

Retired, Rehired

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Employe Assistance Program, a Pre-retirement Seminar, and a 25-Year Club. The first benefits all RTS employees. Anyone with a question on finances, job, housing, retirement adjustment, legal matters, or family matters, takes it to Riesenberger. He in turn makes the necessary contacts to answer the question or help solve the problem for the employee.

Riesenberger has his own private "hotline" that employees can call when they need advice and assistance. He keeps no record of who comes to see him. He just records what the questions are and how many people call. So far, more than 300 RTS employees have gone to him with questions since the program started in late 1969.

The Pre-Retirement Seminars are for employees who are approaching retirement age (the mandatory age at RTS is 70) or those who have already retired. Riesenberger got the idea from a seminar on such programs at Rochester Institute of Technology. He thought it would work for RTS. And it did.

He brings in speakers who are knowledgeable in areas of concern for the senior citizen—banking, Blue Cross, Social Security, medicine, legal affairs.

"We started with a small group," he says. "Now we're up to about 18 or 20. We wanted to provide information for those who need it, so we set a minimum age of 62 and decided to meet once a month."

He hopes to eventually lower the age to 55, because "that's when people begin to get interested in retirement."

"These people are grasping for information," he says. "We want them to know what they face when they retire."

The seminars are held in Riesenberger's office in the Purchasing and Credit department at RTS. The office could be mistaken for a rec room, were it not for his desk and typewriter. The room contains an old upright piano, a pool table, and a card table, available for use by the seminar frequenters.

"After our meetings, we have coffee and kuchen," he says. "and the boys like to stay around and relax. They like to keep in contact with their old cronies."

Riesenberger admits that those who come to the seminars enjoy them so much that "one night I got so late I had to invite everybody to leave."

He says, "Some employees can't wait to retire, and say that they are just going to rest and take it easy after they turn 65. But they find that it's not so easy to sit home day after day. So we try to keep them active, even if it means getting a part-time job running errands for a dentist."

Schools Collect

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ning Catholic schools is about a million dollars a year.

"Our buildings were inundated," he said. "The federal government's \$300,000 came through to rebuild them to pre-flood state."

"Getting almost \$300,000 from the state government for operation means the state is providing 30 per cent of the operational costs and we have to provide 70 per cent."

The ability of local people to support the schools was impaired by their flood losses.

It has been "a difficult three or four months, Curran said, but "we got all the money we wanted without having to go into savings at all." And he does not deny that the southern tier schools are "actually better off" than in pre-flood days.

Courier-Journal

Riesenberger began both the Employe Assistance Program and the Pre-Retirement Seminar "from scratch." He didn't start the 25-Year Club, but gave it a healthy shot in the arm.

Howard Gates, public relations man for RTS, says of Riesenberger's work, "The company is extremely pleased with the work that John has done. It means a great deal to those going into retirement and those who need advice. He helps retirees ease the transition from one life-style to another."

Riesenberger says of himself, "I'll stay here as long as I'm healthy. I like what I'm doing; I get a real sense of satisfaction from helping people."

Vatican II Topic of Study Day

Because 1972 is the 10th anniversary of the convocation of Vatican II, St. Bernard's Seminary is sponsoring an ecumenical study day Dec. 11.

Two sessions are planned, one public and one private. The public session will take place at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 11 at the auditorium of Colgate-Rochester Divinity School. No admission will be charged.

Private sessions also are scheduled that day at the seminary.

Father Eugene M. Burke, CSP, associate professor of dogmatic theology at the Catholic University, will speak at the public session. Reactors will be Prof. Winthrop S. Hudson of Colgate-Rochester Bexley-Crozer, and Father Joseph M. Jankowiak of St. Bernard's Seminary.

An open forum will follow their talks.

Brother Joseph Davis

Church Segregation Charged

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

It was not better bazaars that attracted blacks to Protestant churches but segregation in the Catholic Church, the executive director of the National Office for Black Catholics (NOBC) told Monroe County priests last week.

Brother Joseph Davis of the Society of Mary explained the black movement in the Church to about 60 clergymen last Tuesday in St. Lucy's parish hall. The meeting was arranged by the local Black Lay Catholic Caucus.

The aim of the Black Caucus is to strengthen blacks in the Church.

Brother Davis described the Church's treatment of black people.

"If you study the early Church in this country when it was fighting for its own existence it is interesting to note many dioceses as well as religious orders owned slaves," he said.

From his own experience, he told of his parents joining a new parish and his mother's attempt to enroll younger brothers and sisters in the parish school. The pastor said no, and told his mother he would pay their way to a school in another parish.

"The Catholic Church in this country accepted the same patterns of existence as any other institutions, that is, operating on a segregated basis," he observed.

The situation isn't much better now, he said, and "The important question now, therefore, is vocations."

Brother Davis, educated at the University of Dayton and Catholic University of America, served as principal of a school in Nigeria until a visit back to

America in 1967 convinced him his own country was "deteriorating." Out of 50,000 clergy in the U.S., 170 are black; out of 150,000 sisters, 900 are black, and "these are not accidents," he told the priests.

The Georgia-born brother explained he was not condemning or criticizing the Church. "We can only really grasp where we are if we understand from where we have come," he said as a clergyman to fellow clergymen. He is vice president of the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus.

Speaking as a black Catholic, he continued, "We aim to go to strengthening of blacks in the Church. We must be concerned with holding on to what we have got and put stability there."

Brother Davis said that the primary support for the strengthening of the black's place in the Church should come from black people, but he added, "It is extremely important all of the

Church should take part in this effort."

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan voiced similar sentiments in his welcome to Brother Davis.

"In this year of renewal all our Catholics must be involved in renewal," the bishop said. "I want no second class citizenship for any member of our diocesan family."

The meeting was held to inform the pastors and assistants in Monroe County of the NOBC programs which the money collected in their parishes Sunday, Dec. 10, will help support.

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