

Two Faiths Join For Religious 'Ed'

By JOY CHALONE

Ithaca — A unique experiment in ecumenical cooperation will begin Oct. 1 in Newfield, a village in Immaculate Conception Parish.

The United Methodist Church of Newfield has offered to the Catholic church the use of the classrooms and church for religious education in that area. The offer by the Rev. Lawrence Cook and his congregation has resulted in a joint religious education program between the two churches.

In fact, the Wednesday afternoon released-time program for grades one-eight will combine both Catholics and Methodists in the same classrooms, with the same teachers. Teachers will be from both faiths. Those serving from Catholicism are Mrs. Kathy Schwoeble, Sharon Kelly, and three nuns from the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Sister Claire, Sister Marianna and Sister Anthony. The second and fourth grade preparations for First Communion and Penance will be conducted by the Mission Helpers.

The class material is being prepared by the Rev. Cook and Father David Mura, associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, along with their respective religious education coordinators. Catholic coordinator is Mrs. Carolyn Gehring.

But the overall thrust of the Newfield program is toward the family. Every other Sunday, from 3 to 5 p.m., the Catholic families will gather (again using the Methodist Church facilities) for a two-hour Study/Prayer/Mass session. The afternoons will be thematic, beginning with "Church." During part of the time, families will be divided into

age groups — nursery, pre-school, primary, junior high, high, and adult — for discussion and study of the topic. Then there will be a reunion of the whole crowd for common prayer, singing and Mass. Helen Schultz, of Immaculate Conception Parish is coordinating this effort.

Only families willing to participate in the entire program are invited.

In conjunction with this, the "Marriage Encounter Program" will be encouraged for the married couples of the area (as it is hoped, couples in the entire parish will make use of this fine opportunity for strengthening their marriage and their faith.)

Preliminary canvassing of both the Methodist and Catholic Church members has found a great deal of interest over the prospects of a cooperative religious education program. It is hoped that in the long run a strong Christian bond will grow in Newfield, hopefully providing the catalyst for other ecumenical activities in the area.

Webster Guild Selects Play

"Norman, Is That You", by Ron Clark and Sam Bobrick, has been chosen for the Webster Theater Guild's third annual dinner theater. Open auditions will be held Wednesday, Sept. 13 and Thursday, Sept. 14 in Room 1 of the Webster Town Hall, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Five players are needed — two young men in their late teens or early twenties, a woman between 20 and 30, and an older couple to play the parents.

Betty Miller will direct the production.

Ithaca Area Notes

Penn Yan — Congratulations are in order for James Wyman, son of Dick Wyman, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. James McKie, all of St. Michael's Parish. Jim, who is studying for the priesthood and will serve in the Diocese of San Diego, will soon fly to Rome, Italy, to complete his final four years of theology.

Penn Yan — St. Michael's Organ Fund has two more donors — \$25 was given in memory of William and Mary McBride, parents of Mrs. Stanton Bailey and \$100 was given in thanksgiving, made by George and Mary Snyder.

Ithaca — "Focus Club" topic for the week is "MAN — IMAGE OF GOD OR DEVIL?" All adult parish members, single or married, are invited to come Monday evenings, 8 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Church rectory.

Brooktondale — Religious Education classes will begin at this village of Immaculate Conception Parish, Ithaca, on October 2. The Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart will teach Grades 1-6 on Tuesday afternoons, on 'released time' from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Ithaca — The Catholic Daughters of Immaculate Conception Parish recently had a picnic at Stewart Park. The guest speaker was Mr. Thomas G. Studders, the candidate who is running against Constance Cook, for the

New York State Assembly, 128th District. Helen Macali and Eileen Kohles coordinated this effort.

Ithaca — There will be a Rummage Sale on Sept. 14 and 15 at Immaculate Conception Old Parish Hall. Donations are welcome.

Ithaca — There will be a "Teen Seminar" at the Notre Dame Retreat House, Canandaigua, for grades eleven and twelve of Immaculate Conception Parish. Discover Christ in yourself and others on Sept. 25, 26, and 27. Call Father Mura for information.

