

'Church-Alive' SWEM Topic

By CHARLES RANDISI

The Monroe County Southwest Region of the diocese recently held a series of training sessions for parish council leaders at St. Augustine's and Holy Ghost Churches.

The purpose of the meetings was "to present the basic concepts underlying the basis of any parish council, with a view toward the mission of the Church as it is carried out by members, and the parish council in particular."

The last session at St. Augustine's was held on Tuesday, Feb. 27. The topic was "The Church - Alive." Previous topics discussed at both churches concerned the mission of the Church, the Church as a community of believers, and the definition of a Catholic.

The Southwest Region is geographically the largest in Monroe County, spreading from Rochester's inner city west to Brockport, and south to Scottsville. At St. Augustine's there was a good cross-section of parish council leadership from around the region. Members of St. Pius X, St. Augustine's St. Theodore's, St. Christopher's, Ss. Peter and Paul, and Holy Ghost exchanged their experiences on parish councils.

A definition of a parish council, taken from a statement by

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, was written on a blackboard. It called a council "an organized group of representative parishioners who, with the leadership of the pastor, create a permanent forum for determining how the parish can best do the work of Christ in today's world."

Custy Caruso, of St. Theodore's Parish, led the discussion. He said that a parish council should be a source of real action and decision, "working in the parish in close union with the priests," but "not just a 'rubber stamp' for the pastor."

He also talked about the differences between the "old" Church and the "new." Demonstrating the old idea of "obey, pray, and pay," Caruso used a triangle to show the hierarchy, with God at the top, and widening down to include the Pope, cardinals, bishops, pastors, religious, and laity.

With Vatican Council II, there arrived a new concept of the open circle. At the center of the circle are Christ and His bishops. Connected to the circle are the various extensions of the Church, such as family, community, and committees.

Caruso said that at Vatican II, Pope Paul VI urged the layman to share in the responsibility for the Church. The Pope saw the lay apostolate as the bridge to modern Christianity.

The idea of serving or stewardship is an important one for parish councils, said Caruso. Council members should use their "talent, time, and treasure . . . for the benefit of the majority."

The people who attended the meeting then compared their organizations with one another. Some councils have been in existence for four years; others are just getting off the ground. They vary in size, constitutions, and make-up, but all have the same purpose - to help "bring Christianity to the marketplace."

Lecture Series Announced

Elmira - The Christian Institute of Man will present Sister Anna Gaffney in a series of five Thursday evening lectures, March 1-29. Meetings are scheduled for 8:30 in Our Lady of Lourdes Hall.

Sister Anna, a member of the congregation of St. Mary of Namur, is guidance director and teacher of English and religion at Annunciation High School, Buffalo. She has master's degrees from Catholic University in her two teaching fields. Her talks will deal with kinds and uses of symbols in the context of religion.

GARAGE SALE

A garage sale will be held at Mercy High School Saturday, March 31 and Sunday afternoon, April 1. Household and garden equipment, books, antiques, gadgets and other things will be taken in this Friday, 2:30-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and Friday, March 16, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sponsors are the Catholic Student Mission Crusade and the Faculty Fund-raising Committee directed by Miss Kathleen Wisner, class of 1967.

TWO DAYS TO REMEMBER

MARCH 17th & 19th

MARCH 17 - ST. PATRICK'S DAY:

On this day everyone is Irish, at least for the day. Stop in and examine the many items we have to help you commemorate this feast. Cards: Our large collection includes both the sentimental and the humorous kinds. The earlier you come in the better the choice. Novelties: Buttons, pins, leprechauns, plaques, hats, statues, and other items of related interest.

MARCH 19 - St. Joseph's Day:



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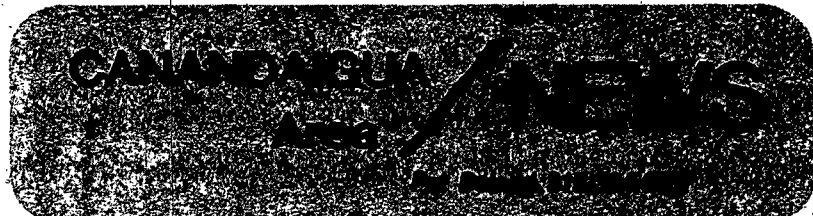
REMEMBER: The entire month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph. It is a fitting time to start home devotions and thus counteract the many attacks on family life.

