

# Guess Who's Giving the Dinner?

A sports night is planned. The list of invited guests drips with luminaries, such as football's Mike Curtis of the Baltimore



Colts; Jim Katcavage, former star of the New York Giants; Floyd (Ben) Schwartzwalder, coach, and Joe Ehrmann, All-American lineman, Syracuse.

There will be George Sisler from baseball, Dick Weber from bowling.

Guests from hockey and other sports are being lined up.

And the master of ceremonies will be Jerry Flynn — the best.

The Press-Radio Club? Some big industrial company? No. It is the lineup for the annual sports night at St. Michael's in Penn Yan.

Co-chairmen are Jim Ashe and Ken Johnson. Ashe, an avid sports fan, sees the "night" as one way of perking up parish activity.

The son of the late Gerry Ashe, highly respected and much loved sportswriter for the Syracuse Post-Standard, Jim was an outstanding football player for Christian Brothers Academy in Syracuse (did anybody notice how many gridders are among the guests?).

One of the guests was to be Dolph Schayes, the former Syracuse National basketball great. At first it looked like a coup for Ashe because after the committee

had lined up Schayes came the announcement of the all-time star's election to the basketball Hall of Fame. Ashe's smile soon evaporated with the news that on the same night as the dinner — April 26 — Schayes had to be at the ceremony inducting him into the "Hall."

I'm sure that Ashe knows that in losing Schayes the dinner will be missing more than just a "big name." Besides being one of the very best basketball players of all time, Schayes also is one of the finest gentlemen in the world of sports. If they had a Hall of Fame for "good guys" Schayes would be a shoo-in.

But Ashe and Johnson have enough other stickouts to make the night a big success and they are still trying to come up with some others.

## A Rochester Nun

# On the Job... in Chile

By Myrna Daly

Sister Doris Hamilton, RSM, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Hamilton of Rochester, has completed her first year in Santiago, Chile. A former Spanish teacher at Cardinal Mooney High

School, she is now living and working in a poor section of the capital city.

Her neighborhood is the "poblacion" San Fernando on the outskirts of Santiago. The term "poblacion" describes a recently

settled poor area. People come to the city, frequently from rural areas, with their few belongings and live in makeshift dwellings until they can build their own homes or obtain government-built housing.

One of the most unusual of these temporary homes along the dirt street through San Fernando is the "palace of the doors." A family with eight children lives above a repair shop, in a few rooms enlarged and protected by a wall made of old doors.

Though the people are poor, their money built a neighborhood chapel where Sunday Mass is celebrated.

"We call it a 'centro,' or 'center,'" Sister Doris explained. The simple one-room concrete-and-wood building is used for community activities as well as worship services. A women's group meets there weekly, as does a boys' football team.

Religious education is no easy job in an area predominantly, but only nominally, Catholic. Sister Doris' job is to make religion more meaningful.

"When parents, usually the mother, bring a child for First Holy Communion, we tell them that they will have to prepare the child for this step," she explained.

"Their response is that they can't, because they don't know the religion. So we insist that one of the parents, at least, studies



Sister Doris Hamilton distributes liturgy books for Sunday mass in a neighborhood chapel in Santiago, Chile.

the religion for a year, and teaches it to the child, before the child makes his First Communion."

The carrot and stick method, Sister Doris admitted, is "kind of a sneaky way to get people to learn more about religion and

make it more meaningful in their lives." The plan, of teaching parents to teach religion to their children, is being used throughout the archdiocese of Santiago.

Sister Doris shares a home with two other Sisters of Mercy who also work in the poblacion.

# Our Parish COUNCIL

by Bernard Lyons

"Our council has problems of an unusual nature — in that we have large sums of money presently available and have the task of wisely putting it to parish use. Our church is very old and in need of repair. Many parishioners want all our funds spent here. The other side wants a completely new complex — a religious, social, recreational, educational center. Our problem is what direction is the Church going? How do we meet the needs without offending our parishioners?" — V. S., Kentucky

Before answering your questions, let me give you someone else's thoughts on a similar problem of church building. I think it worthwhile to consider this because there may be more alternatives open to you than merely the two of restoring the old building or building a new one.

