

Area Congregations ACT

By ED and JOAN COFFEY
Ithaca Area Correspondents

Ithaca — For years individual congregations of all denominations undertook their own projects to aid the poor, the sick, and others requiring assistance. More recently, both the people and the clergy who minister to them have recognized the necessity for a coordinated effort.

The response in Ithaca and Tompkins County was the formation of ACT—Area Congregations Together.

ACT traces its history to the combined annual meeting of the Tompkins County Council of Churches and the Ithaca Area Council of Churches in April 1969. It was determined at that time that the social responsibilities of these groups to those in need could better be administered by a joint effort. A steering committee of members from both the TCCC and the IACC was formed to direct the groups' community assistance programs and investigate areas into which their work might be expanded. By April 1970, the transition of responsibility was completed and ACT was born. Mrs. Betty Morrow was named the first chairwoman of the group and the first executive board was elected.

ACT defined for itself a two-fold purpose. First, the group wanted simply to develop an awareness of religion and its potential for action beneficial to the entire society. Then they sought to build their own community social action program on a ground common to all area religious congregations.

In reviewing the group's work during its recently completed first full year of operation, outgoing chairwoman Mrs. Mor-

row commented, "This has not been a flamboyant year of accomplishment, but a year of building — getting to know ourselves and be known."

ACT's record, even for a "building year," is impressive. The group sponsored ecumenical Thanksgiving services, work-

shops to train youth program workers and religious education instructors, and a county-wide Church World Service collection.

It also supervised the establishment of Kitchen Cupboard, an organization which supplies food and occasionally money in emergencies.

ACT also directed an appeal to all area congregations to take part in foster parent plans and programs to support the establishment of a half-way house for young boys in need of supervision. Finally, it assisted in publicizing and raising funds for the establishment of Open House, a center for disseminating information and counselling for young people with a variety of personal problems.

Under its new chairwoman, Mrs. Betty Moore, new administrative machinery is being developed to handle an expanding program.

Ithaca Area Notes

Ithaca — A pre-baptism seminar for new and expecting parents will be held at Immaculate Conception on Wednesday evenings, September 1 and 8. Baptism Mass will follow on Sunday, September 12.

Penn Yan — St. Michael's Summer Festival will be held in the school playground, August 5-7.

Rushville — Dave and Duane Kreuger of St. Mary's will lead a Folk Mass at 5:30 p.m. on Saturdays during the remainder of the summer. Parishioners and visitors are invited to participate both in singing and playing their own guitars.

Ithaca — A pre-marriage series will be held at Immaculate Conception on Friday evenings, October 8, 15, and 22. All couples contemplating marriage before February, 1972 should plan to attend. Registration should be completed with Father Gramkee.

Ithaca — Teen retreats are scheduled at St. Catherine's July 30-31, August 6-7, and August 13-14. Space is available for about 20-30 on each retreat. Details may be obtained from Mike Stanley at the parish center.

Equality Seen In Philosophy

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Father Robert G. Miller, GSB, Professor of Philosophy at St. John Fisher College, discussed "Positions On Human Equality," the ninth lecture in the Seminar In Human Relations program.

The three principal positions Father Miller listed regarding human equality were: the nominal, idealistic and realistic notions of human brotherhood.

Miller described the nominal position as, "a philosophy of enslavement since it believes that there is no real equality among men beyond the name, MAN, that we share."

"Whereas, the idealist," he continued, "defies the equality of man to the point of refusing to see differences in individuals, and the result is a uniformity of emptiness."

Father Miller then stated: "The realness of unity is in our that unity among men is not a mere word or a mathematical identity, but something that is revealed as a factual reality."

"It is the natural love of a human being for his own kind that unifies," he explained, "the realness of unity is in our nature, the result being a ceaseless striving to protect life, and enrich the quality of life."

Father Miller concluded, "Racism is a sinister symptom of the deterioration of our civilization, and so is the recent press for euthanasia and abortion. The question one must ask is whether people other than you have a right to common justice and brotherhood of man."

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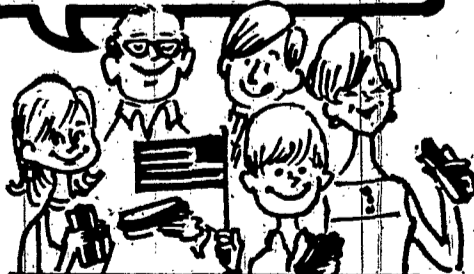
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Audition Date Reset

Child actors auditioning for "Pooh Loves You," a musical recreation of the classic "Winnie the Pooh" set for next September, should report to the Mercy mother house tomorrow, Thursday, July 29 at 3 p.m., ac-

ording to Mrs. Jean Lane, director of the children's theater feature.

Last week's announcement of tryouts incorrectly stated children should report on Wednesday, the 28th at 4 p.m.

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