

# Plenty for Deacons to Do

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "What does a deacon do anyway? Why are you here at St. Mary's?" are questions frequently asked the Rev. Mr. Ronald Stacy, the deacon assigned to St. Mary's in June for his one-year placement before ordination to the priesthood.

"What do we do!" exclaims Mr. Stacy. "Deacons give immediate assistance to the priest in the celebration of the Mass, distribute Communion, baptize and preach, though we are not empowered to say Mass or hear confessions."

"I am a temporary deacon," he explained. "My period of being a deacon ends with the ordination to the priesthood, but there are permanent deacons who are trained specifically to fill that role."

Mr. Stacy pointed out that deacons have been around since the days of the Apostles when individuals were chosen by the church community to fill the role of service, but the diaconate was eventually incorporated into the church hierarchy. There were, in fact, women deacons for the first several centuries of church history.

A graduate of St. Andrew's Seminary, Mr. Stacy was a member of the last class to complete six years at St. Bernard's Seminary, which is now a 4-year post graduate theological institution.

Mr. Stacy was ordained a deacon following his third year of theological training and assisted in local parishes during the past year.

Mr. Stacy stressed that placement in the parish as a deacon is not viewed as a test of a person's commitment. This should have been resolved in earlier experiences, prior to ordination as a deacon.

His opportunities for involvement with people have included pastoral education in a mental health clinic in Kansas, supervised by a clergyman experienced in mental health. He also did field work training as a student social worker at St. Ann's Home for the Aged in Rochester.

"Among the greatest experiences in my life was traveling around the country one summer with two friends, getting jobs like work at a golf course in Montana, picking fruit in California and factory work. We savored life styles and regional differences from the tensions of the south to the urban-secular life of southern California."

Mr. Stacy's experience has been teaching CCD in the city, inner city and rural parishes, summer work as a youth worker at Charles Settlement House.

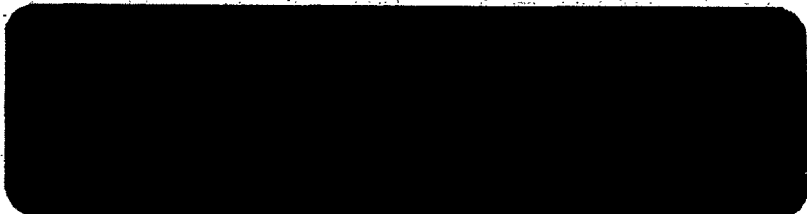
"One important part of my assignment here at St. Mary's revolves around the ministry to the sick, hospital visits, and offering comfort and counseling to those who are ill, or their family members."

Mr. Stacy feels, "Learning

## Geneva CDA Marks 52nd

Geneva — Court Annunciation 416, Catholic Daughters of America, celebrated its 52nd anniversary Oct. 3 with Mass at St. Francis de Sales and breakfast at the Chanticleer. Two charter members and seven others who have been members for more than 50 years were saluted.

In 1919, a degree team from Auburn initiated 50 Geneva women into the Daughters of Isabella, forerunner of the present organization. A brief history of the court was presented at the breakfast. Mrs. Zita Linehan is regent.



REV. MR. STACY

how to minister to people in a more personal way is one of the advantages of the diaconate period since one cannot rely on dispensing the sacraments. The limitations on this function force me to minister to people in non-sacramental ways. They tend to encourage me to be more aware of inner capabilities. And, at the same time, I become more fully aware that I am a sign of the presence of God to those I come in contact with."

"One aspect of the priesthood I have become more aware of lately," he said, "is the business and management skills which are necessary."

Mr. Stacy's work with parish organizations is just beginning after the normal summer lull, but he spent summer months assisting Father John Mulligan, associate pastor at St. Mary's, getting the CCD program or-

ganized, recruiting teachers, and selecting materials.

"The high school program has provided a challenge for putting my knowledge of theology to work in the role of the priest as a teacher," he says. "While one needs to be sure material content is covered, the challenge is to help youths increase their faith and show how faith can be put to work."

## Auburn Area Notes

Ovid - Waterloo - Seneca Falls — The third in the "Themes for Adult Christians" Series, "Conscience: Where I Meet Myself", will be hosted by Holy Cross Parish in Ovid at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24.

Clyde - Savannah - Lyons — "Bible: Where We Were" will be held at St. John's in Clyde, at 7:20 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 26.

## CYO to Hold Halloween Party

The CYO will hold a "Spooktacular Halloween Party" Saturday, Oct. 30, at 10 a.m.-Noon at the CYO Auditorium. "Wanda the Witch" will be there in person. Prizes for the best costumes, bewitching games and many surprises are in store for children of stout heart who attend.

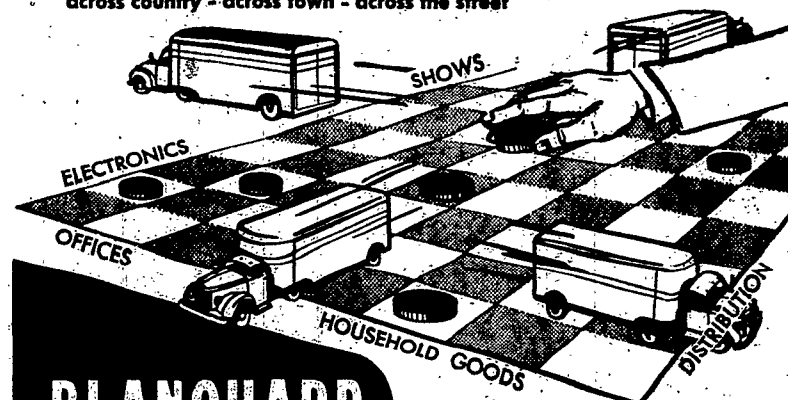
CYO boys and girls 6-12 are invited to get their tickets now for themselves and their friends at the CYO or by calling 454-2030.

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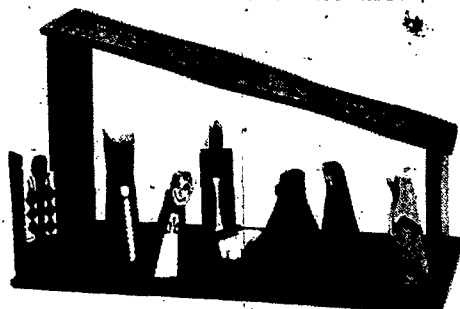
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