

Year of Renewal

# A Consultant on the Move

By JOY CHALONE

Ithaca — You've probably heard of the "singing nun" and the "flying nun," but have you ever hear of the "traveling nun"?

Her name is Sister Esther Cockburn, a Mission Helper of the Sacred Heart, with her home base here. She has a bachelor's in Sociology and is a candidate for her master's in Religious Education from Seattle University.

She is "religious consultant coordinator" for a five-county area of the diocese. She covers Tompkins, Tioga, Schuyler, Chemung and Steuben counties and two places in Livingston County. Her prior experience includes teaching diocesan religious education in Dallas and Fort Worth, Texas, dioceses, Miami, Arizona and Richmond, Va., dioceses and three years in Ithaca as religious education coordinator. She has taught children's CCD classes on every grade level as well as adults and teaching training courses. She also has done summer work in the Greensburg, Pa., diocese.

For the past three years she has served as the "traveling nun," driving every day to one parish or another as she is needed, helping lay people to find the resources for carrying out their religious activities. For example, one such group asked her, "Okay, now we have a parish council, what do we do with it?" Or, another parish would ask her for suggestions on re-developing a rather "fallen apart" religious education program. Maybe she would be expected to inject some enthusiasm into the parish in general, or to

advise on textbooks or other teaching aids.

"Sometimes all that is needed," says Sister, "is a little moral support, especially for those parishes with no full time personnel. Then, perhaps a regular teaching training course is in order."

I asked her if she could think of any especially rewarding moments. "Oh, when I got the chance to speak from the pulpit," she exclaimed. Then I knew I was reaching some of those people on Sunday, whom I might

never have reached otherwise. After Mass they would come to me and say, "Thank you, sister, that's just what I was puzzled about. I see it now."

The Christian Formation Board was formed three years ago to find out the area needs and was composed of priests, lay people and nuns and Sister's job came about.

She says, "Really, it's the beginning of regionalism and to my knowledge it is the only area in the diocese doing this so far."

## Ithaca Area Notes

Ithaca — area churches are using the new rite of Baptism during Mass, and the following little ones were recently made children of God:

Immaculate Conception Parish — Shannon Marie Buckley, Rebecca Marie Denison, David Timothy June, Kevin Darren McKenna, Jason Robert Parente, Denise Lynn Shippas, Katherine Sarah Tempesta, Penn Yan, St. Michael's Church — Michael Emil Boesel and Victoria Ann Pierle.

Ithaca — The Folk Group at Immaculate Conception is looking for new members. Father Mura will provide "baskets for those who carry their tunes in them." A permanent music director also is needed. This is a part time, salaried job. If interested call Father Mura at 273-6121.

Ithaca — "Meals on Wheels" will begin again from Immaculate Conception Parish during February. Volunteers who will be delivering are Jean Anderson, Donna Benedict, Bess Gillis, Jean Loveless, Mary McCarthy, Peggy Moy, Alice Sheldon, Winifred and Marie Larkin, and the Orville Curtisses, Roger McCarthy, William Waterses, and the Charles Youngs Jr.

Ithaca — On Feb. 25th The Immaculate Conception School Fair will be held in the gym from 1 to 5 p.m. Mrs. Maubousin, French teacher, will head the gift table. Mary Hildreth and her band of bakers will plan the bake sale. Help is needed for these and other areas. Call Ruth Cain 272-5633 or Theresa Ferrara 272-2681.

Dundee — St. Andrew's Sanctuary and Altar workers for February are Martha Webster and Josephine Dibble.



Tears of Joy

Thirteen-year-old Debbie Christian of Virginia Beach, Va., wipes away tears of joy as she listens with her family to the news of a Vietnam cease-fire agreement. Debbie can't remember her father, Cmdr. Michael D. Christian, a Navy pilot who has been a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for more than six years. (RNS)

## Cause of Nun's Beatification Taken

Melbourne (RNS) — A Vatican decree accepting the cause for the beatification of an Australian nun will be proclaimed, Catholic sources said, during the forthcoming 40th International Eucharistic Congress here.

The nun, many believe, may become Australia's first canonized saint.

The decree, which would confer the title "Servant of God" on Mother Mary McKillop, foundress of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Josephite Sisters), will mark a key preliminary step in the Catholic Church's canonization process.

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# St. Mary's to be Renovated

By PAT BOLAND

Canandaigua — The marble statue of the Virgin is going to find a home again. Saved from being discarded by Miss Mary Quigley 15 years ago, safe in her garage ever since, it is being returned to the side altar of St. Mary's.

The statue had been originally in the Blue and White Garden of the famed Sonnenburg Gardens here. When the Gardens were sold to the government for the present Veteran's Hospital, changes were made on the

grounds. Father Michael C. Wall, then pastor of St. Mary's, purchased the statue and installed it in the church. The Quigley family bought an Italian marble statue of St. Joseph in memory of their brother, John, and it was placed in the altar on the other side of the church.

With the coming of a new pastor, inevitable changes were made and both statues were replaced by plaster ones. The statue of St. Joseph was moved to another spot. Mary, along with other things, was to be discarded. That's when Miss Quigley asked if she might have it.

Now, in 1973, a committee had been formed to discuss a memorial to Father William Nolan, who was pastor of St. Mary's. The committee consisted of members of the various organ-

izations of the parish. It was decided to renovate the sanctuary and to restore it to its original 1904 appearance.

Research was done and it was discovered that the original sanctuary did not have an altar rail. Under the direction of Walt O'Brien, the renovation has been started, the two side altars are in the process of being painted, the rail will be removed. A sketch showing the finished product will soon be posted in the front entrances of the church, according to Father William Charbonneau, pastor. The statue of St. Joseph and the one of Our Lady of the Assumption will be returned to their original spots.

## Canandaigua Area Notes

Canandaigua — A community prayer breakfast, sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, was held at the Sheraton Inn the same day the National Prayer Breakfast was held in Washington, D.C. The guest speaker was Rev. Henry Austin of Middlesex. Father Roy Kiggins of St. Mary's attended and Mayor T. Hamilton Kennedy, also of St. Mary's, extended greetings on behalf of the community.

Palmyra — The new Daughters of St. Anne are planning a desert card party, Saturday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. in the church hall. Mrs. Millie Lynch is chairman and tickets may be purchased at the door.

## Training Sessions In Southwest Area

The Steering Committee of the Monroe County Southwest Region of the diocese has begun training sessions for parish council leaders. The remaining schedule for the 8 p.m. sessions is: Tuesdays, Feb. 20, and 27 at St. Augustine's Church; Sundays, Feb. 18 and 25, and March 4, at Holy Ghost Church.

Rev. Mr. Don Schwab will conduct the Tuesday night program; Rev. Mr. Bob Weiss will lead the Sunday night group.

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