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Teen Seminars Make A Big Hit

By Pat Boland

Canandaigua - Every third week the Notre Dame Retreat House is filled nearly to capacity with teenagers. The occasion is called "Teen Seminar", for lack of a better name, according to Mrs. Dorothy Hoysic, one of the adult leaders of this movement. "The teen seminar is for juniors in high school and up," she says.

It is in fact, much easier to discover what the teen seminar is not rather than what it is. It is not strictly for teen agers. It is not a retreat. It is not a discussion club. What is it? It is "happening."

As a follow up to Teen Seminar, there are groups called Reality Groups, which meet in homes. There are Masses, movies, guitar playing, and lots of

talk. The movies are about Mass, the sacraments, and Christ. The discussions center around the theme of the movies.

When one considers that the Teen Seminar does no advertising except by word of mouth, it must be conceded that there has to be a great attraction to keep the Retreat House filled every three weeks.

Father Robert Hammond, moderator of the sessions, feels that the appeal, in part at least, is due to a lack in the religious lives of our young people.

The teens who attend these seminars are most enthusiastic, and when asked why, they usually respond, "Come and see." For those who would like to "see", the next group will meet March 12-14. For more information call Mrs. T. Geen, 244-1271.

Stanley, Rushville Set Lenten Services

Rushville, Stanley - St. Theresa's of Stanley and St. Mary's of Rushville have announced a full schedule of Lenten devotions. After the distribution of Ashes and Mass today there will

STUDENTS HONORED

Canandaigua - Almost 60 students from Canandaigua Elementary and St. Mary's Catholic School were honored by the Canandaigua American Legion recently. The students were invited to a banquet at which Erwin Swingle, American Legion Seventh District Commander, was the guest speaker. Swingle stressed the need for patriotism. He told the students, who are all members of their schools' safety patrol, that the country at this time needs to mobilize its heart and soul.

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be a sharing supper in the parish hall. The supper, consisting of soup and crackers will cost \$2.00 (or any donation will be accepted) per adult and \$.25 per child. All profit will be given to the Rushville Clinic.

On the other Wednesdays of Lent there will be a Mass at 7:30 at St. Theresa's, followed by a discussion club for adults. The theme of the discussions will be, "An Up To Date Look At The Sacraments." There will be a ten minute film and group discussion.

Stations of the Cross and Mass will be held on Friday evenings at 7:30 at St. Mary's and there will be ecumenical services held each Sunday evening with the Protestant churches of the area.

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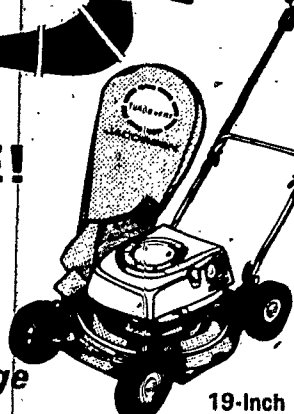
PLEASE NOTE!

This offer expires **March 18, 1973**. A small deposit will be necessary to validate your savings. Or use your **Master-Charge** or **BankAmericard**.

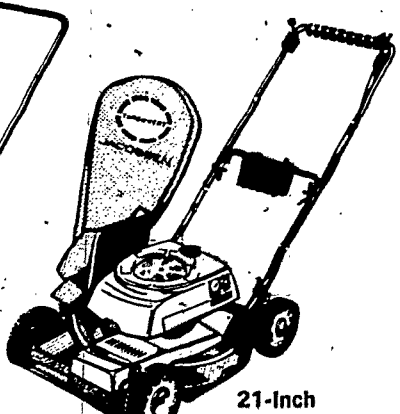
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