A parishioner writing in the diocesan newspaper of the Camden, N.J., diocese reported his parish situation this way:

"Our parish church burned down and for the past year we've been using the school auditorium for Mass. It gets crowded. It's hot in the summer. It has folding chairs, a portable altar. No church by today's standards.

"The parish received \$170,000 to replace our old church. There are three alternative plans of restoration ranging between \$175,000 and \$300,000. A survey was sent to the parishioners to solicit their preferences for such design considerations as air conditioning, carpeting, public toilets, soundproof crying rooms, a new organ, etc.

"I'm afraid," the New Jersey parishioner continued, "I look upon the alternatives presented by our clergy with great disappointment. With so much grief in the world today, so close to us, how can I take a portion of my earnings and say I am giving to charity when its end use is to choose between a new organ or feeding a starving child?"

"How can I choose air conditioning for me and a sweating ghetto for my brother? How can I build a house for God when so

many are homeless?" "Notwithstanding the fact that it would be naive to think all the parishioners (including myself) are ready to sacrifice all the creature comforts for charity, what grieves me is that our spiritual leaders never even thought to ask us to rise above our selfish natures: to suggest some charitable alternative."

Earlier in his letter the New Jersey parishioner outlined the parish budget and concluded that the parish gave only about five cents of every dollar to charitable work. The balance was used in overhead for the church and rectory, school costs, etc.

If your parish is now polarized on the issue of whether to restore the old or build a new church, it would be well to hold public hearings.

The hearings will not be of much help to your parish, however, unless they begin with your more basic question: "What direction is the Church going?" And here we must see the Church as ourselves. Thus we must ask ourselves, "Where are we — the people of God — going?"

To answer that question we must prayerfully consider what Christ wants us to do. There is an answer, or, more properly, there are answers.

I would recommend that your council leaders have a special session (outside of a regular meeting) devoted solely to goals and priorities for your parish.

The work of the council leaders should then be summarized in a report and distributed throughout the parish with notices of a public hearing. The purpose of the hearing would not only be to discuss the council leadership's report, but to consider the proposals of other parishioners, whether made by individuals or groups.

Not everyone will agree with the final decisions, but this open approach will help you arrive at the best solutions and aid all the parishioners to grow in Christ.

## Prof Defends Athletes At Notre Dame

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — True or false?

(a) "A college athlete is a dumb bunny who has a hard time interpreting a Charlie Brown cartoon, a clod who needs three years to pass a course in freshman volleyball."

(b) "There are two kinds of students — people and athletes."

Your response may have been conditioned — but wait until you've heard from an official of the University of Notre Dame.

Many articles (both secular and church-oriented) have hinted that a college athlete is less than a whole person.

But not Prof. Michael DeCicco, academic adviser at the University of Notre Dame.

Following some publicity of this type about Fighting Irish athletes, he came up with this response, published as a letter

to the editor of The Washington Post. Says Prof. DeCicco:

1) Notre Dame has 365 varsity athletes. Their academic achievement in 1971-72 came to an average of 2.826.

2) Notre Dame also has a pretty good student body. Last year the average grade was 2.893.

The athlete probably averaged 20 hours a week of sports activity in addition to the same workload carried by "students."

An obvious response from the anti-athletic clique would be this: "So, what's new? The athlete is taking a 'snap course' in physical education." At which point Prof. DeCicco reminds The Washington Post that there is no physical education major granted at Notre Dame.

The whole question apparently was spurred by a comment by a George Washington University

basketball coach. He was quoted in the Washington Post, drawing a sharp reply from Prof. DeCicco.

Parts of the Notre Dame academic adviser's letter to the Post follow:

"George Washington University Basketball coach Carl Stone was recently quoted in your pages to the effect that three unnamed starters on the Notre Dame basketball team did not meet minimum NCAA admission standards. Mr. Stone is misinformed.

It so happens that all Notre Dame's basketball starters are safely above 1.6, as computed on NCAA charts. Admission standards are proven by graduation statistics.

"The University, which has no Physical Education major, last year graduated 96 per cent of its varsity athletes with their class.