

CEDAR's Future Seen in Doubt

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and the hiring of parish coordinators.

In spite of these parish needs, Father Palumbos believes it is imperative to reinforce the religious education of all children and feels CEDAR is a major means because of the expertise available, the resource center facility, and the teacher training program, and the fact it is an asset to the entire county, including outlying parishes.

An advocate of the Catholic school system, Father Palumbos put the educational crisis into perspective when he pointed out that several decades ago the majority of children were educated in Catholic schools and CCD fulfilled a minor role. While this is no longer the case, a proportionately larger amount of funding is turned towards Catholic schools than the majority of children, who are enrolled in CCD.

In view of the financial situation, serious consideration is being given to cutting the CEDAR staff in half rather than expanding the program. Father Palumbos pointed out this would mean half the time dedicated to teaching and training and consultation, although the resource center would be maintained.

Father Palumbos indicated the whole area of religious education is complex and the age of the classroom religion is dead. He sees the hope in family-centered programs and the necessity to deal with children and adults on the attitudinal level. As he terms it, "Faith is not taught, it is caught." While parochial schools offer opportunity to convey community, what it means to live and love together, this is harder to do on released time and takes considerable expertise by program planners and religious educators working with CCD teachers.

Father Palumbos pointed out the hiring of parish coordinators would not supplant the need for CEDAR as the parish coordina-

tors should be free to devote time to the classroom situation. More in-depth teacher training can be provided when there is a larger number of teachers to warrant the most comprehensive training programs. A central professional religious educator would also play a role in inter-parish coordination.

CEDAR was formed prior to the recent regionalism concern and has been a leader in innovative planning. It has emerged as the one organization visibly representing the Catholic community in Auburn rather than individual, isolated parishes.

Apart from the structure of CEDAR, both coordinators have been active in the community and provided positive identification of the concerns Catholics have beyond parish boundaries.

Father Palumbos would like to see the board expanded to include laymen and religious educators, in addition to the clergy, and to continue geographical representation.

The ad hoc committee evaluating the situation has three sections. The governance committee, chaired by Mrs. David Martin, includes John O'Neil and Fathers Ronald Gaesser, John Glogowski, and Elmer Heindl.

The thrust committee, evaluating what CEDAR should do, is chaired by Father Palumbos, and includes Sharon Seamons, Joseph Kennedy and local parish coordinators Patricia Mellish and Carol Teehman.

The finance committee is chaired by Richard Woods, and includes Fathers Raymond Wahl, John Hayes, Robert Egan, Edward A. Shamon, and Msgr. Joseph Sullivan.

The five-man CEDAR board includes Father John Glogowski of Holy Family, chairman; Father Edward Shamon of St. Atty-sius, treasurer; Father Richard Stanton, Our Lady of the Lake, King Ferry; Father Elmer Heindl of St. Joseph's in Weedsport and Father Palumbos.

Friend to Those on the Brink

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in. They inform the girl of her rights — regardless of age or financial dependence. Legally an abortion can not be forced. But in practice, Mrs. Jesmer pointed out, a 14-year-old girl would have to be very strong to stand up under the pressure of parents who present their case as concern for her.

Birthright's services do not end with the birth of the baby. There are referrals to adoption agencies and for those who keep their babies, there is a visiting nurse available to see to it the baby gets medical care. Birthright helps find housing and furniture, too.

But a big problem arises here: day care for the infant. There are centers for children aged

three to five, but no place for babies, Mrs. Jesmer said.

Another area of need that Birthright sees often, in cases involving young mothers who already have a family, is, "They need time alone. They feel they can't cope with any more children. It would be a real contribution for junior high or high school students to do those chores that become unbearable to mothers day after day, enabling the mother to have a couple of hours a day to herself."

The cost is not the big problem with filling this need, reported Mrs. Jesmer, but finding people to do this sort of work for a couple of hours a day is.

But the hardest problem by far

to solve is that of insurance programs.

There should be consistency in insurance programs, the social worker maintained. If insurance covers abortion it should cover pre-natal care and delivery.

She feels the whole field of insurance should be worked on, but Birthright will not do it. They have a full time job meeting immediate needs, helping women in a crisis out of their fears, by personal, supportive help, like a ride to the doctor or the hospital.

"We get too program and agency minded today," Mrs. Jesmer said, "too impersonal. There is a big need for personal one to one, friendly helping hand sort of help."

Law Professor Explains Court Proposals

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

There are 180 recommendations to modernize and improve New York State's court system now awaiting legislative consideration. One of the lawyers responsible for those recommendations explained the rationale behind five of them last week.

Professor W. David Curtiss, who has taught at Cornell's Law School for 26 years, was a member of the temporary Commission on the State Courts System chaired by former State Senator Clinton Dominick of Newburgh. He addressed more than 50 people in a series of lunchtime meetings on "Justice For All" sponsored by the Judicial Process Commission of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

The Commission of lawyers, judges and lay people was assigned to study and make recommendations on the state's continued ability to administer justice to all. They spent more than two years compiling information by observations and public hearings around the state to come up with the information and recommendations published last month.

Curtiss admitted that his biggest worry is that "there will be

a feeling these problems are so large and complex that what is needed is another commission, not action, but more deliberation, more delay."

In the speaking style of one who has lectured for many years, Prof. Curtiss explained the Commission's reasoning behind what he called the "more basic" recommendations:

• Administering the court system: "Since the problem now lies in fragmented responsibility, clean lines of authority are needed for sound administering," the lawyer maintained. The Commission recommended that a chief administrative judge responsible for administering the state court system be elected for a four-year term. This officer would not necessarily be a judge or lawyer.

• Financing the court system: Since present system of contributions from state and municipalities breeds uneven quality of justice, the Commission felt the state should assume full cost of the system over the next 10 years to allow for shifts in priority.

• Restructuring the system: Since the present system of five

special trial courts — supreme, county, surrogate, family, and claims — results in fragmented overlapping jurisdictions and work duplication, the Commission recommended that the five be merged into a General Jurisdiction Court.

• Selecting and disciplining judges: Since there is growing opposition to the election of judges, which implies political connections, the Commission recommended the judge of General Jurisdiction be elected on a county level and the appellate court judges be appointed by the governor from among judges and lawyers in practice for 10 years.

• Bail: Since money bail is unfair to the poor, the Commission recommended bail be abolished and be replaced by three options — release of accused on own recognizance, release in the supervised custody of a responsible person or organization, or detained.

"I hope 1973 will prove to be the year of court reform," the former district attorney for Wayne County stated. "The ingredients are there to strengthen even further our system to provide equal justice for all."



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