

## 2 Committees Named At St. Mary Our Mother

**Horseheads**—Members of two major committees at St. Mary Our Mother Church here were recently named for 1971-72. A brief explanation of the duties of the committees accompanied the announcement of the new members.

The church's advisory board is made up of seven members, two of whom serve as the parish trustees. The advisory committee submits their ideas on various programs within the parish.

Members of the advisory committee are Charles Casey, trustee and chairman; William Hulbert, trustee and vice-chairman; Lawrence Kelley, Roger Joy, John Kremer, Pierre Pel-

tier and John Shields.

The second committee concerns itself with financial matters of the parish. The committee watches costs and expenses, audits the church's books quarterly and prepares an annual report on the parish's financial condition.

The committee is made up of eight individuals, two of whom serve as parish auditors.

Members of the finance committee are Irving Kimball, auditor and chairman; John Gough, auditor and vice chairman; Mario Daino, Charles Sonner, Francis Cusick, Paul Giometti, Bernard Weigle and James Kl-dea Jr.

## A Pastor Reflects

### 'When a School Closes'

Elmira—Recently the pastor of St. Cecilia's Church here made this thoughts known on the closing of the parish school because of the consolidation of all Elmira Catholic schools into one collective unit.

Father Edward J. Foy's thoughts might be of assistance to other pastors who are faced, or shortly will be faced with the shutting down of their individual parish schools.

Father Foy's comments are: "We never realized during all the discussing and planning of the last several years what a disturbing thing it really would be to be present for the closing of a school.

St. Cecilia has offered great things to the community and to the City of Elmira since 1906. Her students and graduates have had much to do and say in every walk of life. These products have always proved to a questioning world that a Catholic education never has needed an apology.

"Since 1906 St. Cecilia has insisted upon decency of life, virtue, respect and obedience for all authority. St. Cecilia needs not regret any moment of her history. She has been great. She has been noble. She has put



FATHER FOY

out a product known for greatness and nobility and honor.

"This community owes to St. Cecilia a debt of gratitude. The people of St. Cecilia owe much to the people and Sisters and priests who made St. Cecilia what it was. May we of this generation be worthy to carry ourselves to even greater heights of goodness and honor.

"The buildings will be different; the location will be changed, but the ideals and inspiration will be the age-old thing — "teach them my love."

## St. Charles Elects Officers

Elmira Heights — James Weigle has been elected president of the Men's Club of St. Charles Borromeo Church here. Weigle is joined by three other new officers — Joseph Lyden, vice president; Robert Lintz, treasurer; Frank Leach, secretary.

In making the announcement of the new Men's Club officers Father Joseph T. Gaynor, pastor of St. Charles, said: "One great need of the Men's Club at this time is more active members.

"In these days when the Vatican Council has made us all aware of the duty laymen have of taking their rightful places in the church, it would seem that our men should be willing to lend their time and talents to the Men's Club," Father Gaynor concluded.

The pastor also expressed his gratitude to outgoing officers.

## Altar Boys Invited

Elmira Heights — A special picnic outing is being planned for altar boys from St. Charles Borromeo Church here for Aug. 4 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The outing will be held at Buttermilk Falls State Park in Ithaca. All altar boys from St. Charles are invited. They may confirm their reservations for attending the picnic by calling 732-9995.

## 3 Named to Tri-Parish Board

Elmira — Three individuals, two from Our Lady of Lourdes and one from St. Charles Borromeo Church here, have been appointed to the new Tri-Parish Religious Education Board.

In addition to the two parishes mentioned above St. Casimir Church is also a member of the new education board.

Mrs. Katherine Castellino and Frank Spang were elected to the new board as representatives from Our Lady of Lourdes. Terry O'Bryan of St. Charles Borromeo was elected from his parish. Members of the Altar and Rosary Society at St. Charles will be asked to appoint the second member to the religious education board.

No representatives from St. Casimir's Church have been announced.

Under the present structure of the board, the new officials will join the three parish pastors or their delegates and Father Edmund O'Neill, O.C.D., the tri-parish religious coordi-

nator, in mapping out plans for the new programs.

Some of the responsibilities of the coordinator, who will receive help from the board, will be: Recruit parish volunteers including teachers and administrative personnel for the various phases of religious education; direct in-service development programs for teachers through the use of faculty meetings, workshops, and individual study programs; assist all teachers, individually or collectively in becoming proficient in the methodology of religious education.

It is expected that the board and its coordinator will be undertaking the new concept of religious education by the start of the next school year.

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## THE "EIGHTH" SACRAMENT

Those of us who learned our catechism in the "pre-Vatican II era" of the Church may not remember every definition we so ardently memorized as children; but one glance at the title above HAS prompted you to read this because, almost instinctively, you know there are only seven sacraments! Let's go one step further and test your memory . . . Question: "What is a Sacrament?" Do we not instinctively say, "A sacrament is an outward sign, instituted by Christ, to give grace!"

This is not a review lesson of the catechism, but keeping that definition in mind, let us see why we can call today's Church — the missions — and our part in both, the eighth "sacrament!"

Our "post-Vatican II vocabulary" comes, for the most part, from the Documents of Vatican II. We read in the Document, THEE CHURCH, that we are the "People of God" — the "messianic people." In more detail, the Document says: "God has gathered together as one all who in faith look upon Jesus as the author of salvation and the source of unity and peace, and has established them as the Church, that for each and all she may be THE VISIBLE SACRAMENT of this saving unity."

Think about what those words are saying about each of us. We are the Church. And the Church is not just another fraternal — social — or cultural organization, but the visible, outward sign of Christ living and loving in us! And that together we are, in the words of Vatican II, "a fellowship of life, charity, and truth . . . a lasting and sure seed of unity, hope, and salvation for the whole human race."

Commenting on these thoughts alone could merit volumes. But we would ask you to consider here only one specific point. We know that the Church is more than a human institution; that regardless of its human frailties (and beauties), we share in the very Body of Christ today; and that each of us has a function — a response to make that is both personal and communal.

But whatever our individual vocations, life-styles, and responsibilities may be, we are all called to be witnesses and instruments in the serving and saving power of Christ, not just for our families, our neighborhood, our own country, but for the whole world. Is this not our prayer each time we come together as God's People to celebrate the liturgy? "Lord may this sacrifice, which has made OUR PEACE with you, advance the peace and salvation of ALL THE WORLD."

How do you put these words into action? Every time you sacrifice for the mission you are helping to advance the peace and salvation of all the world. Missionaries are doing their part in the Mission we all share. The unique service and witness missionaries give are desperately needed for our world today — and to accomplish this — you are indispensable, for you are their only means of support!

We beg through this column for your Church's missionaries; we beg you to send a generous sacrifice for them that means more than a contribution to a worthy cause, for your gift is truly a personal expression of your life in Christ's Body, the visible "sacrament" of God's peace and salvation for all men.

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