

Work Release Volunteers Renovate Cayuga Church

By MARY ANN GINNERTY

Cayuga — Residents of the Auburn Correctional Facility volunteered a helping hand in the renovation efforts of St. Joseph's Church under the auspices of the work release program.

Father Ronald Gaesser, administrator for St. Joseph's, and two to four residents of the institution each day worked on the project. The church exterior and interior have been painted, the

furnishings redone, and the altar redesigned.

"This undertaking has done a lot for the parish spirit. Parishioners have taken the men into their homes for lunch and supper daily. I've been able to meet more parishioners too, and I haven't eaten so well in three years," commented Father Gaesser. "This experience has created a good rapport with the parishioners and goes a long way to increase understanding bet-

ween the correctional facility and the community."

Father Gaesser said it was the resident's decision to volunteer and they would rather be outside the walls and working.

"They have been responsible and competent workers and have done work for me much better than I would have done for myself."

Father Gaesser feels the experience has been mutually beneficial as it has helped make transition from institutional life a little easier. He said the experience has shown him personally that residents could benefit from a half-way house where the men would have an opportunity to gradually readapt rather than being abruptly thrust back into the community. He feels such experiences would be especially helpful for those who have served years in an institution.

Donald McLaughlin, senior correction counselor at the facility, said the volunteer workers are a part of the work release program, which has a limited number of residents going into the community daily to

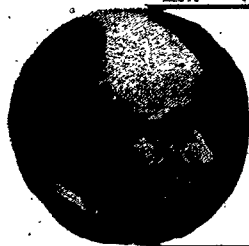


Father Gaesser and residents of Auburn Correctional Facility, Bill Hazard and Figueroa Cellistine, in front of the newly renovated St. Joseph's Church in Cayuga.

salaries. He said the expansion of the volunteer aspect of the work release program depends on the availability of residents who can meet the strict criteria for work release which includes approaching eligibility for parole and review by the temporary release committee. There must be a bonafide need for volunteers in the community and work must not take a job away from someone else in the

community. Supervision must be available.

St. Joseph's, formerly a mission of St. Aloysius in Auburn, was in need of renovation and funds were not available. The structure is more than a 100 years old and the parish is the oldest in the diocese. Renovation has been completed just in time for the summer influx of vacationers to the shores of Cayuga Lake.



TOWARD TOMORROW.
Fr. Henry Atwell

During the past year I have been to 100 Protestant churches to speak about Pope John's dream of restoring unity to the Church of God.

All Christians are increasingly aware of how poorly we have fulfilled the prayer of Jesus Christ that we should all be one.

There are in the United States more than 250 different, too often competitive, denominations — there are more brands of Christianity than there are brands of cigarettes.

Twelve years ago, just before the Vatican Council began its sessions, Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, a Presbyterian, gave an historic sermon at the Episcopal Cathedral in San Francisco. He proposed that the Protestant churches begin serious consideration of possible unity. Several denominations responded positively and set up what they called the Consultation on Church Union, a name better known by its initials: COCU.

The dream of 12 years ago seems to be an elusive mirage, dancing in the distance but always just out of reach. Dr. Blake's own denomination, the Presbyterians, almost shattered the dream by withdrawing from the whole COCU process. But COCU survives.

COCU's General Secretary, Rev. Paul A. Crow Jr., recently marked the organization's twelfth anniversary by preaching where Dr. Blake gave his sermon. Dr. Crow's title was, "If Not the Reunion of Christ's Church — Then What?"

He admitted there had been many disappointments, many frustrations over the past 12 years but he refused to admit defeat. We who are Catholics have lost much of our ecumenical euphoria too. Both Catholics and Protestants tend to slip back to our separate ways of acting as in the past. That is why what Dr. Crow asked and stated is so important for us to hear.

First, he cautioned us against our demands for instant union. Americans, he said, assume "that anything of importance can be marshalled towards successful completion in brief period of time, regardless how complex or historically involved." According to the American assumption, he says, "two years should be enough time . . . ten years is the outside limit . . . if it cannot be

accomplished in ten years, . . . then obviously it can never happen." This attitude is bolstered by TV dinner, instant breakfasts and four-minute roast beef dinners.

Dr. Crow points out a need for patience and persistence:

"Some knowledge of church history would help us realize that even churches programmed by 'future shock' cannot be expected to overcome 45 decades of isolation and disunion in one decade. Any pattern of human growth and institutional change requires a little more patience and a lot more planning.

Too, some perspective about the church union movement on the international scene is essential. The widely acclaimed Church of South India, which was constituted in 1947, took 29 years to be accomplished; the Church of North India, inaugurated in 1970, took 40 years; and the Church of Lanka (Ceylon) soon to be inaugurated took a similar number of years."

Dr. Crow then quotes Methodist theologian John Deschner who said last summer at the World Council of Churches Central Committee meeting in Utrecht, "The real situation is an astonishing variety of union negotiations on all six continents, the majority of which appear to be fruitful and promising When a future church historian writes the history of our time, he may find himself perplexed at the tone of pessimism in much World Council talk about church union during the period when activity toward church union is in fact increasing and progressing in a majority of cases."

"The Spirit of truth will guide you," Jesus promised his apostles. We are most assuredly being guided now toward unity, even though we fail to see this direction, even when we are reluctant to work toward it.

Bishop Kearney Scheduled at Ground Breaking

Bishop James E. Kearney, retired Bishop of Rochester, will turn the first spadeful of earth for a new library to be constructed at St. John Fisher College.

The groundbreaking ceremonies will be held Friday, June 22, at noon, on the campus. The day also marks the feast of St. John Fisher the English martyr, and the 25th anniversary of the beginning of the college's construction at which Bishop Kearney officiated.

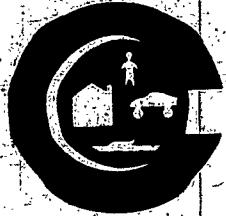
ARCHEOLOGY DIG

Reading and digging will be combined for the first time this summer in a new course in archeology offered by Nazareth College as part of its continuing education program.

The how-to-do-it phase of the six-credit-hour course will be provided by an archeological field school to be conducted July 9 through Aug. 17 by the Rochester Museum and Science Center in conjunction with the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Ontario, at the Morganville Pottery Factory site in Stafford. Registration for the course closes June 27.

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