



Photo by Laurence E. Keefe

Innkeeper Fred Scavone adamantly rejects the pleas of his boy Daniel DeGeorge that Joseph (Kevin Callarame) and his wife be put up at the inn on the first Christmas eve. The dramatic re-enactment of the "Christmas Story" was presented at Nazareth Hall last Sunday by first and second graders as part of "Christmas at Nazareth Hall," a program including kindergarten recitals, a flutophone concert, carols and a band presentation.

Full - Up!

Family Christmas Mass To Be Tried in Diocese

By JOHN DASH

An experimental liturgy has been recommended throughout the diocese on Christmas Eve "to provide opportunities which will be graces to strengthen family life," Bishop Joseph L. Hogan recently wrote in a letter to all pastors.

The experimental liturgy "consists of a Family Christmas Mass, to be celebrated in the early evening of Christmas eve, to help parents and children experience together the real meaning and significance of Christmas," the diocesan Liturgical Commission said in description of the rites.

Msgr. William H. Shannon, head of the commission, said "The basic idea behind the Mass is to enhance family life especially at Christmas. The midnight Mass is really too much for children; and, after the children have opened their presents they are distracted at Christmas Day Mass."

He said that at the Offertory time, children may bring a drawing or a poem up to the altar, mothers may bring some baked goods, and fathers could bring the children's gifts or a gift for the youngest in the family. The offerings would be blessed during the rites and would be returned after the Mass.

Bishop Hogan will celebrate the new Mass at the Cathedral this year, rather than the midnight Mass, "which can never be a Mass for the family because of the time factor."

The Bishop said that his intention will be a petition for the blessings of greater unity within the families of our diocese.

The Liturgical Commission said the rites begin with a procession of the priest, his ministers and parish families during which a statue of Jesus is placed in a Christmas crib.

Then follows a reading from the Roman Martyrology (a catalog of the deaths and good works of saints) recounting the birth of Jesus.

With the reading of the Gospel, the commission suggested, there may be singing of the

"Gloria" chorus of "Angels We Have Heard on High." It also proposed using film to illustrate the text of the Gospel.

The Apostles' creed is suggested as a substitute for the Nicene Creed, in the commission guidelines.

A practical reason for the new Mass scheduling recently appeared in the Holy Cross bulletin.

In announcing the time of the family Mass, Father Robert H. Fennessy, pastor, said that "safety forbids us to ever again have 1265 people in Church," as happened last Christmas. He announced that only family units would be admitted to the Church for the Mass with a maximum capacity of 800 people. He urged non-family units to attend other Masses.

This will be the practice in other parishes as well.

Holy Family Sunday Dec. 26

The first Sunday after Christmas — this year, Dec. 26 — is Holy Family Sunday. According to a tradition strong in this diocese, mother, father and children receive Communion together to mark the day.

The Family Life Division of

the U.S. Catholic Conference has chosen the occasion for a statement on justice toward children, and on dangers seen in some current attitudes.

"The prime motivation for all social policy affecting children must be the child's good and his chance to develop as a unique and autonomous person," the statement declares.

"A serious danger today is the growing attitude that children contribute to certain social problems — overpopulation, pollution, poverty, etc.

"At the present time, the United States Congress is con-

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Wednesday, December 22, 1971

Inner City Parishes To Form Council

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

After much debate, the Priests' Council voted Dec. 14 to establish a Council of Inner City parishes (CICP).

And as a result of an unprecedented address by a nun, they voted also to establish a joint committee with the Sisters' Council to explore ways to combine their efforts for renewal in the church.

The priests and sisters who live and work in the inner city have realized a need for a council of those parishes unique for their work with the poor. They took their ideas to the Priests' Council meeting for action.

The question of what parishes fit the description was the cause of some disagreement.

Speaking as a representative of the inner city coalition, Father Raymond Booth, pastor of

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, answered questions on what criteria there are for establishing an inner city council.

"Every parish has poverty, and concern for the poor, but poverty is the key issue and mission of these churches," he said. "They need effective shared planning and organization to integrate programs so activities are not duplicated."

The proposal states: Poverty is both the key issue in the area and the mission of the local church, where existing political, economic, educational and social structures are inadequate.

Father Robert Kreckel, associate pastor of Immaculate Conception, clarified the use of the word "political" for concerned members of the Priests' Council;

"Poverty is not only economic but educational as well," he (Continued on Page 2B)

New Education Panel Gaining Momentum

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

As of Oct. 15 the future of diocesan education became the responsibility of a diverse group of people instead of the Pastoral Office.

The Interim Diocesan Education Commission was conceived last spring and represents the first time in the diocese a group of people were given the direct responsibility for reviewing existing educational programs, and recommending either new programs or new emphasis on certain programs.

It is called "interim" because it will eventually be a subcommittee of the diocesan Pastoral Council, but as Sister James Lynch, assistant vicar of education explains it: "We have immediate needs and we are ready, so, we are working now."

The commission's primary function is to give service and assistance to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan through his vicar of education, Father Albert J. Shannon, in the direction and coordination of all diocesan efforts regarding the total teaching mission of the Church. It will make recommendations on major programs, policies and priorities for the Department of Education.

The commission consists of 19 members chosen as follows: five selected by the five directors of education (religious, general, special, adults and campus ministry); two nominated by the Priests' Council; two by the Sisters' Council; and six appointed by the Bishop from a list submitted by the Department of Education.

The five chosen by the division directors will be replaced by the chairmen of the five diocesan education subcommittees as soon as the parish councils and regional structures are organized and operative.

Since October the commission has been meeting bi-monthly at Becket Hall to organize and establish subcommittees to concentrate on four areas of immediate concern.



FATHER BRENT



SISTER JAMES LYNCH

One committee is studying a contingency plan for the diocesan schools, trying to come up with a method of dealing with the financial crisis; another is concentrating on religious education; a third is researching ways to finance special education, and the fourth is studying the needs of adult education and ways to meet those needs.

Membership of the ad hoc committees is not confined to commission members.

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