

# 'Don't Wait to Be Asked' To Help in Church Renewal

Sixth in series Introducing year of Renewal Personnel in Auburn Region.

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "Today people have a chance to see things happen that will be good for the church and community and I feel it is my responsibility to get involved," said Benjamin Cool of 6 Burt Ave., Diocesan Pastoral Formation Committee representative from the Auburn Region. "I certainly would encourage more to become involved and not just wait around to be asked."



Cool was appointed to the Diocesan Pastoral Formation Committee in July by the Auburn Regional Coordinating team for the year of Renewal efforts. He is one of a number of representatives from different areas of the diocese and varied concerns, including clergy, religious and the laity, who have begun to share ideas and tackle

the practical concerns of how to form a pastoral council.

Cool explained one of the goals of the Year of Renewal is to have a diocesan-wide, elected pastoral council which will provide structure to help administer the policies of the diocese, provide channels of communication for the laity and clergy and in all respects, further the Mission of the Church.

According to Cool, the purpose of the temporary formation committee is to find ways to facilitate the creation of parish, regional and ultimately the pastoral council, all of which would bring together the people of God for the purpose of fulfilling the principles of Christ.

He will be serving on a subcommittee working on guidelines to provide essential ground rules.

Employed at the Auburn Post Office, Cool is a parishioner of St. Mary's. His wife, Marion, is active on the regional liturgy committee and they have seven children. He has been vice president of the Notre Dame Retreat League in Cayuga County, past president of the Men's Club, and active in a variety of parish affairs.

Modest about his appointment to the committee, he views it as one of the increasing number of ways the Church is attempting to involve the layman in decisions in the church today.

"There are many talented

people with good ideas who shouldn't sit around waiting to be asked to contribute," he stressed.

"It is our Church and I feel as laymen we must carry our share of the Church's work."

## Auburn Area Notes

**Aurora** — The Altar and Rosary Society of St. Patrick's in Aurora and St. Michael's in Union Springs are sponsoring a bazaar and bake sale in St. Patrick's Hall on Saturday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., and on Sunday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Auburn** — The Holy Family Home-School Association is

sponsoring a Harvest Moon Dance in the school auditorium on Saturday, Nov. 25. A buffet will be served at 8:30 p.m. with dancing to Frank Borza's orchestra beginning at 9:30 p.m. Open to the public, tickets are \$3.00 per person and reservations may be made with dance chairman, Mr. and Mrs. John Malandrucolo.

## 108 to be Confirmed Tuesday in Auburn

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Auburn — "The Spirit is a-movin'" could be the theme song for the 10-week confirmation course for public and parochial school children at St. Alphonsus Church, which will culminate in the confirmation of 105 youth and 3 adults by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey on Nov. 28.

In line with the present teaching of the sacrament of confirmation, the parents had a greater role in the preparation, which focused not only on the spiritual meaning of the sacrament, but also on the social aspect — the commitment of the active Christian and the relationship of individuals within the living church.

The program implemented by Father Lewis Brown, recently transferred to St. Ann's in Hornell, and Sister Brian, religion instructor at St. Alphonsus School, followed the diocesan syllabus for confirmation.

The preparation for confirmation as a shared experience between youth and parent focused on the discussion and analysis of the paper, "Mission of the Church To The Diocese of Rochester"; the believing, serving, worshipping and listening church.

Throughout the course, the bishop's role in administering the sacrament and the candidate's relationship to him were called to mind through the enrollment ceremony, written reactions to the Mission of the Church paper to be forwarded to the bishop, and personal letters to the bishop communicating the youth's desire to be confirmed and their original prayers.

The letters were handed in at the enrollment ceremony after three weeks of discussion of the sacrament. In a special liturgy, the young people, accompanied by their parents, declared their

wish to be confirmed and their commitment to Christ.

Sister Brian explained that confirmation is administered now at an older age when the youth have a greater capacity to understand themselves as Christians with a definite relationship to the world around them.

Action was the byword in the two featured programs, CIA (Christians in Action) which focused on the social aspect of the parish going out to the people, and CAP (Christians At Prayer) which focused on the praying community and their part in it. These two programs were planned by the parents.

Sister Brian indicated there is emphasis on personal prayer in today's church and time was set aside for private personal prayer. Prayers written by the youth will be compiled into a booklet to be shared with the parish.

The social mission of the church was highlighted by Father Charles Mulligan's discussion of human development.

"The youth participated in parish activities and performed corporal works of mercy which are a real service to people, but it is important to help them realize they are accepting a more mature role in the church and it can't be something they will do a couple of times," Sister Brian explained. "For instance, you can't read to the elderly for 2 or 3 weeks then pull out of their lives. This is not Christian commitment."

Other highlights were Father Daniel Holland's address on the Year of Renewal and the Nov. 19 Day of Recollection which had a theme of Light and Darkness, centering on the sacrament of penance and its connection to confirmation.

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