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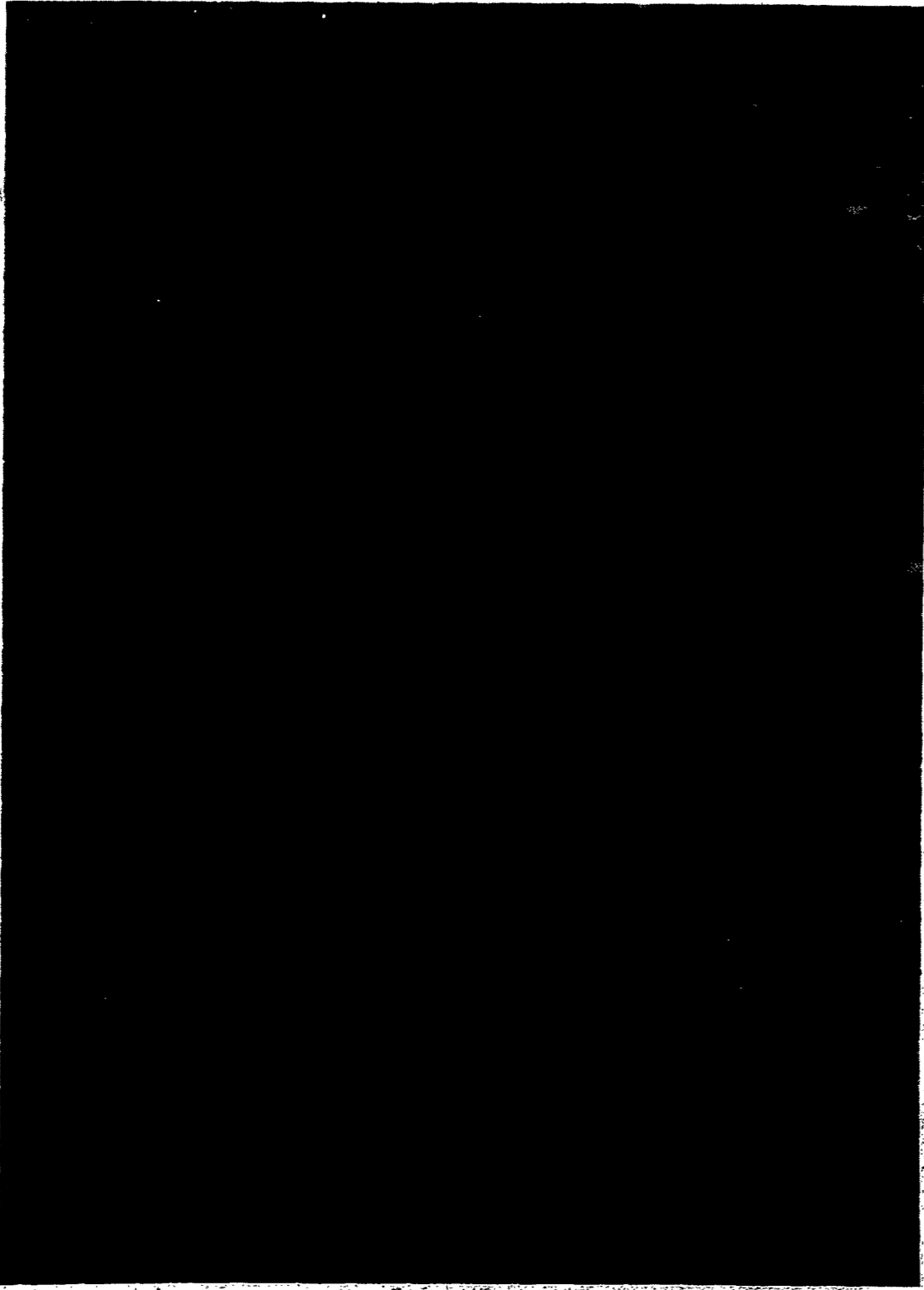
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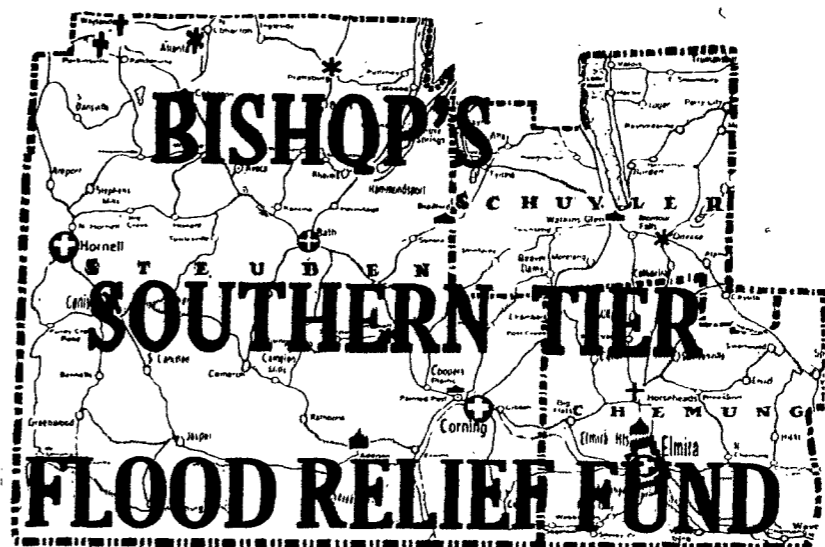
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