



**Parish Breakfast**

Senior citizens at Our Lady of Mercy parish breakfast on homemade coffee cake after a special liturgy March 11, in the kick-off event of a program for the elderly being set up by the parish Human Development Committee.

## Extend Textbook Aid, State Assembly Asked

Albany — Dr. Thomas Curran of Elmira, representing the newly formed New York State Federation of Catholic School Parents, came before an Assembly hearing recently to urge extension of textbook aid to lower grades in both public and non-public schools.

The group, which was formed to organize parents of children in parochial schools across the state, recently approved its constitution. Dr. Curran will be the interim president until this summer when elections will be held. The organization hopes to hire a full-time executive secretary as well.

Dr. Curran, in his address at the hearing, called for three extensions of current state legislation on aid to nonpublic school students, which offers assistance only to students in grades 7-12.

He asked that textbook loan law be extended to children in

grades K-6, that a \$5 increase in the \$10-per-child aid to parents of students in nonpublic secondary schools be granted, and that the Assembly modify its definition of the term "textbook" to include paperback books, workbooks, and audio-visual equipment.

Despite some "affluent, suburbanite caricatures," Dr. Curran pointed out, more than 60 per cent of the nonpublic school children in the state live in major urban centers. A majority of the families are lower or middle income families.

He cited statistics from a New York City survey that indicated that the median income of parents of children in Catholic elementary schools does not equal the median of the average New York City family.

Dr. Curran noted that textbook loans for grades 7-12 had been passed in 1966 and held constitutional by both the New York

Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. Both courts saw the aid as "help to parents and to children" rather than as assistance to the Catholic Church or other religion.

It is incomprehensible to him, he said, why the support had not been extended to the lower grades before this. Especially, he said, since similar bills to the ones he was now advocating had been entered in the legislature for the last five years.

"It would seem to us," he said, "that the parents of children in Catholic and other nonpublic schools benefit so little from state assistance and yet contribute so much to the community educational effort that textbooks should have been loaned to their children in grades K-6 long before now."

Dr. Curran's specific endorsement was for Assembly Bill 2371, related to section 701 of the education law.

## State Legislatures Not Complying With Supreme Court on Abortion

New York (RNS) — With state and federal courts lopping off "unconstitutional" abortion laws right and left in the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's Jan. 22 ruling on abortion, state legislatures are scurrying in a variety of legal directions.

In Rhode Island, where a

### Seven Due To Be Priests

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of the Cross Church, Honeoye Falls, on April 27; he will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish, St. Felix, on April 28.

Joseph Hart, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Hart of Great Barrington, Mass., formerly of Seneca Falls, will be ordained in St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, on April 28; he will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, on April 29.

Robert Weiss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Weiss of Orlando, Fla., will be ordained in St. Christopher Church, North Chili, on May 18; he will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish, St. Charles Cathedral, Orlando, on May 26.

Thomas Streb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clete Streb, will be ordained in St. Charles Borromeo Church, Rochester, on May 25; he will concelebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish, St. Salome's, on May 26.

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three-judge federal court struck down the state abortion law, calling it "virtually identical" to the Texas statute killed by the nation's high court, the legislature enacted an even stronger law against abortion.

The Rhode Island legislature passed and the governor signed a statute which not only bars abortion — except when the life of the mother is imperiled — but declares that the unborn fetus is a "person" from the moment of conception.

Obviously intended as a new test case for the U.S. Supreme Court, Rhode Island is not the only state to frown on the Jan. 22 landmark ruling.

In Maine, the legislature approved an anti-abortion measure favoring an amendment to the U.S. Constitution to give every human the right to life regardless of the stage of biological development.

Endorsed in a 95 to 46 House vote, the bill was passed by the Senate a day later, 24 to 7. Only

### Irish Dancers Entertain

Elmira — A program of Irish step-dancing and singing was presented last Thursday for the elderly residents of Newtown Towers, under the auspices of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians. A public performance was held Monday in St. Patrick's Hall.

## Draft Not Dead, Counselor Warns

By BARBARA MOYNEHAN

A Methodist minister last week warned parents of teen-aged sons not to think the draft is over with.

Speaking at a Judicial Process Commission Forum on Justice, the Rev. Ken Colton, executive director of the Draft Information Center of the Rochester Area (DICRA) explained that until July 1 the draft is in a suspended state.

The President's authority to induct men into the armed services extends through June, Colton told more than 30 people who braved last Wednesday's rain storm to hear his talk.

The young minister, who worked in draft counseling in Detroit before coming to Rochester 2 years ago, is not at all "hopeful that 1973 will come and go without induction calls."

Colton told his audience of the following possibilities: "a draft to supply critical manpower shortage in the reserves and National Guard, a mandatory National Service program for youth soon after graduation from high school, a draft for either military or national service which would include women as authorized

under the Equal Rights Amendment currently being ratified by the states, and military programs at the junior and senior high school level which are increasing at an alarming rate under a program known as Junior ROTC."

To support these statements that startled his listeners, Colton continued: "In 1972 the Army began enrolling girls in its Junior ROTC program, the result being 4,600 of its 94,000 Junior ROTC students are now girls."

"Currently, our own New York Assembly," he reported, "is considering a bill to allow the establishment of Junior Reserve Officer Training Programs in public schools."

And he cited the \$55,000,000 allocated for Selective Service in the new budget as "grounds for pessimism."

Colton's remaining remarks centered on what part DICRA is playing in the cases of 71 Rochester men indicted for draft resistance.

Since the indictments, the draft counseling center has contacted each of those indicted, he said, explaining that theirs was often the first notification the men received showing they had been charged.

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