

ACT to Have Director, Open New Ithaca Office

By ED and JOAN COFFEY
Last in a series

Ithaca — The expansion of the work of ACT (Area Congregations Together) in Ithaca and Tompkins County has brought administrative changes. Percy Dunn, an Ithacan who is acting as director of the Boy Scouts in Mexico, will return here in October to become ACT executive director. New offices will be opened soon at 210 N. Cayuga.

Financing for new projects is a problem. An appeal is being made to all participating congregations to assist in the new work. Determination of available funds is required by October when the budget for the 1972 program will be decided.

ACT is striving to foster better working relationships among all religious congregations as

they jointly undertake various programs.

One committee is studying the rights of welfare recipients in order to prepare a welfare handbook. The handbook will be designed to explain to various low income groups, such as welfare recipients, the marginally poor, and certain senior citizens and social security recipients their full rights under the law in terms understandable to the layman.

Another committee functioning under the auspices of ACT includes people on welfare as well as representatives of ACT and certain social welfare agencies at Cornell. It is investigating social assistance projects which might be undertaken.

Chairwoman Betty Moore points out that the group is seeking to avoid the criticism leveled at many social action organizations, that is, that their

actions only contribute in token amount to filling the needs of the poor and underprivileged.

The major ACT program currently is an effort to combat drug abuse among the youth. This attempt is being made by providing assistance within the ACT network and by lobbying for the appointment of a drug coordinator by the Tompkins County Board.

Studies made of area schools have indicated that a drug problem of some proportion does exist. Various groups have initiated efforts to combat it. ACT strongly believes more is needed, particularly from the County Board. At a recent meeting of the board, petitions containing about 1,200 signatures gathered by ACT were presented. ACT urged the appointment of a drug coordinator to supervise an energetic program of counselling and rehabilitation, including medical supervision for drug-users and a half-way house.

Persons interested in this or other work being sponsored by ACT can contact their parish representatives or attend ACT's open meetings, which are held every other Tuesday at 7:45 p.m. at St. Paul's Methodist Church, 402 N. Aurora, in Ithaca.

Parish Council Elects First Woman President

Ithaca — The Immaculate Conception Parish Council has elected Jeannine Brashear president. Frank Spadaro is the new vice-president; Miss Madelyn Mahoney, secretary, and Miss Angela Torchia, recording secretary.

Mrs. Brashear, the mother of five, is the first woman president of the Council. Since coming to Ithaca 23 years ago from Massena, she has been an active member of the parish. She initiated the Sunday coffee hour and has helped in the school library, the church choir and various special events. She has been chairman of the council's Public Relations Division and assistant editor of its Newsletter.

Members of the Council for the coming year are Fathers John S. Maloney, David N. Gramke and David Mura; the newly appointed school principal, Sister Mary Raymond; Sister Esther, Nan True, Matthew



MRS. BRASHEAR

McHugh, Judy Vandermark, Joan Conley, David Sprague, Don Franklin, Theresa Ferrara, Joan Loehr, John McCarthy, and Marie Schickel.

Archbishop Bars Promotion of Garabandal

Moncton, N.B. Canada — (RNS) — Archbishop Norbert Robichaud of Moncton has imposed a ban against promotion here of alleged apparitions of the Virgin Mary at San Sebastian of Garabandal, Spain, in 1961.

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Ithaca Area Notes

Watkins Glen — St. Mary's of the Lake has announced the appointment of Mrs. Naomi Roberts and William Franzese as trustees for the coming year. Mary Valeant and John Kapral will serve as parish auditors.

Fenia Yan — St. Michael's Summer Festival featuring lots of good food and fun for the entire family will be held in the school playground (Keuka St.) on the evenings of August 5, 6, and 7. Special features will be a ham supper on Thursday and a chicken barbeque Saturday.

Ithaca — Teen retreats are continuing at St. Catherine of Siena, commencing each Friday evening through August 13 at 8 p.m., and running until Saturday evenings at 10 p.m. Space for 19-29 is available each weekend. Details may be obtained through Mike Stanley at the parish center.

Odesa — John McDonald and Dennis O'Neil have been appointed parish trustees at St. Benedict's. Mrs. Hubert Letteer and Ned Lewis will serve as auditors.

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