



Sister Carmencita Voisard

Principals Rethink At Workshop

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

"We have to stop running schools for adults and enter into the children's world," parochial school principals were told last week by a visiting educator.

Sister Carmencita, a dynamic Precious Blood sister from Dayton, Ohio, addressed 90 elementary principals gathered at Notre Dame Retreat House in Canadaigua for a three-day workshop. The theme of her part of the program was, "To dream the impossible dream, to reach the unreachable star for each of our students."

Sister Carmencita has been involved in many phases of education and has had specialized training in new curriculum developments, such as individualized instruction and nongraded programs.

Using an overhead projector and peppering her talk with anecdotes from her varied experience, she advised the principals to individualize their teachers, and then the school can't help but be individualized. And, she pointed out, the principals won't be doing half as much work.

Principals must sit back and let teachers go, she said. They must begin talking, sharing ideas and plans and materials.

She criticized requiring weekly lesson plans.

"There'd better be planning," she admitted, "but there are all kinds of ways to do lesson plans. All you want to know is that they have a plan. You principals should go to each teacher's classroom: that is her laboratory. Her curriculum is there in total."

Sister Carmencita stressed the importance of changing from didactic teaching, and administering, to a "beehive" involvement.

Her definition of individualized education differed from what the principals had heard before.

"The term non-graded leads to misunderstanding by parents. I can't talk for two minutes without using the term grade," she confessed. "What we are talking about is continuous progress for each child."

"It is making each classroom a workshop," she continued. She prefers that every classroom be a learning center instead of having one resource center to be used a couple of times a week.

She also said that in the British primary schools there are no projectors or tape recorders, just paper and copy machines



Bishop Hogan and Father Brent

and text books torn up and used imaginatively.

She described the best teachers as those who lecture, demonstrate and participate. "Kids are native in this technological world of noise and confusion," she explained. "We are foreigners. They get nervous when it is quiet, we have to stop running schools for adults and enter into the children's world."

Sister Carmencita criticized the marking system, saying: "When children fail, all they learn is how to fail. It is the

teacher who really fails," she said. "She knows when someone can't do fourth grade work, but she keeps pushing him on; it is the teacher who fails the student."

Concerning reluctant faculty members, Sister Carmencita advised the principals to take advantage of the teachers who were ready and willing to innovate, but warned against cutting off anyone less willing to change.

Throughout the workshop
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Confirmation

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan blesses one of 26 children from Holy Childhood school confirmed on Thursday, Nov. 4. To left is Father Michael Conboy, personal secretary to the Bishop. Others present in the sanctuary were Fathers William Flynn, Paul Gibbons, Francis Donoghue, Edward Callens, SS. CC., John Lynch, and Charles Bauer.

Irish Consul Discusses 'Trouble'

"The potential for industrial development in Ireland seems to be in the Common Market," according to Thomas D. Lyons, vice consul of the Irish Legation in New York.

Lyons also said that the Irish feel the ultimate solution to the violence between the Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland is unification.

"The Common Market has made a number of concessions in the last few months that indicate eagerness to have Ireland as a member, but there will have to be a direct popular vote before we enter," he explained in an interview Oct. 29 at the Club House of the Ancient Order of Hibernians where he addressed the annual Commodore John Barry banquet.

He explained that the root of the "present discontent" is that the Nationalists in Northern Ireland never had a viable political representation and have always suffered discrimination.

"The solution we would all like to see is that the country be re-united. It is not just a religious conflict; the issues are civil rights and political."

Commenting on the recent appointment of Dr. Gerard B. News, the first Catholic to be appointed to a North Ireland cabinet post, Lyons said: "If News is truly representative of the minority he represents, it may be an effective move."

Lyons has been in the U.S. since last October, first in Chicago and in New York City, as of March. Prior to that he was in Nigeria for three years, the usual tour of duty at a post.

He reported that the number of emigrants from the Republic of Ireland had declined in the past few years, and those that

do leave Ireland now go to Canada mainly, rather than America or Britain.

The decrease in emigration is due to the growing emphasis on building up industry and attracting foreign industry, to diversify and strengthen the economy, he continued.

Northern Ireland is more industrially developed, but is handicapped by its lack of raw materials. Ireland is traditionally an agricultural country, but last year industrial production exceeded agricultural production, which made for more jobs and more people staying

at home, he reported.

Lyons came to Rochester from Buffalo where he had donated books on Irish history to the University of Buffalo on behalf of the cultural relations committee.

As vice consul it is his job to look after the interests of Irish immigrants, and do information work as well. His office operates in a general way out of the Irish Embassy but is generally autonomous, involving a lot of traveling. There are three Irish Legation centers in the United States, in New York City, Boston and Chicago.



THOMAS D. LYONS

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