

Ithaca Dance... C'est Magnifique!

By ED and JOAN COFFEY
Ithaca Correspondents

Ithaca — Outside, the Ithaca temperature hovered depressingly in the low 40s, and a threat of rain pervaded. Inside, the flowers were in full bloom along the Rue de la Paix and the Champs Elysees, when St. Catherine of Siena parish hosted its 11th anniversary dance, "Paris in Springtime," on Saturday, May 1. Sponsored by the Women's Council, the annual event celebrates the birthday of St. Catherine of Siena.

There was no mistaking the French theme: flower carts, travel posters, park benches set in lush green grass, sidewalk cafes, trees complete with twinkling lights and birds, and more flowers than one would care to count.

The star was artist Mary Hart. Coaxed out of a five-year retirement, she not only painted large Parisian scenes to grace the walls of the parish center, but also set up an exhibit of her lovely paintings in a studio a la Montmartre.

Gathered under a red and white striped awning and topped by berets, the Melotones provided music to suit every taste. Judging from the crowd on the dance floor and the hat that was passed to keep the tunes



Father William M. Roche, pastor of St. Catherine's, Ithaca, enjoys "Paris in Springtime" with his mother, Mrs. Julia Roche, and the chairmen, Ruth Wimsatt, left, and Loretta Wilmarth. The scenic backdrop was painted by Mary Hart.

playing past 12:30 a.m., the group was enjoyed by all.

Special guests included Father John S. Maloney, pastor of Immaculate Conception parish; Father Phil Lioi of Ithaca College, and Msgr. William M. Roche and Father Charles Mulligan of St. Catherine's. Also on hand, to the delight of everyone, was Father Roche's mother, Julia, who came to town for the occasion.

Many helped, including co-chairmen Loretta Wilmarth and Ruth Wimsatt, Pat Swan, Cully Fox, Vera Scuderi, and Leslie Benedict of the decorations committee; Terry Ross of the poster committee; Ruth Cain and Terry Ross, refreshments; Peg Burns, publicity, and Kay LaLonde, mailing. The men who served in the Cafe de Paris are Angelo DiGiacomo, Jim Heck, Mario Mannarino, Faust Rossi, Bob Boothroyd, Bob Crowley, Merle LaLonde and Charles Burness.

Panel Hits Drug Abuse

Ithaca — A panel discussion on Drug Abuse recently heard Matthew McHugh, District Attorney for Tompkins County; Mr. Lawrence Rivkin, owner-manager of the Vania Prescription Center, and Father David Gramkee, assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception. Rivkin and Father Gramkee are long-term members of the Ithaca-Tompkins County Narcotic Guidance Councils. The discussion was held in Immaculate Conception school gym.

Rivkin started the evening by listing the major drugs abused in the area. He said aerosol containers that contain freon, and amphetamines which are easily found around the home or in ladies handbags are frequently abused.

D.A. McHugh spoke on the legal implications of drug abuse.

Father Gramkee reminded parents that things have to be kept in perspective. First the drug abuse problem is not the

biggest social problem in the world — abuse of alcohol probably is. Second, drugs and narcotics of themselves are not a problem — people and society are the real problem.

He gave a list of things that a family can do so that drug abuse will not become a reality.

His ideas were: remember that each child and each person is a unique individual with unique needs, desires, and abilities. No one approach will reach all; young people must have responsible family roles and feel that each one is making a significant contribution to the family; always keep a policy of absolute honesty.

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Three New Members In Parish Council

Ithaca — St. Catherine of Siena Parish recently elected three new members to the Parish Council.

Jack Flynn, graduate of Fordham University and a former high school teacher, is currently marketing manager of IBM.

L. Merle LaLonde, a graduate of Cornell University, is the Senior Research Associate at Cornell in the Center for Radio Physics and Space Research.

Barbara Tewey also is a graduate of Cornell University. She is the mother of six children

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