



Bolivia Bound

Before boarding plane for Bolivia, Sisters Doris Hamilton, RSM., left and Margaret Mungavan, RSM., smile as they prepare for an intensive six month course in Spanish before joining the Mercy Sisters mission group in Santiago, Chile.

Ithaca Knights Erect Building

Ithaca—The Knights of Columbus in Ithaca announced recently the completion of their new headquarters building at 302 W. Green St. Ceremonies will open the building officially Oct. 9. An open house for knights and their families will be held in the hall on Oct. 10.

The complete schedule of activities for the week will be announced later.

The council recently elected: John Barrett, grand knight;

Donald Bennett, deputy grand knight; Dominic Versage, chancellor; John Herson, recorder; Steve Zahorian, treasurer; Fred Mosher, recorder; Frank Ferrara, inside guard; Guy Giordano, outside guard; James J. Clynes Jr., advocate; John Herson and Vince Tryon, trustees for one and three years respectively.

Father Albert Ryan, pastor of St. James Church in Trumansburg, will serve as chaplain.

Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

Religious textbooks have been embroiled in controversy since Vatican Council II.

The problem is not entirely theological.

The insights of sociologists and communicators are needed in addition to the leadership of bishops and theologians.

Modern man's aspirations of equality and participation, recognized by Pope Paul in his apostolic letter to Cardinal Maurice Roy, certainly play a part in the controversy.

The religious textbook controversy is not peculiar to the Catholic family, either, for many Protestant denominations are undergoing similar polarizing arguments.

To cite one example, earlier this year, an officer of the United Presbyterian Church suggested that there may be a need to discipline a lay group that was attacking Sunday school materials as "distressing to evangelical Christians."

While the reasons for such controversies and the solutions to a religious curriculum are worked out, what does a parish council do when a religious textbook controversy swirls through their community?

Here are some aids for preparation and action:

- Be alert for the beginning phases of textbook controversy. If changes in textbooks are rapidly made, or the CCD program is overhauled, try to get the parents and students involved in the decision-making process, or, at the very least, see that they have a chance to hear why the changes are being made and, in turn, air their reactions to the changes.

Insist charges be specific and in writing. Once a contro-

versy becomes public the essential points of conflict usually get buried in a wealth of detail and, often, trivia.

- Analyze the problem from the standpoint of pattern, motivation, logic and methods.

You will often find a group in your community using materials, arguments, and documents developed in other parts of the country. It raises many questions, including why they are dissatisfied, what can be done to meet their needs, and what persons or incidents triggered their conflict.

- Read and study the books in question. What was the decision-making process that brought them to your school? Parish experience? Diocesan policy?

- Invite those bringing charges to visit classrooms.

- Give all sides a fair hearing.

- Avoid propaganda devices: Name-calling — "anyone who would take such a position is un-Christian." Flag-waving — "It's the Catholic thing to do." Glittering generalities — "This is the best program developed." Card-stacking — "Everyone agrees with us."

- See the situation through. Staying power is needed, not straw-fire enthusiasm.

A public meeting at which everyone airs their disagreements is only a step toward reconciliation. Get to know the "other side" on a personal basis. Dialog. Search for common ground.

No matter what the final solution (or solutions, probably), use the controversy as a means of taking stock on how well the school or the CCD is doing.

REMEMBER, SIBLEY'S SUBURBAN STORES ARE OPEN MONDAY THRU SATURDAY 'TIL 9:30 P.M.