

Corning Priests Fight Abortion

Corning — Eight Corning and Painted Post priests have joined together in an effort to counteract a movement by pro-abortion supporters.

In a two page statement the eight priests, who head four parishes in the area, said, "The press recently reported the plan of certain citizens of our community to seek two thousand signatures to a statement in favor of contraception and abortion and calling for the appropriation of and use of public monies to finance such practices.

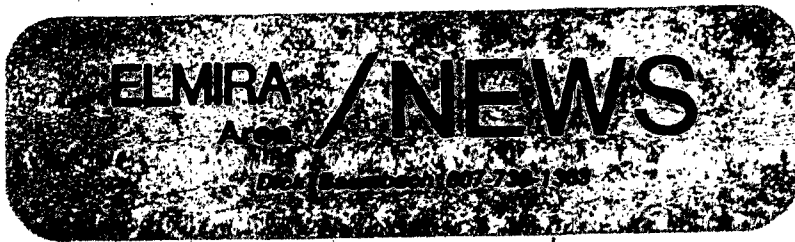
"We must speak out in the plainest and most earnest terms to remind our congregations of

the teaching of holy Mother Church on the immorality of the act of taking the life of an infant living within the shelter of his mother's womb."

They also said, "The fact that seven of the nine justices of the Supreme Court have legalized this act of the destruction of human life does not endow the sin of abortion with rectitude."

The priests said the most obvious deterrent to taking a human life is God's law which says "Thou shalt not kill."

They also explained that Catholics are not the only persons opposed to abortion. "Protestant and Jewish clergymen and laypersons have spoken out in



strong condemnation of abortion," the statement said.

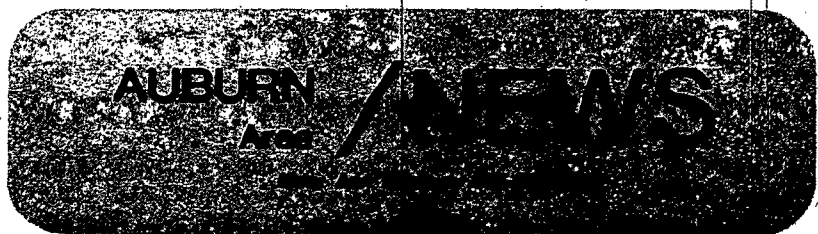
The priests urged their parishioners to take the following action if someone approaches them about signing a petition supporting abortion.

"If someone comes to you and asks you to sign a petition or a statement in favor of abortion and similar quack remedies for problems, let your answer be a polite refusal.

"For however good the mistaken motives of these fellow

citizens, we are convinced that they are in error and the remedies they seek are harmful to the nation and above all, gravely offensive to Almighty God."

The priests who signed the statement are Fathers Thomas F. Brennan and Gerard J. McMahon, St. Mary's, Corning; L. Emmett Davis and Eugene P. Sweeney, St. Patrick's, Corning; Joseph F. Hogan, John W. Brill, Elmer J. Schmidt, St. Vincent de Paul, Corning and Harold F. Rogers, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Painted Post.



Prayer Weekend Due

Auburn — A special weekend of prayer is being sponsored by the Auburn Area Better World Group to be held March 9, 10, and 11 at Holy Family convent.

Father James Berry, a Christian Brother who teaches theology at Kearney High School in Rochester and Sister Judith McKay, recently returned missionary to Brazil, will lead and direct the participation in an exploration

of new ways to pray together.

Registration is limited to 40 participants, and deadline is March 2. The registration may be made with Sister Ellen Ward, CEDAR office, 162 Van Anden Street, Auburn.

Sister Ellen said it is the hope of the retreat to renew and share the spirit of the movement for a better world which was started last year.

Auburn Area Notes

Port Byron — The March Prayer Breakfast for all men of the Port Byron area will be held Saturday, March 3 at 7:30 a.m. in the Federated Church Hall.

Port Byron — The featured speaker at the community renewal program to be held at St. John's Church, 7:30 p.m., March 2, 3, and 4, will be Dr. Alvin Ahearn, professor at Roberts Wesleyan College.

Waterloo — St. Mary's annual

Mardi Gras will be held March 3 from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. with dancing and refreshments.

Auburn — Registration for pre-Cana conference to be held March 4 and 8 from 7:15 to 11 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church, 162 VanAnden Street, may be made by calling CEDAR 253-8494 or Holy Family 252-9576.

Auburn — Novena to the Sorrowful Mother continues each Friday at 6:45 p.m. at St. Aloysius Church until April 20.



Immaculate Adopts PLP

By JOY CHALONE

Ithaca — Immaculate Conception Church is initiating a total Parish Lenten Program (PLP) adapted from the Savannah, Ga. diocese. Entitled "The Church—A Place to Grow," the program's purpose is to help the Church come alive to each parishioner and each parishioner to come alive to the Church. Growth is the dominant theme of the entire program.

The majority of the Sunday Homilies will center around the Lenten theme in the program. The homilies will also serve as

background material for both elementary and high school teachers. Bulletin inserts will help to carry the theme home for reflection and prayer.

Outlines are given for all levels of education in the parish. The adult education programs at Immaculate Conception will center their discussion around a weekly theme, and teachers in the youth religious education programs will meet to acquaint themselves with the program and to help implement it. The program is geared to the Year of Renewal.

ACT Directors Recently Honored

Ithaca — Percy Dunn, the outgoing executive director of Area Congregations Together (ACT), and Francis Schaefer Jr., the new executive director of the group, were honored recently by more than 80 persons.

ACT is an agency through which religious congregations express unity and unite efforts to serve the community more effectively. Through their activities they hope to build an

awareness in the community of the religious dimension of life.

ACT's two most well known projects are the Kitchen Cupboard and Bib'n Tucker. Kitchen Cupboard gives food and/or money to those in an emergency situation. The various congregations in Ithaca contribute to keeping the cupboard stocked. Bib'n Tucker supplies good used clothing for low income people and others.

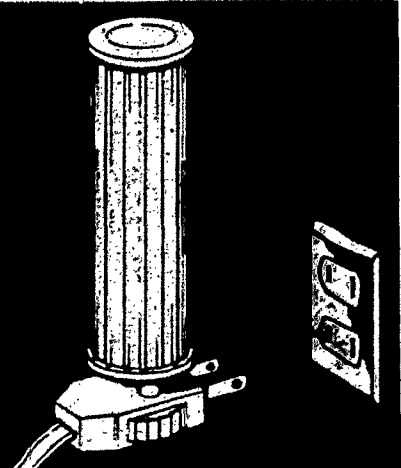
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Elmira Area Notes

Elmira — An open house, with tours, will be held at St. Patrick's Junior High School here on Sunday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

West Elmira — A special Lenten series of discussions will be held each Thursday during March at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The program will begin tomorrow and will be conducted during the early evening hours.

The first speaker will be Sister Ann M. Gaffney.

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