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Formation Program in Full Swing

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — The Office of Christian Formation launched in the Auburn region July 1 registers a landmark in its education program as regional co-ordinator, Miss Barbara Schmucker, announces the first teacher training series for Sept. 14-16 at three locations.

Four of the six sessions will be repeated in each of three locations — Our Lady of the Lake Church in King Ferry, the office of Christian Formation, 162 Van. Anden St., Auburn, and St. Patrick's Hall in Cato.

Session I took place Tuesday, Sept. 14 in King Ferry and is scheduled today (Sept. 15) in Auburn, and tomorrow in Cato. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

Sessions are open to CCD teachers served by the regional program. The series will provide basic training in doctrine and methods to enhance professional development of volunteers, and to encourage teacher satisfaction and preparation.

"Come to the Father Workshop" Part I and II will be conducted by Miss Schmucker, a professional religious educator. Sessions will focus on an explanation of the philosophy behind the new approach of teaching religion. The new emphasis eliminates repetition of the same material each year with the depth of presentation varying with the age grouping.

Session III will be "Experience Centered Learning, Art in

the Classroom," conducted by Betty Komarisky.

A newly arrived co-ordinator, Sister Ellen Ward, will join Miss Schmucker in conducting the fifth session, the "Audio Visual Workshop."

The fourth lecture, "Liturgy in the Classroom" will feature as guest speaker Father Joseph Champlin, director of National Bishop's committee on Liturgy.

Father Sebastian Falcone, OFM Cap., professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, will present "Scripture II" in the final session.

Duties of the co-ordinators will eventually include planning, initiating, evaluating, and administering religious education not only for younger children, but for teenagers and adults. Initially Miss Schmucker concentrated on meeting with local clergy, parish councils, and CCD volunteers to familiarize herself with parish needs, and explain the ways they might utilize services of the religious educators to enhance their specific programs.

An initial task undertaken was the teacher training series. Emphasis on CCD training has taken on added significance since the 1950s when it was recognized that the goal for all Catholic children to be educated in Catholic schools could not be achieved. It is such education programs at the adult level which have proved to be most consistently effective in the

preparation of teachers for CCD.

To capsule to date, the Office of Christian Formation is offering teacher training and consultation to parish programs, grades 1-5.

General help is being made available for programs grades 6-8 to parishes requesting such assistance. It could be made teacher training, program assessment, use of audio visual materials, etc.

The Office of Christian Formation will assist the middle school CCD program for the City of Auburn which is entering the second year at St. Alphonsus, Sacred Heart, St. Aloysius, St. Hyacinth, and Holy Family parishes.

The office also is involved in the high school program for Auburn which is being refined after a year of operation, and will introduce some new concepts.

Two professional religious educator-co-ordinators and a secretary now staff the Office of Christian Formation in St. Aloysius School Annex. The program is being funded by participating parishes. However, the groundwork for the coordination of religious education activities involved several years of study of the available programs, parish needs and experimentation. This involved a committee of parish representatives spearheaded by Father John Glogowski, assistant pastor at Holy Family.

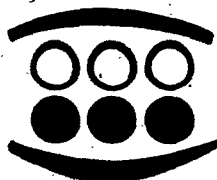
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Our Parish COUNCIL by Bernard Lyons



What is your definition of 'Church'?

Answers to this question can prove that Vatican Council II has had an impact on the Catholic's view of his (or her) Church.

The typical parish council leader, is now less likely to think of the Church as a "place," and more likely, to describe the Church as the "people of God" and a corporate, dynamic body rather than as an organization to which he belongs.

Colorful facets of the mystery of the Church are reflected in the following definitions selected from some recent survey questionnaires:

"The Church is the people of God doing in the world today what Christ did. Baptism makes these people able to do Christ's work."

"A group of people with a common religious heritage worshipping God together."

"A house of worship or a place where I may worship God."

"People of God — pilgrim community — pioneers in becoming human."

"First, a loving community seeking God, celebrating Him in Christ and serving Him through service to others. Secondly an over-arching organized structure, with tradition and some wisdom on its side."

"People who share a common faith and commitment to the meaning of life."

"This question is too vague for me. The old-fashioned term 'Holy Mother Church' had an all-encompassing meaning for me . . . maybe all-inclusive would be better."

"To me, the Church is the people of God whose duties are to help the priest in any way to bring people closer in worship and living. This same attitude must go out into the community and make for a better community."

"The Church is the People of God. This may be a cliché, yet it seems to adequately describe the Body. We are not concerned today with an institution; if anything we are hurt by the Bureaucratic Organization of the Church. The point must be made freely and forcefully that the people know what is best for themselves. The Church of Rome and the Pope must give way to the Church of the People-at-large."

"It is an assembly of people who are united in the common bond of the worship of God, hopefully trying to carry the message Christ gave wherever they are."

"People — a community of people sharing a common belief and working together to bring about God's will on earth."

"The gathering of all baptized people who are united in their belief in Jesus Christ and are striving to worship God in the way He taught and counseled."

Auburn Area Notes

Auburn — The second session in the pre-cana conference is scheduled at St. Alphonsus School, Genesee Street, at 3 p.m. Sept. 19.

King Ferry — Part II, "Come To The Father Workshop", Teacher Training Session, sponsored by the Auburn Region, Office for Christian Formation, will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 21 at Our Lady of the Lake Hall, King Ferry.

Cato — Session II, "Come To The Father Workshop", will be offered Thursday, Sept. 23rd, at 7:30 p.m. St. Patrick's Hall, Main Street.

King Ferry — The third session of the teacher training series will be held at Our Lady of the Lake Hall Tuesday, at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 28.

Clyde — Carmella Davis, regent, Marianne Weaver, first vice regent, and Rose Stanziane, district deputy, Court Gleason 924, Clyde, Catholic Daughters attended the National Leadership Institute recently at the College of St. Rose Albany.

Waterloo — Following are the new officers of the Catholic Daughters of America, Court Therese 4806: Grand Regent, Mrs. William Ward; 1st vice regent, Mrs. Albert French; 2nd vice regent, Mrs. Anthony Vitti; financial secretary, Mrs. Charles Cunningham; treasurer Mrs. Joseph French; recording secretary, Mrs. Stephen Hudick; monitor, Mrs. Victor DeJohn; lecturer, Mrs. Kenneth Weber; organist Mrs. Michael Marchek; Trustee, six years, Mrs. Guy Altamari; Trustee, four years Mrs. Harvey Nielsen; Trustee, two years, Mrs. Helen Wetzel; clergy consultant, Father James F. O'Connell.



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