

Education Coordinator Explains Program for Auburn Region

Second article in a series explaining goals of the Year of Renewal in Seneca and Cayuga counties and introducing personnel involved.

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "By the end of October we ought to have had the first meeting of the Christian Education Committee's core team to set goals for Year of Renewal efforts in our region," announced Sister Ellen Ward.

Sister Ellen, a religious education coordinator, is the special delegate of Father John Hayes of Aurora, regional coordinator for the Year of Renewal in this region which includes Cayuga and Seneca counties.

As coordinator, Sister Ellen is the organizer and leader of the Christian Education Committee concerned with total parish programs from birth to death, including adults, children, youth and the elderly.

Selection of representatives from the clergy and Catholic schools is in progress, and the core team also will include representation from parish councils, parents, religious educators and students.

In addition to the core team, efforts are being made to have each parish establish its own education board to function in cooperation with the parish council. Parish education teams will be made up of representatives from religious education, parochial schools and the parish at large.

"The scope of the education committee is to examine the current Christian education situation," said Sister Ellen. "We look towards sharing resources, and increasing enrichment for adults. There is a real gap in the middle group who for some reason have not been exposed to Vatican Council directions. They need to understand the changes



Sister Ellen Ward

in the Church and share in the planning for the Church of the future."

Sister Ellen explained it will be the responsibility of the regional educational team to stimulate understanding of concepts related to total parish education, assess existing education directions with special attention to the adequacy of religious education opportunities for all members of the Christian community.

Regional education plans will be reviewed as to feasibility. The team will promote planning methods for schools and religious education and keep in contact with the diocesan education committee and Department of Education and design regional education policies where desirable.

Sister feels the success of the program of total renewal depends on the laity.



"I think regionalism and the education committee will provide the vehicle by which the needs of the laity can be known. It is imperative that opportunities are provided whereby adult Christians can feel free and welcome to declare what their needs are and thereby increase their capacity of service to one another in these needs."

Sister Ellen Ward is known for her work as a coordinator for CEDAR (Christian Education Department, Auburn Region).

Sister feels, "It is important people see my role not as Sister Ellen from CEDAR but as an individual with a personal commitment to further renewal in this region in the area of total Christian education."

Sister Ellen, of the Sisters of Mercy, holds a BA degree in Philosophy from Niagara University and received her Masters Degree in Religious Studies from Providence College.

A theology teacher, her background also includes three years as administrator at St. Patrick's School in Elmira.

School To House Center

Penn Yan — Keuka College students who are learning how to teach will get help from children at St. Michael's School before embarking on their senior year practice teaching.

Sister Judith said no pupil would be involved in this for more than 45 minutes in a 10-week period.

Dr. Dennis K. Murphy, education department chairman at Keuka, and Sister Judith, principal of St. Michael's, announced last week that the parish school would house a "teacher education center," where brief lessons in various teaching situations and styles could be recorded and played back for dis-

One thing the college students should learn at the center, Dr. Murphy said, is that "teaching is for those who earnestly desire to teach, and is not just something to do in case nothing else works out." In the light of their experience at the center, the students should be able to make suggestions about their own education, he added.

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Auburn Area Notes

Waterloo — The parish mission renewal at St. Mary's Church will be conducted by the Passionist Fathers, Oct. 28 — Nov. 5.

Auburn — A bake and fancy goods sale will be held at St. Aloysius Church after the 5:30 p.m. Mass, Saturday, Oct. 28 and after all Masses on Sunday.

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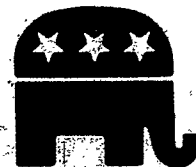
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