

ELMIRA NEWS

Dick Baumbach 607-732-4008

Confirmandi Finish Rigorous Course

By DICK BAUMBACH

Horseheads — Three months of research into the principles and teachings of the Church, plus experience in social action programs, preceded the Sacrament of Confirmation for 61 young adults in St. Mary Our Mother parish.

The program, a pilot project, will be repeated during the Summer and Fall.

The class confirmed two weeks ago was organized in mid-February. The 61 students were divided into groups of three or four with two priests, two sisters and 11 husband and wife teams taking charge.

During the first month, the groups studied doctrine and morality, memorized prayers

and wrote reports on them. They studied and had to take part in three projects.

The first month's projects dealt with the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, and involved visiting one of 12 community service agencies in the Chemung County area. The students were required to explain what projects they had become involved in and to report on the work of the agency they visited.

The second month of instruction dealt with scriptures and the sacraments. Projects consisted of attending the sacrament of Baptism and writing a report on the experience; taking a non-Catholic friend to Mass, explaining the service and submitting a report, and finally visiting a non-Catholic

church or synagogue with the students' parents or counsellor. The students also had to read a booklet dealing with the non-Catholic religions and write a report.

The final month of the Confirmation program was concerned with Catholicism and Confirmation. In addition to the required memory work reports were submitted detailing the life history of a saint, and explaining how to recite the Rosary and make the Stations of the Cross. Each student had to write a letter to the Bishop asking him for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

The three projects called for in the last month of instruction were an interview with a priest or sister about their work, a significant service to the parish and the reading of at least 100 pages of a book dealing with a religious topic.

After the instructional part of the program was ended a Day Apart was held, with a film on the sacrament. Banners to be used during the ceremony were made by the young adults. A picnic with the youngsters' families ended the Day Apart.

At the start of the program, the 61 students were enrolled as "confirmandi" at a church ceremony. At the end, Auxiliary Bishop John E. McCafferty confirmed them — the first group trained in this unique program.

Chemung Catholics Push for State Aid

By DICK BAUMBACH

Elmira — Members of the Chemung County Catholic School Board decided at a meeting last Thursday to apply for funds under the state's new parochial aid program.

Sister Mary Agnes, regional superintendent of Catholic schools in Chemung, Steuben, Tioga and Tompkins counties, said that all Catholic schools in her region would be applying for the new state aid.

Under the new Secular Educational Services Bill private schools will receive \$27 per pupil in grades 1-6. The Mandated Services Bill of 1970 will add an additional \$27 for the same grades.

In grades 7-8, mandated aid amounts to \$45 per pupil and the new program will add \$27 to that.

In grades 9-12 mandated aid presently amounts to \$45 per pupil. The secular services program will add \$72 per pupil.

Two schools in Chemung County will receive additional funds of \$48.60 per pupil under an "inner-city" clause that is included in the new aid package.

At the school board meeting Dr. Thomas Curran, President

of Chemung County Catholic School Board, said the board is very interested in the new aid for low income students. He pointed out that students on Elmira's east side would be the only ones eligible for the special aid in Chemung County.

"The aid for low income pupils will allow us to help where we want to be helpful. If we aren't present where the poor are, than we're in the wrong boat," Dr. Curran said.

The new \$33 million school aid will bring one-quarter of the fund to schools in January, 1972, and the remainder in April. Mandated Service money is delivered in March and June.

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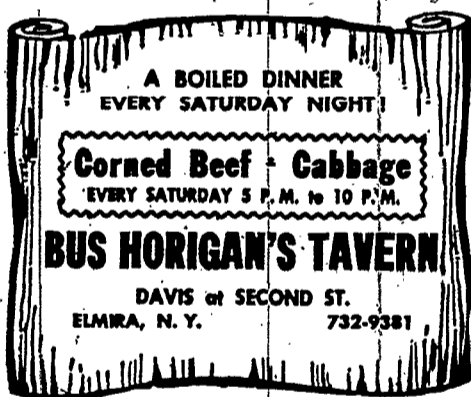
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Deaf man perfects tiny hearing aid

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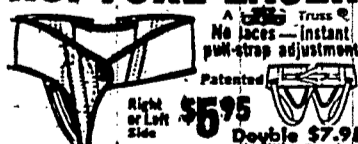
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Elmira Area Notes

Waterloo — Graduation from St. Mary's has been scheduled for Friday, June 25 at 7 p.m. A folk Mass will be sung by the 30 graduates, under the direction of a former parishioner, Seminarian Thomas Mull of Becket Hall.

Cato — Women and high school girls from St. Patrick's, Cato, and St. Thomas, Red Creek, will make a pilgrimage to the Auriesville Shrine of the North American Martyrs on June 19, sponsored by the Altar and Rosary Society.

Hornell — Father Vincent P. Collins of Fairport, was guest speaker at St. Ann's Mother's Club banquet. Mrs. Salvadore Falzoi was chairman. Mrs. Thomas (Yolande) Scaglione is president and other officers are: Mrs. Antonio (Mary) Maddau, Mrs. William (Mary) Kelleher, Mrs. John (Mary) Hillman, Mrs. James (RoseAnn) O'Connor.

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A HOME OF THEIR OWN

THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

We shudder when we see them on TV, the families in India who have never lived indoors. They live in the streets, painfully, sleep huddled together on matting on the sidewalks. The pennies they earn buy scraps of food and rags. . . . In Calcutta alone they number 100,000. They are not drunkards or tramps, these families. All they need is a chance. . . . "For only \$200 (for materials), we can give a family a home," states Joseph Cardinal Parecattil from Ernakulam. "We'll provide the supervision, our men will do the work free-of-charge, and the family will own it outright once they prove they can take care of it themselves. We'll start the work immediately. Can you imagine the happiness a 'home of their own' will bring?" . . . Here's your chance to thank God for your family, your home. Cardinal Parecattil will write to say thanks.

"WHAT ELSE CAN I DO ABOUT INDIA?"

The parishioners gather the stones and do the construction free-of-charge, under their parish priest's direction. That's how in India a church, school, rectory and convent can be built for only \$10,000. . . . Name the parish for your favorite saint, we'll erect a permanent plaque asking prayers for your loved ones, if you build a parish as your once-in-a-lifetime mission gift.

Archbishop Mar Gregorios will write personally to say where he'll locate it if you enable him to buy (\$975) two acres of land as a model farm for a parish priest. Raising his own food, the priest can teach his parishioners how to increase their crop production. (A hoe costs only \$1.25, a shovel \$2.35.)

In the hands of a thrifty native Sister your gift in any amount (\$1,000, \$750, \$500, \$250, \$100, \$75, \$50, \$25, \$15, \$10, \$5, \$2) will fill empty stomachs with milk, rice, fish and vegetables. . . . If you feel nobody needs you, help feed hungry boys and girls!

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