

2 Campus Chaplains Reflect

By Ed and Joan Coffey

With the close of the academic year and the coming of summer, the activities associated with two Ithaca area Catholic communities have virtually come to a standstill.

It is not surprising, however, as almost all of the students comprising the community at Ithaca College have left while a substantial majority of the Cornell Catholic community is also away for the summer. These two "parishes" which exist essentially within the campuses of Ithaca's colleges operate largely unnoticed by the surrounding community while performing the critical service of trying to fulfill the religious needs of young people in their difficult college years.

The exact size of either of the communities is difficult to determine. Father David Connor, the chaplain at Cornell since 1966 who has recently been granted a leave of absence to work with the Center for Religion, Ethics, and Social Policy at the university, states that 2,800 Cornell students are Catholics.

The Ithaca College Community is much smaller, numbering the day, but finds that in some

about 800 to 900, according to Father Philip Lioi, chaplain there since the fall of 1970. The chaplains who minister to the students are appointed by the diocese and they do not serve as pastors nor are their communities considered parishes.

According to the chaplains, about 1,500 to 1,800, some 6 per cent of whom on the average are non-Catholic, attend weekly Mass at Cornell while Ithaca College services usually count between 250 and 300.

The reasons for the diminished rate of participation as against the total number of Catholics are not easily found. Students are an amorphous group, some of whom go home or out of town for weekends while others attend services in local parishes. Nevertheless, the conclusion is clear that many are not attending any services regularly.

Father Connor feels that the low attendance rate is caused in part by the nature of the Church as an institution. He believes the Church is intended to be an organization committed to seeking solutions to the moral and social problems of

cases it actually sets up barriers to solutions rather than facilitating them.

This only "turns off" many of the young people, he feels. He is hopeful, however, that these same young who find little that is meaningful in the traditional Church will discover new forms of "giving witness" in their worship and their activities that more completely satisfy their needs.

Father Lioi strikes a similar but somewhat more hopeful note. He feels that the young are basically religious, but express their commitment in different ways than the traditional Church. He believes he must get the young to participate as part of the Christian community because such fellowship can improve the quality of life.

The activities and ideas abroad in the "campus parishes" present an interesting contrast to the traditional forms of parish worship. They are innovative and often refreshing. More importantly, they offer Catholic collegians an opportunity to direct and redirect their idealism and enthusiasm in meeting both their own needs and those of others in modern life.

2 Win Letters At Ithaca College

Ithaca — Frederick P. Recchio, an Aquinas alumnus, and Randall Garrett, a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School, Rochester, have been named to receive varsity letters for their performances with the 1971 Ithaca College lacrosse team.

The Ithacans of Coach Bill Ware posted 7-2 record this season and won the Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association's Northern New York Division championship for the third year in a row.

Recchio earned his third varsity letter for Ithaca while starring on defense. For his efforts, he was named to the Northern New York Division All Star team, and was nominated for All-American honors. A May graduate in Physical Education, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Recchio, 1 West Crest Drive, Rochester.

Garrett earned his first varsity letter while playing on defense for I.C., and started all nine games for the Bombers. A

junior Physical Education major at Ithaca, he is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Garrett, 221 Bancroft Drive, Rochester.

Ithaca Area Notes

Ithaca — Donuts and fresh coffee are available in the old Parish Hall at Immaculate Conception after the 9:30 Mass Sunday mornings. St. Catherine's is offering the same fare in their parish center after the 8:30 Mass Saturday mornings. Parishioners of both parishes are encouraged to attend these "social hours."

Ithaca — St. Catherine of Siena Parish has announced that "Doc" Cappucci has been appointed a parish trustee and Steve Zahorian has been named parish auditor, both for two-year terms. Jim May and Tony De Giacomo retire from the same posts.



Salvation and Service

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A Happy Occasion

It is a happy occasion each year to meet with the other National Directors of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith at our semi-annual Meeting in Rome for the grave responsibility of answering the most urgent appeals presently being made by the entire mission-Church dependent on the Society for their needs (and their future!)

It is a happy occasion during our stay to meet with Pope Paul and to receive the encouragement of his words and the renewed dedication for our work as National Directors... a work that affects more than just the life of the missions and the world's poor, for it touches the lives of each of us who share in the Christ-life.

Having recently returned from the Spring Meeting, it is a happy occasion to share with you these words of Pope Paul, which are meant even more for you, because it is you who make possible the on-going mission of Christ through your support of the Society.

"If one may compare the grand missionary enterprise that extends over the entire Church to a tree full of life, then you are in a certain way its hidden roots, charged with nourishing and sustaining the apostolic drive that gives rise to the action of the Holy Spirit"

"It does not suffice to have good will, or to have laborers ready to work in the Lord's vineyard; these laborers must be actually engaged, encouraged and directed towards those sectors of missionary life where the work is most urgent. To achieve this, your collaboration is valuable and necessary."

"Missionary work will have vitality, influence and lasting efficacy only when all the faithful are imbued with the apostolic commission the Lord gave to His Church, and which is linked to their faith, to their baptism and confirmation. Those who devote themselves more especially to missionary activity need to experience in their turn the interest and prayers, the support and cooperation of their fellow-citizens."

"Your activity in the service of the Church is necessary now more than ever."

"Let us pray the Holy Spirit to stir up in the hearts of all the faithful the cry of the Apostle, 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel.' Is not this the touchstone of a true faith, today as in the past? Through your good offices we launch this appeal to all our Catholic sons... We once again express our gratitude, our benevolence, and our complete confidence. In the name of the Lord WE BLESS YOU."

Please meditate on these words today to realize better the important responsibility we all have, particularly we American Catholics, in proclaiming the "mystery of Faith" for all to hear. Please send a generous sacrifice for your Church's missionaries today! Your gift for them is, indeed, a happy occasion!

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