



Up, Up and Away

Balloons soar over the buildings on Our Lady of Mercy High School campus. The launching marked the close of the school's traditional free field day, last Friday.

Educator Sees Shift In Home-School Balance

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

The crisis in Catholic Education is bigger than the schools; it is a crisis in the Church, Father John Meyers of the National Catholic Education Association told diocesan elementary school teachers and administrators last week.

Father Meyers, executive secretary of the superintendent's department of NCEA, came from Washington to be key note speaker before 1100 educators gathered at Bishop Kearney High School for a day long conference.

He defined crisis as a critical turning point in a history of events and said he is excited by the present state of both the Church and the schools. Courier-Journal

He told the teachers it is their responsibility to insure academic superiority and make the Catholic school unique in Christian point of view.

Father Meyers maintains that the old belief that the home is the all important element is becoming less true. He cited the changing life styles of youngsters as the reason for his belief. New sources of influence such as media and peer group patterns, play a stronger role in the life of contemporary students, who spend less and less time at home, he said.

Because of these trends he feels the schools' responsibility is crucial, and teachers should keep parents informed of what is going on in school.

He pointed out that parents' reservations toward the Church in the new freedom of post-Vatican II is a seed of misunderstanding between the home and school.

Realizing parents' concern that their children learn about their religion, he maintains a couple of things must happen. Teachers must strike a balance between the dry memorized Catechism of old and a new effective approach to theology. They also must get across to parents why things are changing that they felt comfortable with 20 years ago.

The morning program included comments from Father Albert Shamon, vicar of education; a welcome from Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, and a slide-tape pre-

(Continued on Page 8)

Wednesday, October 4, 1972

Special Liturgy Invests Council At St. Charles

The parish council members of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece were formally invested at an unusual ceremony on Sunday, Oct. 1, at the 11 a.m. Mass. It was the first time in the diocese that an investiture for laymen was held as a formal part of the liturgy.

Father John Hedges, pastor at St. Charles, said that the ceremony stressed the concept of the layman sharing in the liturgy of the Church.

The ceremony consisted of a minute of silent prayer among the 1300 people at the Mass, for the success of the parish council. After the ceremony, the congregation applauded the new members.

Prior to their investiture, St. Charles' parish council had an overnight seminar at High Acres, the retreat house for the Sisters of Mercy on Seneca Lake. Father

Daniel Holland, director of the Year of Renewal, conducted the seminar, at which the members discussed their roles in the mission, and how they can work for the good of their parish and Church, following the guidelines of the study paper, "The Mission of the Church to the Diocese of Rochester."

Members of St. Charles council are George Pfeifer, William Schwartz, Elizabeth Hollemblack, Keith Volkmar, Edward Hassett, Carl Hill, Philip Callan, Edna Bringley and George Bunting.

Also invested were Sisters who are ex-officio members of the council. They are Sister Brigid, principal of St. Charles School, Sister Marcia Farrell, coordinator of religious education, Sister Mercy, in charge of spiritual formation, and Sister Patricia Norton, parish associate. All are Sisters of Mercy.

Public Attitude Seen Harming Prison Reform

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A major obstacle to prison reform is "the public's unwillingness to accept the idea of prisons being other than punitive," a member of the McKay Commission told a public meeting in Rochester last week.

Dorothy Wadsworth, one of nine citizens on the state commission that began a year ago to investigate the events leading to and following the Attica tragedy, spoke at the Forum of Justice sponsored by the judicial process commission of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministry.

She said she had been "very disappointed" after publication of the McKay Commission's findings over an apparent lack of debate about "main issues of the report: the philosophy and attitude of the public toward the criminal justice system."

Mrs. Wadsworth, long active in community affairs, described her first impression of the Attica Correctional Facility.

First she was struck by the "total boredom of the inmates, total waste of human people". And secondly, she remembers thinking the situation was solvable.

"It is the total lack of understanding that gives problems," explained Mrs. Wadsworth.

"We on the commission feel taking away of liberty of a man is

enough. Once he is removed from society that is all that should be done," she continued.

"And if you believe that, then the administration within prison should be as simple as possible. Prison should be a place where adults can work together to produce a society they can all accept, allowing for self-government, teaching inmates how to make judgments."

She told those at the weekly forum that the commission's report, which is now a paperback book, is a unanimous report.

"The nine members of the commission became very personally involved," continued Mrs. Wadsworth.

"We are very proud of the book and of the whole effort. We did 3,000 interviews and feel very secure of the information in it."

Mrs. Wadsworth assured the audience that the grand jury investigation will not use the confidential material in the McKay Commission's report.

"We weren't interested in individuals, so people trusted us and we have a lot of confidential material. Under no circumstance will they go to the attorney general," she stressed.

"The terrible thought about this is how anyone could force the McKay Commission to go back on its word to prisoners, thereby defeating everything, I just can't imagine."

