

CARMEN VIGLUCCI

The Slotman



Yes, Virginia, there is a Cosa Nostra.

To deny so would be to say that Joe Colombo, Joe Valachi, Frank Costello and Vito Genovese are fictional characters. That the Apalachin meeting was to discuss horticulture. That the many books on the subject are frauds. That history is a lie.

For a league to be formed in the name of Italian-Americans which then tries to circulate such a claim is to be insolent to the intelligence of those of Italian heritage as well as to others.

Many years ago I can remember the great hub-bub in our ghetto neighborhood because a fugitive from the law was being hidden and fed on rooftops until enough money could be raised to send him back to Italy. He was escaping not from civil law but rather so-called "Mafia justice." Whether he would be safe in Italy always has been a question. But no one would answer it for me.

In those days most of the people were still confused in a new society, befuddled by rampant bigotry, and prey to

both New World crooks and old country scoundrels.

But gradually Italian-Americans came to understand prejudice for what it is and realized the best way to erase it is to outclass those guilty of it. So many Italians have done that that it defies listing.

What is important now is that all Italians, even those who didn't suffer the sharp blade of intolerance, wielded by even some of the biggest corporations, should not ever join the ranks of the oppressors when there are others being downgraded.

The great bulk of Italian-Americans, through honest perseverance, native intelligence and talent, have surmounted intolerance and have thus belittled their accusers. To risk the respect this has engendered by silly nit-picking in behalf of special interest groups would be asinine.

One can still be proud of his ancestry and heritage without indulging in ghetto mentality. If there is any blight let's fight that as hard as the stupidity that still allows anti-Italian prejudice.

But let's be truthful and let's not waste energy fighting windmills when there are outlaws afoot.

City's Largest Parish Takes a Look at Itself

"We need all the help we can get" said Father John S. Hayes, Cathedral Rector, explaining why the Rev. Charles E. Taylor of Dewey Ave. Presbyterian Church was chosen to moderate the recent Cathedral Conference.

Mr. Taylor has extensive training and experience in group dynamics and in the northwest sector of the city he is well known as a community goal-setter. Father Hayes observed.

The unusual three-day conference held early in May, brought together 64 elected board members or officers of parish societies in the largest of the city's congregations. Among them were four nuns. The participants represented boards organized in the past five years. Members of the Acting Parish Council, the Education Board, the Finance Board and the Liturgical Commission were joined by officers of the traditional parish societies — the Rosary Guild, Men's Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Legion of Mary.

Reviewing parish needs in historical perspective, conference members noted great growth in parish life during the fifties and sixties when, under the guidance of Bishop Lawrence B. Casey, Sacred Heart became a "super parish."

In the seventies, recognized problems have stemmed largely from the five-thousand-member size of the congregation and drastic reduction in the staff of priests and nuns. A need for improved communication throughout the church and

greater coordination among parish boards was seen.

"shared responsibility," a keynote of the conference.

The conference recommended development of a Parish Charter in an effort to unify and correlate definite roles of responsibility for all parish boards. This move pointed to

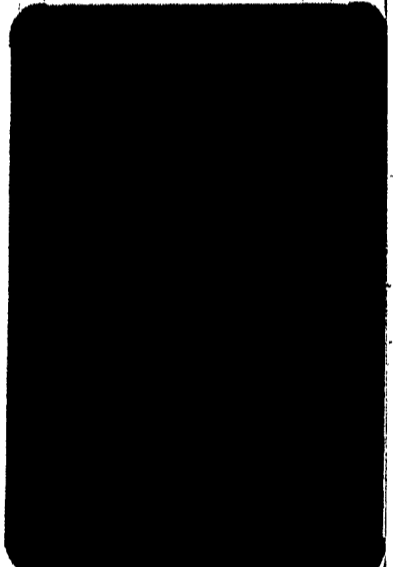
A new emphasis on small worshipping communities suggested new relationships in parish life: special liturgies, children's liturgies, family groups in home Masses, folk Masses.

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MRS. SCHMIDT

Stella Maris Nurses Named

Mrs. Jane Windsor and Mrs. Joanne Schmidt have been appointed nurses at Camp Stella Maris for this summer.

Mrs. Windsor, a graduate of the Craig Colony School of Nursing in Sonoma, will be responsible for the health of campers during the girls' session. She is a school nurse at Lima High School during the year. Mrs. Windsor and her husband, Donald, live in Livonia with their six children.

Mrs. Schmidt, a graduate of St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing, will care for campers during the boys' encampments, for her fifth year. Mrs. Schmidt and her husband, Paul, also have six children and live on Hurstbourne Rd., Rochester.

Old Home Day In Perkinsville

Perkinsville — Sacred Heart parish is setting up a day to remember — June 27. Rain or shine, it will be old home day, beginning at 11 a.m. at the Church with benediction and the blessing of graves.

A picnic will follow at the Perkinsville Rod and Gun Club, with games and prizes for young and old and music by the Alexander German Band from Alexander, N.Y. Old photographs and slides will be shown.

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