



Father Digno Pacio y Lindin

Regionalism Explained At Auburn Area Meeting

By MARY ANN GINNERTY
Auburn Area Correspondent

Auburn — Father Albert J. Shamon, diocesan vicar of education, explained the concept and implications of regionalism for the diocese at an open meeting at Holy Family Hall, Auburn on July 1.

He addressed himself to two questions: What is regionalism, and why regionalism?

Father Shamon defined regionalism as the division of the diocese into units, a grouping of parishes together.

The divisions were based on four criteria — the first, geographical unity; the second, natural affinity. The third, the concept of "the people of God", refers to a cross-section of people. Thus, the Monroe County area was cut into pie shapes to include urban, suburban and inner city parishes.

The fourth criterion was the principle of involvement and effectiveness. Regions needed to be small enough so all parishes

could be involved, yet large enough to be effective. Regions include between 12 and 19 parishes.

One area includes the five regions of Monroe County.

The eastern area includes the Cayuga Region (Cayuga County and a part of Wayne County), and a region composed of Ontario, Yates, and Seneca counties.

The southern area includes five regions. Tompkins and Tioga counties are two separate regions. Chemung and Schuyler counties comprise a region. Steuben County is divided into two regions.

The Livingston County area is another region.

Father Shamon reviewed the evolution of the plan, indicating that the original outline had included 15 regions, but the outlines were revamped when the plan was reviewed by selected expeditors.

A priest from each of the proposed regions served as expeditor. If a priest senator was in a region, he was the expeditor; otherwise a priest was appointed. The expeditors served as a steering committee.

After recommendations were studied, the regions were changed from 15 to 13 as listed above. The plan was submitted to the diocesan division heads, the Priests Council, Sisters and the heads of diocesan religious

orders for commentary. Regional meetings, open to the laity, such as this one in Auburn, are the culmination of a year's planning.

The regional plan will be presented to the Bishop for final consideration.

Father Shamon first explained how the diocese had been divided in the past. Originally the diocese was composed of deaneries, which were artificial divisions to facilitate clerical matters and the administration of the diocese. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen replaced the deaneries with three vicariates; Bishop Joseph Hogan eliminated vicariates to further the concept of diocesan unity.

The regions are proposed to replace the deanery and vicariate concept. It was felt parishes in a region could better utilize resources by pooling them in particular programs to benefit the entire region. Areas of cooperation, for example, might include adult education programs, teacher training, exceptional child programs, the parish schools, youth activities, human development, Cana conferences, workshops and seminars.

Father Shamon also said that ecumenism could be furthered with cooperation on instructional centers, assistance with migrant workers, formation of par-

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Lower East Side Priest:

'The Beauty of the Ghetto'

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

"The beauty of the ghetto is the feeling there, you feel the presence of life," Father Digno Pacio y Lindin said in a discussion entitled "Street Corner Ethnic Relations on the Lower East Side (of New York City)," July 1, at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Father Digno, a Spanish sociologist in residence at St. Mary's Parish, New York City, advocates an alternative opportunity in education.

He taught at St. John Fisher College for two semesters in 1969, and then went to Spain. He returned to the U.S. and assumed his present position seven months ago.

After living in the lower east side for a while he organized a trial program to test his theories on alternative education.

About 15 Rochester area recent college graduates and "drop outs" took part, living for a month with 20, 18-to-20-year-olds from the lower east side community which is about 50 per cent Spanish, 40 per cent Jewish and 10 per cent Chinese.

The priest said that the lower east side possibly is the exception to separateness. He stressed the importance of "distribution." He explained, "The real meaning of the United States and New York City is that the limit of separation has been reached, we must remedy this or die, we must arrive at solidarity."

Father Digno feels the basis for the new approach to education is to teach people of the

street and to learn from them.

"The education system of Western civilization originated in monasteries in the fifth century, we must find a new way of education to street life, to 1971 life in America. Education must be a mutual thing. It must be total involvement, informal, live-in, communal teaching."

This is the basis for his experiment, his alternative to formal education.

