

# 'Concentrate on Our Specialty'

by BARBARA MOYNEHAN

It is not news that there is no consensus in the diocese about what is to be done with Catholic schools.

Eighty per cent of a parish budget goes to the school and many priests feel that the money could be put to more efficient use, since only about one third of the Catholic children attend Catholic schools.

Father Leonard A. Kelly, pastor of Assumption in Fairport, felt this way 15 years ago and did something about it.

He developed a program that would put religious education back in the home.

Father Kelly built a religious education center next to the public school and brought specially trained sisters, the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, from Baltimore, Md., to staff the center.

His program has two dimensions: the children receive religious education and adults also are instructed, so they can take an active part in their children's religious formation and preparation for the sacraments.

The center now in use cost \$200,000 to build. Yearly expenses currently are about \$17,000, or \$10 per child.

Father Kelly explained, "Some people have not warmed up to

CCD because they have not seen it in maximum use, only the minimum released time programs.

"The sisters are schooled to teach religion," Father Kelly continued, "not secular subjects, so they know how to present the material in a challenging, interesting way."

Father Kelly describes this program as the Catholic school of the future because "it concentrates on our own specialty, we have the personnel and finances to teach religion."

Seventeen hundred children and about 80 adults are in on this program that is based on the understanding that all religion can

not be taught in one hour a week.

The center serves six elementary schools. Three of them are nearby, so about 600 children can walk to their once a week morning sessions. Another 600 are bused by the parish to their once a week afternoon sessions and are picked up by their parents after class.

Junior high students meet one Sunday afternoon a month for four hours. Tenth and eleventh graders meet in lay people's homes weekly, while the seniors, "who have been through the mill for 11 years," according to Father Kelly, are honored as seniors and meet only periodically at the center for special programs.

speakers or field trips.

Father Kelly proudly estimated that the program is reaching nearly all of the children in the parish, stressing that 70% of the high schoolers cooperate. "The program has proven itself to the great satisfaction of the people here, to the children and to the pastor," he said.

Father Kelly pointed out that in any parish where there is a financial problem, plus a school to keep up, the parish can't do a lot in a CCD program for public schoolers. That may generally be true, but Good Shepherd, in Henrietta, proves it can be done. Next week: a look at Good Shepherd.



Bishop D. I. Ekandem visited with Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on May 11. Bishop Ekandem came to Rochester from his dioceses in Nigeria to appeal for aid to the missions there. Of Nigeria's 25 dioceses, he is the bishop of Ikot Ekbene and Port Harcourt.

## Nigerian Bishop Visits Rochester

Visiting Rochester last week was the bishop of Ikot Ekbene, and Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Bishop D. I. Ekandem paid a visit to Bishop Joseph Hogan and Father Joseph Reinhart, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The purpose of Bishop Ekandem's trip here was to thank Bishop Hogan and Father Reinhart for the help that the people of the Diocese of Rochester have given him in his mission work, and also to make an appeal for the missions of Nigeria.

"We are very short in personnel," said Bishop Ekandem. "We need professionals."

There is such a shortage of priests in Ikot Ekbene and Port Harcourt that Bishop Ekandem's duties are the same as the other

priests in his dioceses. Rather than being an administrator, he works directly with the people, and must travel extensively throughout his sees.

There are many tribes and many different languages in Nigeria, making the missionary's work all the more difficult. However, the political situation is favorable. Bishop Ekandem mentioned the nation's chairman, General Yakubu Gowon. "He is a very good Christian, and has been very considerate to us," Bishop Ekandem said.

Bishop Ekandem will be in the United States until June. He has plans for visiting Camden, N.J., Chicago, and North Carolina as well.

He was ordained a bishop in 1954, and will celebrate his silver jubilee as a priest later this year.

## Sing-Out Concert Set For Poison Control

Rochester Sing-Out will present a concert, "Sing Out for Life", on Saturday, May 20, at the Xerox Auditorium for the benefit of the Poison Control Center of Strong Memorial Hospital. There will be two shows 2 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

Rochester Sing-Out is a group

of young people ranging in age from 13-23 years, from Rochester and the surrounding suburbs.

The Poison Control Center recently lost its Monroe County funding and depends on private donations for its existence.

Courier-Journal

## Principal 'Addicted' To Catholic Education

The first lay principal of a Rochester Catholic school says she is 'addicted' to parochial school education.

Miss Gilda Maccalini, who became principal of St. Andrew's about five months ago, has taught in Rochester parochial schools for 19 years.

"Almost all my education has been Catholic and I believe in it. There is a great need for Catholic schools," she explained.

Miss Maccalini, who was a Sister of St. Joseph for nine years, said she now missed teach-

ing very much, "there is much more gratification in teaching."

When the Education Office asked her to be principal she was reluctant to accept and asked them why she, a lay woman, would be a good principal.

The reasons they gave were: she has taught for so many years in the system, and taught as both a nun and as a lay person, so would understand both views of the faculty.

She agreed in part with this reasoning.

"Probably about 90 per cent of what crosses my desk now I am familiar with through my years of teaching. I taught all the grade levels, k-8 and that helps.

"The other 10 per cent I am not used to, such as working with the faculty in a position of responsibility. It is going to take a full year for me to get used to this job," she said.

She thinks of her job as an experimental step by the education office, though Father Daniel Brent, Superintendent of schools, asked for lay teachers to volunteer for administrative jobs in the system as long as three years ago.

Miss Maccalini calls it an innovation of necessity, explaining, "The Sisters just aren't staying in teaching as they did before."

"There have always been very fine lay people in the system who were dedicated to the spirit of the parochial school," she said, "so why are they just now hiring us in administrative jobs?"

## 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 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.

### CDA TO MEET

Court FitzSimons #1189, Catholic Daughters of America, will hold their May meeting on May 22, at 7:45 p.m. in the Lima Town Hall.

Mrs. Elsie Moran will give a household demonstration and Mrs. Mary Neean is chairman of this meeting, assisted by Mrs. Ruth Chatterton, Mrs. Barbara Collins, Mrs. Rebecca Hanrahan, Mrs. Elsie Moran and Miss Mary Lucia Stoltman.

### SOFTBALL SEASON

Yesterday, May 16, some 500 boys from 19 parochial schools took to the Rochester area ball fields to begin a six game schedule competing for the Rochester-Monroe County Catholic Elementary Championship to be held June 17.

St. Andrew's defeated Christ the King in last year's championship game.

Wednesday, May 17, 1972



GILDA MACCALINI

She stressed that the uniqueness of Catholic schools does not depend on the number of nuns on the faculty, using her own school which has two nuns and 15 lay people as a prime example.

"The uniqueness of our schools is still here despite the fact we don't have as many nuns. The Christian principles are still here. And we have lay teachers who are Catholic in every way," said Miss Maccalini.

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