn't make it right."

This was the contention of Father Charles J. Lavery, CSB., president of St. John Fisher College, in a talk Monday, Oct. 12, at the Columbus Day Luncheon at the Rochester Chamber of Commerce.

Father Lavery declared that "we are facing or actually have a breakdown of morality," and that "we must regain our religious attitudes and beliefs."

Stating that "we seem to shift grounds on what is right and wrong in everyday life," the Basilian priest commented:

"There is much disagreement about X-rated movies, and the

recent report seems to suggest that pornography is all right for individuals who want it."

Father Lavery emphasized the role of religion in fulfilling "America's destiny for mankind."

"Many are living today," he stressed, "without any knowledge of God or without any belief. As man today struggles in the most violent ways against his fellowmen, only God can save him.

"To put this in other words," he continued, "we can, in my opinion, prove the power of America by striving to the utmost to carry to our own nation and to the world the message that we believe in and are prepared to work hard for the right of all men to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

One Hundred Years For King Ferry Church

King Ferry—Bishop Hogan will offer a Mass of Thanksgiving here Oct. 25, marking the passage of a century for Our Lady of the Lake church. He also will give the homily.

After the 11 a.m. celebrated Mass, dinner will be served in the parish hall for the bishop, priests, parishioners and their guests.

The old church was built for \$2,400, according to a history compiled for the centennial observance. It shares with the rectory and old cemetery a two-acre plot purchased in 1867 for

\$500. The building presumably was completed in 1868, but the congregation was served on a mission basis until 1913.

It's original nucleus, in the 1850's, consisted of Irish immigrants who had worked on the Erie Canal and the New York Central Railroad.

Father Richard G. Stanton, pastor since 1962, has a congregation numbering slightly less than the 400 registered in 1910, the peak year, before the building of other churches in the area. In addition, he has the mission parish of All Saints in Ludlowville.