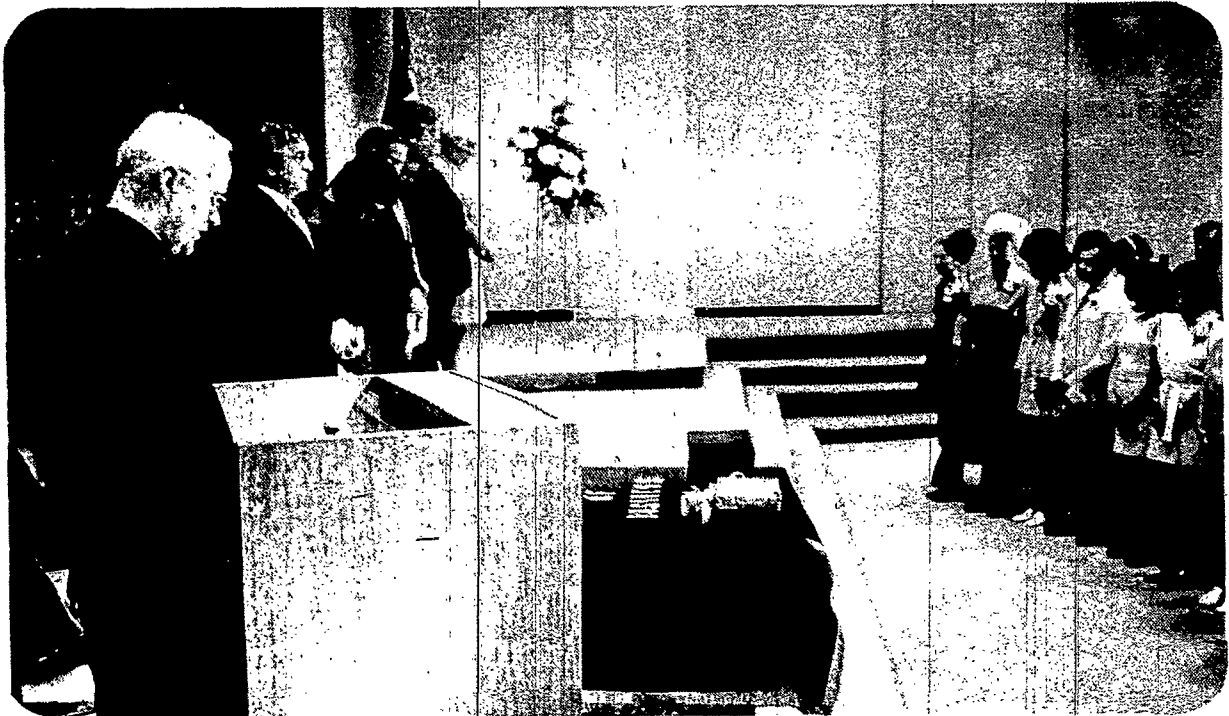
Each ethnic group of the lower east side, is pretty segregated, he said, they take care of their own problems which makes for strong cohesion.

"To create communication is the ideal situation," Father Digno continued. "The fact that there is such a variety of cultures represented makes for a unique richness."

Father Walter Hanss of St. Monica's Church, Genesee street, was one of Father Digno's students in the program. To him a highlight was that the class of Dominicans came to learn English and the students came to teach them, but also to learn Spanish from them. "Mutual admiration grew up out of sharing with one another, there was a real exchange of culture and beliefs," he said.

When asked for his thoughts on the future, Father Digno replied: "Optimistic and pessimistic are extremist words, reality is different. I believe in the basic infallibility of human nature. Think of the possibilities of the richness in ethnic groups," he shifted and said, "you don't have to think, you

have to live, it is feeling. If the world ends in a few years it is better not to know, we must live now."



Bishop At First Graduation

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey gives the invocation at the July 2 graduation ceremonies for Ibero-American students of the World Institute of Business. Graduates completed a 20 week course in secretarial studies

Layman Named Principal at Bath St. Mary's

Bath — John Cucinotta of Mt. Morris has been appointed principal of St. Mary's school by Father John P. O'Malley and the parish School Board. Cucinotta became the first layman in the diocese to be principal of a parochial elementary school.

The appointment was made with the approving recommendation of Father Daniel Brent, diocesan superintendent of schools.

Cucinotta has been teaching since 1959. He has been on faculties of Livonia Central, Attica

Central and Mt. Morris Central schools. During the past year he was coordinator of Civil Defense education programs for the State Education Department in Albany.

He holds degrees of Bachelor of Science (1959) and a Master of Science (1971) from State University at Geneseo. His majors were elementary education and administration and supervision. He holds permanent certification as principal in elementary education and as school administrator and supervisor.



JOHN CUCINOTTA

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