



World Day of Prayer

Mrs. Frank Bezek, left, directs choir composed of members from most of Penfield's churches. The program was held Friday, Mar. 2 in St. Joseph's Church by Church Women United to celebrate the World Day of Prayer.

Prison Reform Measures Proposed in Legislature

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

Seven prison reform bills drafted by Judicial Process Commission members were introduced in the state legislature last week.

Six other bills introduced had been drafted by members of a state-wide coalition of citizen groups that calls itself the New

Father Amann Plans Easter Pilgrimage

An Easter pilgrimage tour of the Holy land, Greece and Rome, has been announced by Father William J. Amann, associate pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish.

Father Amann, who is well travelled in Europe and the Soviet Union will be the spiritual director of a group which will observe the beginning of Holy week with a three-day visit to Rome and will take in a tour of the Vatican and an audience with Pope Paul VI.

The group will spend Good Friday in Jerusalem, and later visit Calvary, the Cenacle, Qumran, Bethany, the Garden of Gethsemane, Bethlehem, Capharnaum, Cana and Nazareth, among other places.

The two-week tour will end in Athens and Corinth. The dates set for the pilgrimage are April 16-30, and further information may be obtained by calling Father Amann at (716) 865-0775.

York State Committee on Correctional Legislation and uses Judicial Process as its contact organization. The bills have bipartisan sponsorship, for the most part, in both Senate and Assembly.

The 13 bills are the result of a year's work with legislators to resolve Attica inmates' demands for better living conditions, explained Ginny Mackey, coordinator of the Judicial Process Commission.

Several areas of prison life would be affected if the bills should become laws.

Censorship of incoming and outgoing mail would be ended except in the case of inspection of incoming mail to intercept contraband. Prisoners would be allowed visitors in private, including representatives of the press. Basic due process rights would be guaranteed, such as the right to a hearing and to confront and cross examine witnesses in all disciplinary parole revocation proceedings.

Full medical and dental care would be provided, including treatment by private doctors both within and outside the prison. Criteria for cell search would be established and outside employers would be allowed in the prison to interview potential new employees from soon-to-be released inmates.

Mrs. Mackey, one of three from Rochester who met last month in Albany with Russell G. Oswald, State Commissioner of Correctional Services, said they were optimistic the bills will be

passed.

"We were encouraged by the bi-partisan support we got from sponsors, and Commissioner Oswald's reaction was positive since most of the proposals don't require funding," she reported.

Mrs. Mackey described the conversation that she, Clarence Sharp of Black Ministries and David C. Leven, Deputy Director of the Monroe County Legal Assistance Corporation, had with Oswald as "a positive conversation: they are giving us a hearing."

"We gave him the kind of information that isn't always available to him as a department head," she continued, explaining that they went to Albany with information from former inmates and statements from relatives and volunteers who have visited the prisons.

Oswald thought some of the proposals were already being implemented, Mrs. Mackey said. He expressed frustration at not being able to implement others because of the money involved and told them some of their proposals would need legislation to change existing regulations.

Primarily responsible for the bills drafted by Judicial Process are: David Leven; Sister Mary Sullivan, RSM, of the Commission's correction committee; Robert Bonn of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries' Jail Ministry; Elaine Green of Prison Action and Fred LeShure of Peoples Defence.

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