

Regionalism Hallmark Of Education Programs

By CECELIA VIGGO

Regional cooperation figures in the religious education programs of several parishes in the diocese, reported Father Daniel Holland, diocesan director of the Office of Religious Education-CCD.

In Auburn, the two-year-old Office for Christian Formation, formerly operated with a small subsidy from the diocesan Office of Education, will be sponsored and financed by eight parishes in the Cayuga County region.

A similar program has been proposed to pastors in Chemung County for the coming year, Father Holland said, but it has not yet been implemented.

Under discussion in the Geneva area is a regional religious education program under the direction of Father Edmund Walker, former diocesan director of Adult Education.

Livingston County pioneered in regional cooperation in religious education when pastors of six area missions and parishes contributed to the salary of one religious education coordinator for the region. Sister Mary Faith Weider, RSM, rehired by the pastors for this school year, trains CCD teachers, develops parent-education programs, and oversees each parish CCD organization.

Cooperation between parishes also prevails in the Gates-Chili area of Monroe County. Father Elmer McDonald, pastor of St. Christopher's Chili, explained that plans to share many aspects of parish life are under

way in nine surrounding parishes. Parishes will collaborate on teacher recruiting and training this fall, he said.

The Auburn Office for Christian formation had been staffed by Fathers John Glogowski, assistant pastor, Holy Family parish, and Bernard Carges, former assistant at St. Alphonsus. They will be replaced by two fulltime religious education coordinators, hired by the parishes of the region.

Miss Barbara Schmucker, from Wayne, N.J., assumed her position this July; Sister Ellen Ward, RSM, will start in September.

Both coordinators will offer services to parishes in the areas of teacher training, parish organization of religious programs, and ministry to young people.

Father Glogowski commented that the regional office will "continue what had been started in the past two years in religion programs for grades 1 through 12." However, in time, he said, the office would be involved in "cradle to grave religious education," working especially to explore new avenues for adult education.

"The diocesan office of Religious Education-CCD has encouraged regional cooperation everywhere in the diocese, providing information on the benefits of inter-parish programs to pastors and parish boards," Father Holland reported.

"Clearly the concept of regionalism offers a big assist to religious education," he said.



Everything's Rosy!

At left, Sister Mary Helen of St. Michael's convent, works in the rose garden recently dedicated in her honor. Above are those who labored to landscape and renovate: Sister Mary Norbert, Father John Reif, Sister Mary Helen, Sister Barbara Jeanne, Sister Marie Peter, and Sister Margaret Marion. McQuaid student Richard Oechsle (not shown) took special interest in the garden renewal project for his friend Sister Helen.

Teaching Sisters' Raise, Retirement Plan Approved

Teaching Sisters in parochial schools of the diocese will be paid \$2,150 annual salary beginning this September, the Pastoral Office informed all parishes this week.

This is a \$300 raise recommended unanimously by the 20-member diocesan Priests' Council in April.

The increase will also go to all Sisters engaged in other diocesan apostolates.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan also announced that, upon the council's recommendation, he endorsed the supplementary retirement and maintenance program requested by the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Mercy. This program will require an annual contribution

of \$250 for each Sister from parish schools and institutions served by these congregations.

With the salary raise and the retirement contribution, parishes will have to pay \$550 more per teaching Sister next year than presently.

About half of each teaching Sister's salary is retained by the parish convent where she lives and is used to cover the costs of food and ordinary medical and educational expenses of the Sisters there. The parish supplies the convent building, heat light, water and usually the car and its maintenance.

The other half of the salary goes to the community fund for the support of the non-salaried Sisters of the congregation. Among these are the retired and infirm Sisters, the young

Sisters still being educated and Sisters engaged in general administration of the congregation.

Auditors for both of the major teaching congregations in the diocese stated that income from the Sisters' salaries makes up less than 70 per cent of the revenue needed to maintain the communities.

They told the council that deficits in the Sisters' treasuries were growing annually and that the earning capacity of the communities had been decreased because of the departure of so many Sisters in recent years.

On the other hand the rising number of older Sisters unable to teach any more required immediate planning for retirement provisions which the parishes have never before offered to the Sisters.

Hornell Hospital's Award

Of Teddy Bears & Bandages

Hornell — An idea to provide apprehensive children facing surgery with the warmth and comfort of their favorite toys has not only soothed the youngsters and their parents but also has won an award for St. James Hospital here.

"Pulse on Patient Relations", a national hospital-oriented newsletter, gave the hospital's idea an honorable mention award in the Best Hospital Nursing Project category.

The award program, sponsored by the S.M. Edison Chemical Co., Inc., is designed to honor hospitals and nurses making significant contributions in the field of hospital patient relations, contributing to patient

comfort and morale. Each hospital entry competes with others in its own size group. A total of 21 top awards are awarded nurses and hospitals from throughout the country.

The St. James entry was a project originating within nursing service at the suggestion of Miss Rose Sciotti of 88 Elizabeth St., Hornell, operating room technician, which has proven successful in bringing a feeling of comfort and security to pediatric patients requiring surgery.

About a year ago, Miss Sciotti suggested that children facing surgery might be more relaxed on a trip to surgery if they were permitted to take their favorite doll or toy. She felt that the

comfort of something familiar would help the child adjust more readily to unfamiliar surroundings and procedures. Her idea was given a try and proved successful.

Miss Sciotti also realized that children love to share experiences. She started "practicing surgery," duplicating the child's surgery on dolls or stuffed animals... that is to say, the toy receives a bandage, tonsil plug, eye patch, cast or splint. Small fry patients were delighted to have their experience shared and their hospital stay has been less traumatic.

According to Mrs. Edith McGuckin, who submitted the entry, favorable remarks have been received in patient opinion questionnaires and letters.

One mother wrote, "My child was frightened to have a tonsillectomy, but his fears were alleviated because he was permitted to take with him to the operating room his battered teddy bear. He was even more comforted because his teddy bear had shared his experience and had his tonsils removed too! This was a wonderful gesture and I am most grateful."



New Tot Lot

Above are tots enjoying their new play lot at Sheridan and Elmira streets. The lot is the product of the determination and labor of the neighborhood Upper Falls Improvement Association, a group of residents who work on cleaning up their own neighborhood.

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