

'Man the Believer' Newman Study Topic

by ED AND JOAN COFFEY

Ithaca — "Man the Believer" was the theme for the Newman Diocesan Study Day held recently at Cornell University. One hundred or so students and members of campus ministries attended.

Four workshops that convened throughout the day were designed to consider the elements that impinge on contemporary man as a believer. The workshop on Eastern Religions and Belief was conducted by Edwin Burrill of Cornell; Morality Gap and Belief, by Mike Stanley of St. Catherine of Siena parish, Ithaca; on Science, Technology and Belief, by Ann and Jim Anderson of the University of Rochester, and on Interpersonal Relations, by Father Ron Gaesser and George Lavery of Auburn Community College.

Dr. James Campbell, professor of the philosophy of religion at Eisenhower College, in the keynote address treated the four topics as areas for challenge, areas in which faith can grow.

We need to come to know oriental religions, Dr. Campbell began, to study their history and what they hold. Their popularity with students of today can be attributed, he said, to the current international situation and, perhaps, a disaffection on the part of the young with western religions.

Western religion — Christianity — has "turned off" many who see it as being "hung up" on doctrinal purity and in-fighting, rather than concerning itself

Detention Topic At Noon Series

A study of detention will be developed in four Wednesday lunchtime sessions at First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Plymouth.

The series begins today, May 17, 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mayor Stephen May, a member of the state crime commission, will speak.

Juvenile detention will be the topic May 24, with Betty Pine and John Farie speaking. Under-sheriff Andrew Meloni and Albert Benedetto, director of rehabilitation, will talk about the Monroe County Jail on May 31.

At the final session June 7, Charles Willis of the McKay Commission staff will take up the question "Has Attica made a difference?"

The series has been arranged by the judicial process commission of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries and the ACCT Commission of four downtown churches. Coffee will be available and box lunches may be ordered through 325-7727, no later than Tuesday noon.

Home Mass For Judeans

A home Mass hosted by Mrs. Anne Belline of 106 Wisconsin Street will mark the year's closing for the recently organized Rochester area club, the Judean Society.

Open to all divorced and separated women, the society tries, through a Christ-centered sharing of friendship, prayer and activity, to find incentives for meeting the special challenges which face the separated person.

President Anne Belline (288-4087) invites all interested women to share the program at 8 tonight, May 17. Celebrant of the Mass will be Father Gerard J. Guller, associate pastor of St. Michael Church, who will also speak on the topic: The Mystery of Love.

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with the human side of life with its suffering and injustice, Dr. Campbell continued. Eastern religions seem to be more concerned with the problems of day to day living. This is a challenge to Christianity, according to Dr. Campbell. He proposed that Christians look to the eastern and middle eastern (Judaism, Islam) to complete their truths. A study of these religions could verify a difference in formulations rather than basic differences with the western church, he said.

The challenge of the morality gap is, in the words of Dr. Campbell, a twofold one: the need to identify a list of areas for development, and the need to develop guidelines for these areas. The Christian teaching of compassion is all but ignored today in comparison to the emphasis placed on doctrine and law, he said, citing for example the recent convocation of American bishops which he said gave much more time to the celibacy question than to critical problems of social injustice.

Conflict between science and faith has been generated for years by the belief that human learning was an actual or potential threat to faith, Dr. Campbell continued, though the Church has only to look to St. Thomas Aquinas for an example of how to reconcile faith and learning. Science and technology need the Christian input in order to formulate guidelines for new discoveries, he said, and

the same dedication that has been given the Space Program can be directed toward poverty, mental illness, prisons and racial prejudice. Christian priorities could be stressed rather than those of national interest.

The last area, belief in personal relationships, Dr. Campbell saw as the most important of the four. This is so because in the last analysis faith is not a matter of dogma or morality or science. Faith should not be centered on "believing something that the non-believer doesn't hold to be true."

Parents' Group Working For End-The-War Bill

Ithaca — A group of concerned parents from the congressional district of Congressman Howard W. Robinson is circulating petitions calling for the end of the war in Vietnam as quickly as possible. Communities involved are Big Flats, Binghamton, Cayuga Heights, Endicott, Dryden, East Cayuga Heights, East Ves-

tal, Elmira, Elmira Heights, Endwell, Groton, Horseheads, Ithaca, Johnson City, Nimmonsburg-Chenango Bridge, Owego, Port Dickinson, Southport, Vestal, Waverly, and West Elmira.

These Parents for Peace state that they want their children to grow up respecting and honoring their country, and they maintain that this is impossible while the U.S. continues to drop bombs, killing and wounding and making homeless many thousands of men, women, and chil-

dren. They have set up tables at area supermarkets that display cards, petitions, and information. The cards left at the tables will be mailed to Congressman Robinson each evening. Petitions will be sent to him at the close of the campaign in hopes of influencing the vote on a bill submitted to Congress by the House Foreign Affairs Committee. The bill calls for withdrawal of all U.S. military forces from Vietnam and the rest of Indochina, and cutting off of funds for the war this year, provided that prisoners of war are returned. Parents for Peace hope that Congressman Robinson will respond to their cards and petition by voting for this bill when it comes before the House.

Further information may be obtained from Ellen Peters, 273-8377.

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