



Father Ronald Gaesser at a Newman social event.

## Newman... ...and the Challenge of Youth

By MARY ANN GINNERTY  
Auburn Correspondent

Auburn—"The young people are turned off by institutional religion, but not because they are necessarily 'less religious' than any other age group," commented Father Ronald E. Gaesser, Newman chaplain at Auburn Community College (ACC) and Eisenhower College in Seneca Falls. "Rather it is because they see the Church failing to meet the pressing needs in society, which need to be met, such as a thorough examination of the war, and moral guidelines for sexual behavior, pressing social issues, and the needs in today's world."

One of the questions students most frequently raise is why should they be involved with a religious organization when there are other groups who actively help in getting involved with people and the issues.

"We can't deny that they are expressing an honest concern for other people," Father continued. "The gap comes from expressing this concern as part of the Church and doctrine."

"The crux seems to be that the Church has not been portraying Christ to them," he explained. "The Church appears too hung up on the external expressions and it has been other outside influences of society which have stimulated the young to put the principles of Christianity to work. By principles, we mean sharing, openness to all men, moving towards other people, and not just concern with the Church as an institution."

Students, feeling that the Church is depending on old rules which have not kept pace with the pressures of today's world, ask, "What kind of leadership is the Church giving us with current problems? What is the Church doing to help us grow as individuals?"

Hence, the answer in part, is the growth of Newman chaplains to meet the challenge of today's youth and Church. The importance is reflected in the growing trend of finding the Newman community on Catholic as well as public campuses.

Father Gaesser feels the key to his ministry is his accessibility to the students. He is.

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visible representation of the concerned Church, on the students' homeground.

As chaplain, it is Father Gaesser's goal to help students find a richer, fuller life. He is reaching out to help college students find themselves, and become more complete persons through seeing the reality of religion.

Father observed that the older generation actually did a good job of educating the young, but the resentment comes when the young want to live out those virtues expounded by their elders.

"The frustration comes as never before has man had the power to perfect or destroy the world. We are wealthy enough that all can lead the good life without having to give up everything. The young believe this, but feel the priority of the older generation, based on security, was ill advised.

"The young are looking for action and leadership. They have more potential for living more religious lives. They are searching for the answers, and do want leadership and someone to show them a way to change life."

The Newman organization takes its name from Cardinal Newman, a convert to Catholicism and an Oxford University scholar especially concerned with the education of the young.

Father Gaesser outlined the function of the Newman community on the campus as three-fold. First, it makes the real

### Fisher Graduates to Hear Father Healy of CUNY

Dr. Timothy S. Healy, a Jesuit priest who is vice chancellor of academic affairs at The City University of New York, will be commencement speaker at St. John Fisher College on June 6.

Dr. Healy was executive vice president of Fordham University before going to CUNY as the first priest in an administrative position there. He will address the 325 graduates at 3 p.m. in the college's athletic center. It will be Fisher's seventeenth commencement, the last as a men's college.

The baccalaureate service also will be held June 6, at 10 a.m. in the athletic center.



In the huddle, Father Gaesser discusses Newman plans with students.

presence of the Church felt on campus through bringing the liturgical life of the Church to students in a way which makes contact with young people. This includes the Mass, sacraments, and instruction courses.

Second, it contributes to the social life of the school through sponsoring social functions.

Third, it fulfills an obligation as a vehicle for social action activities such as the project to raise money for the cultural enrichment program.

Registered members at ACC number about 245 with a good percentage non-Catholic. While social functions are restricted to registered members, liturgical and social action activities are open to all. The fact this is the most active group on campus is attributed to the variety of projects undertaken to help the college, general community, and fellowmen.

The baccalaureate service also will be held June 6, at 10 a.m. in the athletic center.

## Auburn Area Notes

Weedspport — Sixteenth annual Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue, ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, in Weedspport, open to public, serving noon until 3 p.m., May 31, at the church.

PARISH, Children's Communal Penance Program, Tuesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.

Auburn — HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, third in pre-cana series, 3 p.m., Sunday, May 30.

Auburn — Miraculous Medal Novena, at HOLY FAMILY CHURCH, North Street, conducted by Rev. Fred Gehring, at daily masses, 7 a.m., 8:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and special evening Mass at 8 p.m., daily through May 31.

Auburn — HOLY FAMILY teacher's recognition dinner, May 26, 7 p.m., Holy Family Auditorium. Covered dish supper, election of officers, Home-School Assn.

Scipio — Children's Communal Penance Program, ST. BERNARD'S, Wednesday, May 26, 7:30 p.m.

Auburn — Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred, ST. MARY'S, Thursday, May 27, by the Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, D.D.

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#### THURSDAY DEADLINE

Remember that the news and photo deadline for the Courier-Journal is Thursday noon for the following week's newspaper.

Wednesday, May 26, 1971